

Afterlife and Survival- A Scientific Perspective

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John Streiff

johnstreiffolli@gmail.com

Introduction

This class is an introduction to scientific evidence of the survival of human personality and after death communications. The evidence that is discussed in this class includes extraordinary experiences that illustrate the separability of mind and body, evidence of survival including mediumship and technology-based after death communications and extraordinary experiences including apparitions, poltergeists and synchronicities.

Non-local Consciousness

Phenomena have been studied by researchers who have collected and published evidence that provides cumulative in support of the reality of Non-local Consciousness. Dr. Etzel Cardeña, former president of the Parapsychological Association, has said this evidence

“... cannot be readily explained away by the quality of the studies, fraud, selective reporting, experimental or analytical incompetence, or other frequent criticisms”
(Cardeña, 2018, p. 663).

These non-local phenomena suggest that consciousness exists beyond the brain.

Belief in Afterlife and Survival

In the US, 74% of Americans believe in life after death (Pew Research Center, 2008).

29% of adults feel “in touch with someone who has already died” (Lipka, 2015).

56.6% of bereaved adults have perceived the deceased through some sense modality “or as a quasi-sensory sense of presence” (Kamp & Due, 2019, p. 463).

27% of US adults think of themselves as spiritual but not religious (Lipka & Gecewicz, 2017).

Mind Body Relationship

Deathbed recovery of lost consciousness

Many older people often cannot remember recent events but can recall events from long ago. Often, near death, all memories improve for a short time just before death. It is not known why this happens near the moment of death. It seems like the ability to remember all life events returns as death approaches.

Consciousness without a Brain

Some people suffer from hydranencephaly, a condition in which the affected person has little grey matter in their brain. Yet in some cases these people are perfectly functional. These people can be entirely normal on the outside with completely functional minds. Some people so affected have earned advanced university degrees and cannot be told from normal people and yet have little or no brain matter. This phenomena cannot be explained neurophysiologically.

Exceptional Experiences

Near-Death Experiences

Dr. Bruce Greyson of the Division of Perceptual Studies at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville investigated 1000 cases reported in 10-20% of clinical deaths at an average of 31 years of age.

The causes of near-death experiences were surgery 32%, illness 24%, and accidents 24%.

Paranormal Features reported commonly included separation from the body, abnormally vivid senses, extrasensory perception and precognitive vision.

Otherworldly features reported including the experience of entering another world, coming to a “point of no return”, meeting mystical beings, and seeing deceased spirits.

Among effects of Near-Death Experiences included greater belief in survival of bodily death, less fear of death, less interest in material objects and less interest in status and competition for status and enhanced mental function

Various out-of-body perceptions included accurate descriptions of resuscitation when applicable, visions reported by experiencers blind from birth. Visions of deceased persons were seen in 42% of near-death experiences. About one third of visions were not the expected persons, others were deceased persons not known to be dead, and others were unknown deceased persons.

Past-life Memory Cases

Dr. Ian Stevenson of University of Virginia Charlottesville Department of Perceptual Studies investigated 2,416 cases investigated half of which were in Asia. The statements investigated began at age 2-5 years and usually ended at 6-9 years of age.

Average age at death in the past life was 33 years of age. About 60% of past lives ended violently. The average age between lives was around 12 years.

Among the evidence of rebirth included memories of past lives, evidence of personality traits, from former lives, likes and dislikes from past lives, various unlearned skills exhibited in the new life consistent with experiences from former lives, and birthmarks and birth defects consistent with effects from former lives. In one third of the cases birthmarks or birth defects were found that matched death wounds in a past life. Some cases could be confirmed by medical records.

Personality Replacement Experiences

Some Individuals have accidents that result in a brain trauma from concussion that usually results in a coma. The person is often in a hospital, fully medically attended at all times with no opportunity for interaction with anyone else. When they wake up a few days later, they have changed dramatically. They often speak a new language, no longer have any knowledge of their former personality and have adopted a complete new personality and background. There is no medical explanation, no skeptical explanation and no scientific explanation for this unique phenomenon. This experience seems to support the notion that mind and body are separable.

Mediumship

Mediumship has been demonstrated for millennia. It restarted in the middle of the 19th century as a result of the Spiritualist movement.

