

Paranormal?

Continuing on with our in-service education, we have covered the obvious topics, and some of the not-so-obvious ones we all deal with in paranormal investigating. Getting back to basics once again, it is a good idea to define what we are talking about. Webster says:

PARANORMAL—adjective

Of or pertaining to the claimed occurrence of an event or perception without scientific explanation, as psychokinesis, extrasensory perception, or other purportedly supernatural phenomena.

I'm bothering to list the definition here for one reason, no matter what dictionary you look in, "paranormal" is always linked to purportedly supernatural origins, without scientific value. Do you agree?

For my part, I tend to disagree. While studies going back to Duke and Cornell have recently been attacked for lapses in scientific methodology, most of what was learned in those studies were academic in nature and well grounded, not fringe science as some claim. So, what is the truth? Well, as Fox Mulder once proclaimed, "The truth is out there!"

Of course, if I am correct, then why can't the scientific community recognize the truth? If what transpired at Duke and Cornell was fiction, then why did the U.S. Government buy those projects out, taking them from the hands of the recognized scientific community? I'm far from a conspiracy fanatic, but the easiest explanation is simply a wholesale program of disinformation.

Now granted, the paranormal community is a mixed bag, with more than a few cashews rattling around, but the truth is nevertheless still out there and there are good researchers who uncover new insights every day, although you won't be seeing them anytime soon in *Scientific American*. Our community is dysfunctional at best, we spend more time squabbling among ourselves than in doing the job, but I suspect, that is as it should be; our first job is to keep ourselves honest!

Sometimes you have to look over your shoulder to see the truth. All too often we jump to a conclusion about one thing or another without being truly objective. That is true whether we are looking at claims of fairies or telephones to the dead. You may "assume" that anyone doing research in those areas are lost, but until they publish their research and open it up for further scrutiny, they deserve the same break as someone claiming subatomic particle transport (I didn't make that up, last year the U.S. Government funded millions to study what one can only call a "transporter" mechanism that is currently being tested to move ONE subatomic particle the distance of ONE METER!).

I have in mind a case scenario that fits this debate. An individual named George Adamski, who in the last years of the 1940's was one of the very first people to publicly reveal his encounters and

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experiences relating to the UFO phenomena. Through his devotion and courage to speak, he personally became responsible for pioneering the movement towards establishing greater public awareness and education regarding the existence of extraterrestrial life. Today, there is even a George Adamski Center to further his work.

George Adamski supported his experiences with what was then called “exceptional UFO photographs and color motion picture footage” of UFOs throughout the world. His documented, witnessed encounters with Humans from other planets made him one of the most fascinating people of the twentieth century and lead to a lifetime of dedication to this subject. In his day Adamski was invited to lecture before royalty, ecclesiastical leaders, political bodies, military groups and the scientific communities; he bravely presented his experience and proof before all who would listen.

Today, his official biography sounds more than impressive, and to be honest, he did have a giant following throughout his life; but in retrospect, he was basically a nice, soft spoken emigrant with some very big misconceptions, not to mention delusions of little humanoid men from space and beautiful women from distant worlds here to save mankind from itself. He died in the 1960’s after writing several books and producing several documentaries. He was self taught, and unfortunately had little talent, either as a writer or film producer, he lived from hand to mouth, but never backed down from his stories of space travel in an alien “scout ship,” among his equally big hearted new friends.

Honestly, if you showed this material to a five year old, they would reject it today. His prose was wooden, at best and there is little rhyme or reason to his story lines, reading more like free association than anything else. Our kids today would instantly recognize the absurdity of what he was claiming, but as I said, millions of people were wrapped in every word. There is no question he was a likeable human being, but what he brought to the table only poisoned the UFO well for generations to come. He was disinformation personified and he did it all without government involvement.

Adamski was early proof that you don’t need government conspiracy to convince the public that some “fringe science,” is better left to the Mad Hatter Club. In fact, one might conjecture that he set the mold for hundreds of others that followed to the present day. But let’s not close the book on Mr. Adamski just yet; he at least deserves a post-mortem glance at how he evolved.

Adamski’s story began with a UFO sighting, plain and simple. How that evolved into a close encounter and dreams of tag-along space travel is better left to the psychologists, but that is how things began for poor George. But before you begin chuckling, consider how others have reacted to basically sound ideas in the more recent past. Frank Sumption began with the concept of alien communications when he made the first “Frank’s Box”. Later Chris Moon adopted the box, calling it his own and claiming

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that in his hands it was a telephone to the dead; finally the ASUP, with the good graces of Sumption and able hands of Ron Ricketts created our own "Box" for study of all these claims. The Mini-Box phenomenon was born and put into production by Paranormal Systems, long before any worthwhile study of the device could be offered. Today, some say that the material being "heard" is simply nothing more than human matrixing, the ability of our species to fill in missing information and create meaningful messages from disconnected sounds; others go further saying that this matrixing is augmented by transliminality or subliminal substitution, while yet others say that it is simply noise, pure and simple. But even while the final verdict is still far away, there is a core group who hang on their little box of wire and diodes, deciphering every intonation while seeking a greater source of wisdom; some simply will not make a meaningful decision without consulting their electronic oracle.

The point is simple, if you think that someone like Adamski was mad, there have been many others in that same drifting boat out there, but a word of warning: What is now good theoretical physics was once fringe science and before than pure science fiction. To be sure, you have to carefully examine the evidence.