Spiritualism

Spiritualism was born in northern New York state in 1848 due to the Fox Sisters. The three sisters heard rapping in their farmhouse bedroom. They claimed the rapping could answer questions. Initially only neighbors witnessed these experiences. In time tourists would stop at the Fox farm. Eventually the practices spread worldwide and became known as Spiritualism.

The beliefs of Spiritualism were born in a world dominated by death. In many ways Spiritualism fed a latent societal need. The religion offered opportunities for both genuine and fraudulent mediums to serve the desires of those who were desperate to communicate with deceased friends and relatives.

Mediumship Perspectives

Mediumship can be either physical or mental. Physical mediumship includes creating movements of objects during séances. These movements are attributed to the deceased according to Spiritualist beliefs. Mental mediumship involves messages without any material effects during séances. Physical mediumship often occurs in darkened rooms, considered suspicious by critics of séances because of the real possibility for deceptive practices by fraudulent mediums.

The séances of the 19th century were not as controlled as those scientific tests of modern mental mediumship. Physical mediumship still occurs in modern times, but most scientific studies involve mental mediumship.

Fraudulent mediumship has traditionally been countered by imposing controls on mediums under investigation. Even in the 19th century it was possible to isolate fraudulent practices. Many mediums were found to be engaged in trickery and fraud. However some mediums were never exposed as frauds which led to the notion that practitioners might be genuine mediums.

Modern physical mediums include Australian David Thompson and German medium Kai Muegge.

SPR Founders

The Society for Psychical Research was founded in London in 1882 by renowned academics and scholars including Sir William James, Sir Oliver Lodge, Lord Rayleigh, Frederic Myers and Edmund Gurney, among others.

Sir William Crookes and Daniel Douglas Home

D. D. Home was a physical medium who produced phenomena in fully lit rooms on demand unlike most other physical mediums of the past and present. Home was known for producing levitations and apports. Home was tested scientifically by Sir William Crookes, inventor of the cathode ray tube. Home was noted for his own criticism of other mediums' dark séances.

William Crookes studied D. D. Homes' accordion test in which random accordians played any tunes chosen at random while held either by Homes or by anyone else.

Crooke studied Homes ability to influence a balance beam by barely touching the instrument.

William James and Mrs. Leonora Piper

Leonora Piper was born in Nashua, New Hampshire and later moved to Boston. William James studied Mrs. Piper when he came to Boston. He was initially impressed with the straightforward information presented by Mrs. Piper. He managed Mrs. Piper and booked 25 other trusted people for séances with her, all of whom proved highly successful and specific.

Eventually James returned to England and Richard Hodgson took over the research of Piper. He too carefully monitored Piper's movements and interactions to assure she had no opportunity to learn anything in advance about those who sat with her. Hodgson was also impressed with Piper's accuracy. Ultimately Mrs. Piper went to England where she was studied by other SPR members who also had extensive experience exposing fraudulent mediums. Again she was highly successful giving spontaneous readings to many people she had never before met. Even extreme SPR skeptics like Frank Podmore came to accept that Mrs. Piper was a likely a genuine medium

Mrs. Piper's initial control was known as Phinuit (pronounced "Finney"). Later Phinuit was replaced by Gordon Pellew – the deceased friend of Hodgson. Still later Hodgson became a guide after his death and even later Piper's guide was simply known as Imperator.

Mrs. Piper was able to perform automatic writing, ostensibly guided by deceased individuals, as well as delivering verbal messages for another deceased person. This was not done by any other mediums. Mrs. Piper later returned to the U.S. and was involved in the SPR Cross Correspondences later in her career.

Sir Oliver Lodge and Mrs. Osborne Leonard

Gladys Osborne Leonard was born and raised in England in the mid-19th century. She was studied carefully by Sir Oliver Lodge, who wrote a book entitled “Raymond” about his sittings with her involving his deceased son. These sittings brought Mrs. Leonard fame as a medium at the time. For the most part, Mrs. Leonard’s mediumship was quite similar to that of Mrs. Piper. Her control was known as “Feda” throughout her life. Most of the information she produced vocally, although she did engage in some automatic writing as well.

Mrs. Leonard originated tests known as “Book Tests”, ostensibly initially suggested by Feda. The book test was intended to prove that the communicators speaking through the medium were indeed the deceased as claimed. The communicator would refer to a specific volume in the library of the deceased person and a phrase within that volume which referred back to something that had been said during the sitting. The book was referred to by its location in the library rather than by its title. The medium would have had no contact with the library and often did not know the actual name of the sitter nor the name of the deceased.

Feda also ostensibly suggested the use of “Proxy Sitters”. The proxy sitter replaces the actual sitter in a séance or sitting. This eliminates the possibility that the medium is in some way using feedback from the sitter to condition what is said during the sitting as alleged by some critics and as was done by fraudulent mediums. Proxy sitters are still used to this day in modern mediumship research.

Cross Correspondences

Perhaps the most extensive evidence from mediumship of survival of bodily death were the Cross Correspondences that occurred between 1901 and 1932. They involved as mediums Mrs. Verrall and her daughter Helen Verrall in the UK, Mrs. Willet in India, and Mrs. Piper in the U.S. The ostensible communicators involved were F. W. H. Myers who died in 1901, Henry Sidgwick who died in 1900, and Edmund Gurney who died in 1888. The messages were correlated by Miss Alice Johnson, J. G. Piddington, G. W. Balfour, Sir Oliver Lodge and Mrs. E. M. Sidgwick – Henry Sidgwick’s widow.

It took time to establish the existence of the cross correspondences because the messages were fragmented, allusive, disjointed and symbolic. Many messages transmitted in an obscure and disguised fashion and thus their significance was not first appreciated.

Messages were often formatted as anagrams in multiple languages and making obscure classical references. The analysis results were published in 52 papers in the Proceedings of the SPR, many of which were book length; many others were unpublished. Messages from different correspondents had to be combined to produce meaningful communications.

It was eventually established that the overall messages was the most compelling evidence for survival of bodily death from mediums produced to date.

Modern Mediumship Research

Eileen Garrett

Eileen Garrett was born in Ireland and, like other mediums, realized she had an ability to interact with the deceased at a very young age. She trained in England as a medium when she was young. In one of her most notable early pronouncements, Garrett identified and explained a disaster involving the R101 dirigible during World War I. At the time, the event had been hidden from the public. Garrett revealed the cause of the disaster in great technical detail for which there was no explanation. Eventually she relocated to the U.S. where she had children and was one of the first mediums to advocate modern scientific research into mediumship. Garrett founded the Parapsychological Foundation which today funds and promotes research into mediumship and nonlocal consciousness. Her granddaughter, Lisette Coly, is president of the Foundation today.

Noreen Renier

Noreen Renier is a well-known and controversial psychic detective and medium. I worked with her for several years in the late 1970s. The first co-research was a murder investigation in Northern Virginia. She quickly and accurately recounted the events of the murder including details about which we knew nothing at the time. Her information was accurate and specific. She demonstrated Psychometry under test conditions with an accuracy of 75 percent. She predicted 1993 Mississippi Flood 12 years in advance. And she predicted the attempted assassination of President Ronald Reagan and a White House shooting that occurred during the Clinton administration.

Bonnie Vent

Bonnie Vent is known as “The Spirit Advocate”. I worked with her from 2006 through 2011. Her first test involved the Beautiful Stranger of the Hotel Del Coronado in 2006. During the period many celebrities ostensibly came to Bonnie Vent with information about their histories or backgrounds they wanted made public in various ways. In 2009 Bonnie trance-channeled Marilyn Monroe on video at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel. When Michael Jackson died in July 2009 he began interacting with Bonnie Vent. Those interactions continue to this day. The information ostensibly gathered from Jackson from 2009 through 2011 entirely checked out over time. Some information was about future events that had not yet unfolded.

Dr. Gary E Schwartz and University of Arizona Tucson

Dr. Gary Schwartz is one of the most famous scientists focused on afterlife and survival research today. He was educated at Harvard University and was the youngest Associate Professor of Psychology at Yale University.

He first became interested in such research when he met Dr. Linda Russek who wanted to discover scientifically if her father, Dr. Henry Russek, had survived bodily death.