Today, the most obvious misinformation programs are allegedly tied to the UFO phenomenon, but sometimes recognizing what is real and what is misinformation requires a hard look at the trees and the forest in which they grow; this phenomenon is multi-layered. You can begin the dissection of this frog anywhere you choose.

Let's start with Bill Burns, of UFO Magazine and his TV show UFO Hunters. Bill starts out with some simple facts, as did Mr. Adamski; let's say a UFO sighting in Texas. Bill comes out with the basic information, so far so good... then he spins it into a story.... Not so good. Bill wants to sell magazines and pay his mortgage... good; he is willing to weave into his tales some misleading information, again, not so good!

UFOs generally fit one of three classifications... conventional aircraft that has been misidentified... military hardware that defies conventional classification, thus really a UFO, but not of another world.... Or exactly as the name suggests, an Unidentified Flying Object which could be anything from space debris to time machines or alien spacecraft. Bill simply likes to put a spin on every sighting to keep the mystery going... and his magazines selling. He is not, as far as I can tell a government agent paid to disseminate misinformation, but he does a pretty good job of it anyway.

When looking at Military hardware, the original idea was to simply deny the existence of anything that some citizen may have seen... when that did not work, they began disinformation techniques... they no longer lied about the existence of something, but rather chose to spin a story

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around the sighting that was beyond belief... thus the entire episode would be categorized that way. Enter a whole new industry the diehard conspiracy investigator who sees everything as disinformation. You may laugh, but remember the headlines on some of the supermarket tabloids, that claimed everything from Bush being an alien to Obama being under mind control... this is disinformation and some people will swear to it. Like good old Bill from UFO Magazine, the tabloids want to sell papers and there is, as Barnum once said, "One born every minute," to buy it and the stories they weave. You can put out a piece of misleading garbage out there and it will evolve into something that some people will believe as credible. Adamski, to Burns, to the Supermarket Tabloids...to the CIA?

I know, that sounds incredible, but if Out of Body experiments at Duke and Mind Control and Remote Viewing studies from Cornell, both were bought up lock, stock and pussycat by the CIA, which can you expect? Now you've got it...disinformation! People hate a vacuum... smart people, average people, even morons want to know... so if you have a secret the trick is to tell an opposing lie.... And that is what disinformation is all about. You start with the truth, there was a bright light over Iowa last night that travelled from east to west at a fast speed. The local university releases a report that it was space junk re-entering the atmosphere, but the government doesn't want anyone to know it was RUSSIAN junk, which they intend to locate and exploit, so they say, "Nope, not space junk!" and then get someone, like Bill Burns to suggest it was an alien scout ship. BAM, you now have three stories, and each will then morph into secondary versions and grow from there. By the time you are done you end up with three headed sky serpents over Hawaii, while in fact it was a melting urinal from a Cosmonauts latrine. God only knows what new technology they may have had in 1990, we better get to it fast and cover it up so no one will know!

The practice of lying about everything today is expected and the spin doctors are always ready to add to the hysteria, it is the routine. Which brings us back to the point of this lesson... good research and better ways to share it. We know that the scientific community expects nothing from us of any value... we could be looking at an active black hole on earth with cryptids crawling in and out of it, but science would not believe us, they would not even get in their cars to take a look, not because they would not be curious, but for fear of bad publicity. Science hates ridicule. So we go our way and they go theirs, never the twain to meet.... Well at least not in public.

The truth is that science is interested, in a back handed sort of way. There are those who recognize that we could be on to something with all our haunted houses and ghosties, but will admit it could cost them all funding dollars... if we are on to something, somebody will decide to fund our work, which means someone else's house payment will not get paid.

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Many have asked what has happened to funding for our kind of work. In a word, disinformation! Yes, Mr. Bigelow is spreading dollars around, but not to people like us. We keep sticking to that pesky idea about honest reporting. Billionaire real estate investor and entrepreneur Robert Bigelow of Las Vegas is now betting his bucks on MUFON to find valuable new knowledge about alien propulsion systems. He quietly signed a pact with MUFON worth several million dollars and investing a top flight team of 50 scientists in his employ to the project. For those who might not remember him, the good Mr. B. was the money behind the Skinwalker Ranch study in Utah.

Based on that case alone, you can pretty much smell the coffee brewing. Mr. B. moved his scientists onto Skinwalker, not a trained paranormal investigator among them, except for one well know writer under contract to tell the story. Down came the “cone of silence” and little was heard until the book of the same name came up from the dust. The only information to be released was to say nothing was learned, while the book had Bigfoot climbing out of holes that suddenly closed by themselves and UFOs were everywhere... yet no one has a single frame to share and the area, which is reportedly dormant, is filled with drilling equipment, high tech towers and armed guards.... Sound familiar... if there is nothing there, why guard it?

Bigelow controls the coverage of such events by providing his own watchdogs and “scientists” who call every shot. While MUFON will enjoy some perks from this deal, in the end I would suspect there will be many to jump ship when the old “Cone” comes down on them.

So to answer the question... legitimate money for research is gone. Universities fear ridicule for funding fringe science but Mr. Bigelow can come onboard with big bucks, if you are willing to pay the price; you could get a TV show, but do you want to be the next Ryan Buell? What is left, is what we are, one of a handful of good investigative groups that is self funded, trying to make sense of the little things we learn.

For me that is quite enough!