Drs. Schwartz and Russek relocated to Arizona and eventually met Susy Smith in Tucson. Smith claimed to be a medium, was aging and wanted to prove her own survival after she died.

Schwartz was introduced to medium Laurie Campbell shortly after arriving in Tucson. Eventually, Schwartz, Russek, Smith and Campbell worked together to develop several tests demonstrating Campbell's mediumistic abilities.

After Susy Smith died, Schwartz discovered that the late Susy Smith did indeed appear to be in contact with various mediums. From this was born the "Double Deceased Protocol" in which Susy Smith seemed to bring other deceased individuals to mediums' sittings on demand.

Veritas project

Around 1990, funding became available to establish a post-doctoral fellowship in Dr. Schwartz' lab. This position was filled by Dr. Julie Beischel. Together, Schwartz and Beischel developed modern protocols for testing mediumship under increasingly well-controlled conditions precluding the possibilities of deception, trickery and fraud. They developed a triple-blind procedure that ensured mediums, sitters and experimenters were well-isolated.

Dr. Julie Beischel and Windbridge Institute

Over time, Dr. Julie Beischel became established in her own right in the field of afterlife and survival research. When her position expired at University of Arizona, Dr. Beischel formed her own company in partnership with her husband, Dr. Mark Bocuzzi known as Windbridge Research. Learning from experience in the Veritas project, Windbridge established a cadre of 24 certified research mediums. Windbridge also further improved the blinding protocols for mediumship research, adopting a quintuple blinding protocol that is used to this day. Windbridge Research publishes books and fact sheets based on their research into the process of mediumship. These publications are targeted and the bereaved and grieving and to medical and mental health professionals.

Windbridge Research Medium Certification

These is the eight step process used at Windbridge Research to certify research mediums.

- Step 1: Written Questionnaire
- Step 2: Personality / Psychological Tests
- Step 3: Phone Interviews by other WCRMs
- Step 4: Phone Interview with a Windbridge investigator
- Step 5: Test Readings, blinded, on the phone
- Step 6: Medium Research Training
- Step 7: Human Research Subjects Training
- Step 8: Grief Training

Windbridge Quintuple Blind Protocol

This is the Windbridge 5 way blinded mediumship research protocol.

1. WCRM is blind to sitters and discarnates at all times and asked questions about the discarnate's appearance, personality, activities, and cause of death.
2. Sitters score blinded transcripts of two readings, one for their discarnate (target) and one for another sitter's discarnate (decoy) without knowing which is which;
3. The experimenter who consents and trains the sitters (Experimenter 1) is blind to which mediums read which sitters and which readings were intended for which sitters;
4. The experimenter who interacts with the mediums during the phone readings and formats the readings into item lists for scoring (Experimenter 2) is blind to information about sitters and discarnates;
5. The experimenter who interacts with the sitters during scoring (Experimenter 3) is blind to all information about the discarnates, to which medium performed which readings, and to which readings were intended for which sitters.

Two Skeptical Claims About Mediums

Skeptics often inaccurately claim that all psychics and mediums are frauds.

They allege that all use "cold reading" to convince people they are "real".

Skeptical deniers also often say that mediums take money from vulnerable grieving persons. They further claim that no grieving person ever benefits from seeing a medium, either financially or psychologically.

But neither claim is based in any scientific research.

Robertson-Roy Protocol and Study

Scottish astrophysicist Prof. Archie Roy and psychologist Dr. Patrician Robertson scientifically tested the skeptical claim that no medium or psychic can actually read anyone psychically.

They conducted studies with 451 participants and 10 mediums over 2 years throughout Great Britain in Spiritualist churches. The hypothesis under test was: could blinded mediums read randomly selected participants? It was found that there was a highly significant difference in percentage of statements accepted as accurate by people randomly selected before the readings compared with non-selected participants ($p=5.37 \cdot 10^{-11}$). The mediums had no knowledge of the identities or prior knowledge of the identities of the selected people.

This research refuted skeptical claim that all mediums use "cold reading".

Windbridge Grief Study

In collaboration with mental health professionals, Windbridge Research conducted surveys to determine if sittings with non-secular mediums reduced the level of grief in bereaved persons. They also tested relative levels of grief as a result of interactions of the bereaved with mental health professionals. It was found that overall 83 participants felt better after mediumship readings and that of those 29 participants who had experiences with mental health professionals felt less grief afterwards. The skeptical claim that no one is better having consulted a medium is thus also provisionally refuted.

Theories of Mediumship

Today there are two working theories of mediumship, the Somatic Psi view and the Survival Psi view. In the Somatic Psi (AKA “Super Psi”) view, it is believed that the medium is using astounding psychic abilities with no contact with deceased persons. But this does not explain acquisition of information known only to deceased. Prof. Stephen Braude has observed that the Somatic Psi view suffers from “crippling complexity”.

In the Survival Psi view, it is believed that the medium is in contact with deceased individuals. But sometimes mediums give information known only to sitters, and not deceased. And sometimes the information given by mediums is in contradiction to information known to the deceased before they died.

It seems today that the most reasonable explanation for mediumship is a combination of Somatic and Survival Psi. That at times mediums are using telepathy and clairvoyance with sitters and that at other times they are in fact in contact with some aspect of deceased individuals.

Instrumental TransCommunications

Instrumental Transcommunication (ITC) offers another form of evidence of survival of bodily death. This evidence does not require a person as intermediary. Instead technology serves this function. This means that everyday people can potentially have the experience of hearing or even seeing deceased persons. This phenomena was traditionally known as Electronic Voice Phenomena or EVP.

EVP was originally discovered accidentally by Friederich Juergenson and later popularized worldwide by Konstatin Raudive. Most EVP recordings are based in audio recordings. More recently video as well as audio communications have been discovered. Jules and Maggie Harsch – Fiscbach in Lithuania were among the first to realize video transcommunication.

D. Scott Rogo and Raymond Bayless examined phone calls from the dead in a book of the same name. They documented hundreds of calls from persons known and not known to be deceased.

A modern example of potential EVP in Italy is due to Marcello Bacci. Over the decades he has hosted thousands of people at no charge. Most people who have visited with Bacci have had the experience of hearing from their deceased friends and loved ones. Scientists have analyzed voices from Bacci's radios, including voiceprint analysis, and have confirmed that the voices from the radios in some cases match the recorded voices of the same people while alive. The voices have even emanated from the vacuum tube radios when the tubes were removed. Putting aside the potential of fraud, Bacci might be some form of medium or psychokinetic agent.

Modern EVP research was conducted in the late 20th century by Anabela Cardoso in Portugal using modern recording facilities and various forms of background sound and noise which is thought to facilitate the voice communications.

Dr. Gary E Schwartz on ITC

Dr. Gary Schwartz discovered in the 1990s that equipment he had used for biophoton research was producing phantom photonic data despite being housed in multiple light-tight chambers. As he progressed in the research, he came to realize these signals might be attempts from hypothesized deceased individuals to communicate with him and his co-investigators.

Over time he discovered that each individual seemed to have its own unique photonic signature and that each could also signal "yes" and "no" responses. Thus it seemed he had established a primitive but reliable communications protocol.

By 2010, Dr. Schwartz and his wife Rhonda Ecklund-Schwartz had successfully engaged a number of deceased individuals in further research. This included audio signals using highly sensitive microphones. To date they have found that some deceased individuals are able to produce simple but evidential sounds consistent with their professional experiences when alive.

Dr. Schwartz hopes to eventually build a device that will permit audible and visual communications that is grounded on sound and well-understood scientific principles.

Scole Experiments

The Scole Experiments took place in the village of Scole, England from 1990 through 1998. The principle sitters were husband and wife Robin and Sandra Foy. The mediums involved were Alan and Diana Bennett, who are well-known modern British physical mediums. According to their informants in spirit, this was to be a new form of physical mediumship using "energetic", not ectoplasmic, protocols. This bypassed the ostensible dangers to mediums of ectoplasm.

The Scole Experiments were unique in that three SPR scientists participated. These were Prof. Montague Keen, Dr. Arthur Ellison and Prof. David Fontana, all of whom had extensive experience studying and debunking fraudulent mediumship for the SPR.

Hundreds of sessions involving dozens of sitters were held during the Scole Experiments. The phenomena were replicated in other parts of the world; everything did not occur in the Foy cellar in Scole, England.

Some of the Scole phenomena included lights appearing, landing and penetrating surfaces and sitters; photographic phenomena appearing on unexposed sealed film rolls; video phenomena not due to video feedback; apports, including newspapers from the WWII timeframe that are original documents; voice phenomena interacting with sitters; levitating objects including tables; and crystals that materialize and dematerialize in scientists' hands.

In 2009 the SPR published a Scole Report authored by Montague Keen, David Fontana and Arthur Ellison. This was the official SPR report on the Scole investigations. The overall finding was that the Scole phenomena were genuine. Despite claims to the contrary, the Scole phenomena have never been replicated by skeptics.

The amazing implications of research such as Scole reminds us that:

*"A mind unwilling to believe or even undesirous to be instructed,
our weightiest evidence must ever fail to impress.
It will insist on taking that evidence in bits and rejecting item by item.
As all the facts come singly, anyone who dismisses them one by one
is destroying the condition under which the conviction of a new truth could ever arise in the
mind."*

Sir William Barrett, 1922

Apparitions

SPR Apparition Investigation Reports

The Proceedings and Journal of the Society of Psychical Research and the American Society for Psychical Research contain many examples of apparitional investigation reports.

By example, in the Proceedings of the SPR of March 1889, 26 cases are analyzed in 81 pages.

This is only one example of hundreds in the SPR Proceedings alone.

SPR Publications on Apparitions

By the early 20th century, the SPR had published two major works on apparitions. The first was authored by Frederick W. H. Myers entitled "*Human Personality and its Survival of Bodily Death*". This was a compendium of cases investigated principally during the 19th century of apparitions of the deceased. The second book was authored by Henry Sidgwick and others entitled "*Phantasms of the Living*". This was a compendium of cases also investigated by the SPR in the 19th century of apparitions of the living. These two books form some of the best documented case analyses of apparitions at the time and remain one of the best compendia of such cases today.

Apparitions 101

Here are some basic terms used when discussing apparitions.

Agent – cause of the apparition

Percipient – experiencer of the apparition

Collective Percipience – apparition witnessed by multiple people

Primary Percipient – apparently intended percipient

Categories of Apparitions

Experimental Apparitions

Always produced by living agents. They can be produced at will. Sometimes interacts with percipients. In principle they could be produced in laboratories.

Crisis Apparitions

Produced by living agents as a side effect of a crisis experience. The crisis event involved may or may not be life-threatening. They sometimes interacts with the percipient. They may be related to a Near-Death Experience. The apparition experienced sometimes reflects the nature of the crisis.

Post Mortem Apparitions

Thought to be produced by deceased agents. They are often experienced hours, days or months after death. They sometimes interact directly with the percipient. They often present an explicit message that identifies the deceased. They are usually presented to someone who can verify the experience.

Haunting Apparitions

Produced by living agents some time before they are experienced. Agents influence a place or thing which seems to carry mental impressions of the agent. Selectively experienced later by suitably sensitive individuals. Usually does not interact with the percipient. Often the experience is common to many different percipients at different times....

Apparitional Agency

Living Agents produce Experimental, Crisis and Haunting apparitions.

Deceased Agents produce Post Mortem apparitions.

Various types of apparitions may be confused by percipients.

The Cheltenham Ghost

Reported in the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research : Morton, R.C., "Report of a Haunted House". The family did not want their name used, so the actual surname ("Despard") was replaced by "Morton" at the time. The original investigator was Rosina Clara Despard.

The family moved into the house in Cheltenham when she was 19. Sightings occurred from 1884 through 1888. She was a medical student and was inspired by Frederic Myers to write up her investigation.

The so-called "Morton Ghost" was seen or heard by 20 people both inside and outside the house. The ghost was seen in "succession", suggesting that it occupied physical space. It was variously reported as a nun, an intruder, and a member of the household. It was seen and heard both in daylight and at night. There were frequent collective sightings of the ghost. The ghost was seen by dogs but not cats or horses.

Rose Despard's investigation covered four years of experiences. She took testimony, attempted identification of the ghost, drew detailed maps of the movements of the apparition, failed to obtain photographic evidence, and failed at attempts to communicate with the apparition.

One of the initial tests was an attempt to test the apparition's materiality by stretching a thread across the staircase she routinely descended. It had no impact on the ghost. Rose Despard compiled a history of the house in an attempt to discover the identity of the ghost.

The principle characteristics of the ghost were that she was always dressed in "widow's weeds"; her face was usually covered with handkerchief; she was often heard and seen weeping; she followed a customary path inside and outside of the house often disappearing into the garden.

Eventually it was determined that the identity of the ghost was most likely the sister of the second wife of the home's original owner.

Poltergeists

Poltergeist phenomena involve the movements of objects ostensibly due to thoughts. Poltergeists reports go back many centuries.

St. Joseph of Cupertino

One of the earliest well-documented poltergeists involved the self-levitations of Joseph of Cupertino. He was reported to levitate during ecstasy and prayer. He was seen by thousands of people over periods of decades. His levitations were even witnessed by the Pope at the time.

Columbus Poltergeist Case – Tina Resch

The Columbus Poltergeist case involved an agent named Tina Resch. She was a foster child who lived in a very tumultuous home. Over time it was determined these psychodynamics were the likely motive for these phenomena. The case was investigated by Dr. William G. Roll in 1984. Over 580 events were witnessed in 6 different locations in two states. Of all the events, 159 strongly suggested the PK agency of Tina Resch. Some of these events occurred in controlled laboratory conditions.

Miami Poltergeist Case – Julio Vasquez

The Miami Poltergeist case involved an agent named Julio Vasquez. He was a young immigrant who worked at the time at a warehouse in Miami, Florida. Many disturbances had been reported in the warehouse involving small items that were distributed to dealers locally for sale to tourists. The relationship between Vasquez and his employer along with his family conditions at home were thought to be the motive for the phenomena. During late 1966 and early 1967, Dr. William G. Roll recorded over 220 events at the warehouse in Miami. Vasquez was studied in North Carolina and was documented independently as a PK agent.

Poltergeist Agency

It is generally accepted in nonlocal consciousness research that poltergeist activity is most likely a form of Psychokinesis: the ostensible ability to influence the environment with the mind. Traditionally living people are identified as PK agents. However, there are some indications of discarnate agency. This is especially difficult to determine since living PK agents can function either locally or remotely, and either spontaneously or intentionally.

Synchronicities

“A meaningful coincidence of two or more events where something other than the probability of chance is involved.”

Carl Jung

Features of Synchronicities

Initially most synchronicities are apparently coincidental; they don't attract attention at first. They are interesting generally because they are ultimately meaningful. And eventually they are often interrelated in various ways. They can be potentially life changing. They seem to indicate the structure, process, hierarchy and order of Reality itself.

Super Synchronicities

Some synchronicities are so extensive and expansive in scope that it is unreasonable to believe they are traceable to a single individual whether living or deceased. Such synchronicities involve dozens of people and sometimes even span the globe. It is simply not credible that a single individual would know about all these people or have interests in them.

An example was documented by Paul Davids in the book *“An Atheist In Heaven”* involving the deceased Hollywood science fiction writer Forrest J. Ackerman. Eventually the events involved scientist Dr. Gary E. Schwartz as Ackermann hypothetically found his way to Schwartz' photonic detection systems.

The nature of super synchronicities forces us to reconsider the nature of reality itself, and in doing so to rethink the likely mechanisms behind all phenomena, both routine and anomalous.

Explanations

So it is natural to ask “How is any of this POSSIBLE?” It has become clear while researching the subject of reality over the past half century that we really don’t know what we don’t know. The reason is quite simple. We access the content of the material universe. We only know what we know because we observe things and have experiences. But any limits on our observations and our experiences necessarily limits our knowledge. It’s that simple.

We don’t have access to much of the Reality that may exist around us. This limits our observations and our knowledge. We don’t even know how much knowledge might exist that we have not yet tapped.

Quite literally, We Don’t Know What We Don’t Know.

We can develop inferences about Reality from those observations we can make from our vantage point inside the material universe. And our modern physics has provided some very interesting clues about the Reality that may lay beyond the bounds of the material universe.

Reality

Assume that there is a Deep Reality, a factory if you like. And further assume that the Universe in which we live sits atop that Deep Reality and is produced by it. In other words, the Universe we live in exists solely because it was created and is constantly being recreated by that Deep Reality – a kind of Universe Factory.

That means that everything we experience – both states of matter and states of mind are produced by that Deep Reality. Everything you think, everything you touch, see, hear, smell, taste or in any other way experience happens because of that Deep Reality.

And further assume the basis for everything that happens exists in a Reality Blueprint in that Deep Reality.

The Reality Blueprint

In that Deep Reality Blueprint, information exists in terms of patterns. Patterns representing states of Mind and states of Matter. The things we experience as material and the thoughts we comprehend as mental originate in those pattern states in the Reality Blueprint.

Those patterns of states of mind and matter are constantly transformed in a lawful way. Which is why we can write down the laws of physics. We have captured a very small set of some of those transformational rules.

But there are many others, especially those relating to states of mind – our thoughts – that we have not captured. And that is why subjective consciousness – our thoughts and minds – are so mysterious.

Here is where it gets interesting. There are two basic kinds of patterns: patterns of states of Matter and patterns of states of Mind. Mind patterns and Matter patterns. And these patterns aggregate. Matter patterns by themselves represent non-living things, like rocks.

Physics does really well with rocks; things from the early universe.

Aggregate patterns of Mind and Matter together represent living things, everything from moss and fungus to fish, birds, cats, dogs, horses, and us. Physics doesn't do so well with those.

But what about Mind patterns only? What do they represent? Perhaps No Longer Living forms? In other words, the **Deceased**.

The A-VERSE and U-VERSE

But what possible use would be Mind alone? Is something else possibly going on? Let's expand the picture just a bit.

First we relabel the universe in which we live as the U-VERSE.

Presume there are patterns of Mind and Matter as before as primitives. And, as before there is an aggregate pattern of Mind-Matter, except this time we label the Matter associated with the U-VERSE, U-Matter. Thus far, everything is pretty much as before.

Now we introduce another kind of Matter we will call A-Matter for want of a better name. And we presume that A-Matter belongs to another separate Universe labelled the A-VERSE. This A-VERSE is not a Multiverse, and it's not a parallel universe. It's just another universe sitting beside the original U-VERSE.

But its physics could be vastly different from those we know in our U-VERSE. And that is the key point.

Mind patterns can now be associated both with U-Matter and the U-VERSE as before, and also with A-Matter and the A-VERSE. And that A-VERSE is nothing less than the Afterlife. We have just found a place for the Afterlife in this model of Reality.

It is now clear how the Afterlife could be explained using a Reality model that also happens to explain every experience, observation, measurement and experiment that has ever occurred or will ever occur in a simple, elegant and complete way.

Conclusion

We have examined Exceptional Experiences which informed us that it is reasonable to suspect that Mind and Body are separable, which means it is also reasonable to pursue survival of bodily death.

Then we found further evidence of survival in the practice of mediumship both in the historic past and in modern scientific laboratory experiments. The quality and form of the anomalous information received in these experiments is persuasive that some intelligent interactions are in some way going on in these sittings.

We bolstered those findings by examining cutting edge technology that seems to be making it possible to actually directly interact with the deceased in real time. This bypasses the need for mediums and allows us to certify for ourselves that these interactions are real.

Next, we examined at other exceptional experiences that seem to indicate after death contacts with everyday people often in normal environments. These manifest as post-mortem apparitions as well as unique types of poltergeist phenomena. And while we have seen that apparitions and poltergeists can be attributed to the living, we have also see that the mechanisms underlying these phenomena could just as well be attributed to the deceased, once again fortifying the claim that we have found evidence of after death communications.

Lastly we inquired into the nature of the Afterlife. We looked at a simple, elegant and complete model of all Reality that explains everything and discovered that it too contains a potential representation of something we might well consider “the Afterlife”. And it all fits into an otherwise reasonable reality model without any sort of extreme contortions of supernatural metaphysical claims.

Here are a couple of journals relating to Post Materialist Science.

- EXPLORE Journal of Science and Healing <https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/explore>
- Journal of the Society for Scientific Exploration <https://scientificexploration.org>

READING LIST

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Twenty Cases Suggestive of Reincarnation,
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