

Science and the Paranormal

William E. Stoney



Parapsychology (Micro-PSI), The Mind- Body Problem

An OLLI Eight Week Course

3/18/13 to 5 /6/13

Please fill out the following. It will help me understand how better to meet your needs in this course. I will not share it with anyone else.

Your name or pick a number.

Paranormal experience

I, or someone I know, have: (0 = no, 1 = I have, 2= friend has)

- seen apparitions (ghosts)
- had a Near Death Experience (NDE)
- had an Out of Body Experience (OBE)
- had verified precognitive dreams or waking intuitions
- had Successful Ouija board experiences
- had Successful readings by a psychic or medium
- had telepathic communications
- been healed by paranormal means, prayer, therapeutic touch, healing services
- seen a UFO
- had other inexplicable (paranormal) experiences

Knowledge of and attitude toward the paranormal

Have you read or heard about and how strongly do you believe in the reality of
(0 = have not heard of or no opinion 1= believe strongly, to 5 = totally skeptical of)

- Apparitions
- Precognition
- Telepathy
- Clairvoyance
- Psychokinesis
- Psychometry
- Spoon bending
- NDE
- OBE
- Remote viewing
- Psychic spying
- Dowsing
- Ectoplasm
- Table tilting
- Communication with the dead
- Electronic voice phenomena (EVP)
- Past life memories
- UFO

Course Outline

3/18

Parapsychology (Micro-PSI), The Mind-Body Problem

3/25

Macro PSI (Remote Viewing, Dowsing, Table Levitation, Spoon Bending,)

4/1

Fortean Phenomena, UFO

4/8

Spontaneous Afterlife Data (Dreams, Apparitions, Ghosts, Angels, Poltergiests)

4/15

Spontaneous Afterlife Data (NDE, Deathbed Visions, Children's Past Life Memories)

4/22

Sought Afterlife Data, (Ouija Board, Table tilting/rapping, etc)

4/29

Physical Seances

5/6

Mental Mediums & What they tell us of the afterlife.

My Background

Professional, 5 decades as an aerospace engineer, in & for NASA (Apollo)

Parapsychology, 4 decades and counting

- Collected over 1100 books on the subject

- Member of

- Parapsychological Association
- British and American Societies for Psychic Research
- The Parapsychological Foundation
- Academy of Spirituality and Paranormal Studies
- The Noetic Foundation
- The Rhine Center
- International Association of Near Death Studies
- The Society of Scientific Exploration
- The Forever Family Foundation
- The Association for Evaluation and Communication of Evidence for Survival
 - www.aeces.info

My Objectives

- To discuss the history and content of the enormous body of “scientifically collected” data that the scientific community ignores or denies but that seems to present us with objective “proof” that we :
 - Have mental and physical capabilities our Science does not understand
 - PK, ESP, Precognition, Remote Viewing, OBE, Remote Healing, Psychometry, Dowsing
 - Should intellectually believe in the afterlife
 - NDE, ADC, Medium Communications
- To get your reactions to these data
 - What should we believe about them?
 - Should we care about them?
 - Should they be widely promulgated?

Why do we believe?

What convinces us?

Information from

- Personal experiences
 - Parents, Church, School, Friends
- Science says so
 - In school, articles, books
- Reading
 - Newspapers, Magazines
 - Novels, Biographies, History
- Talk Radio (NPR, Rush Limbaugh)
- TV News (Fox, The Daily Show)
- Internet **Wikipedia!!**
- The Government
- Famous people say it
- Everyone says it
- Gut Feelings : It just makes sense

Famous People's Quotes

William James

"How often has "Science" killed off all spook philosophy, laid ghosts and raps and "telepathy" away underground as so much popular delusion", and yet, "The phenomena are there...lying broadcast over the surface of history."

Immanuel Kant

“Ghost stories are always listened to and well received in private, but pitilessly disavowed in public. For my own part, ignorant as I am of the way in which the human spirit enters the world and the way in which he goes out of it, I dare not deny the truth of many such narratives.”

Skepticism

Skepticism is required in all matters reported by humans. Ask

- Police, Lawyers and Psychologists

Seeing is not always a good reason for believing i.e. delirium tremens & hypnotism

However much of the “academic” criticism of the paranormal is based on a rigid belief that everything real can be explained by physical processes. Any claims that cannot are:

- Fraudulent
- Reports by naïve uninformed persons
- Memories distorted by wishful thinking
- And all afterlife evidence can be explained by Super PSI

Science is the best process ever developed to understand the world

Data collection to define the existence and scope of the phenomena

- Data collected, recorded and checked in a self consistent, objective process
- Data analyzed for statistically significant similarities, differences, and patterns.

Laboratory testing to reproduce and analyze the phenomena

- Identify and control all variables
- Results to be replicated by others

Theorizing

- Construction of explanatory laws that have control and predictive capability

The social process

- Done by Ph.Ds in an academic institution
- Results published in refereed scientific journals.

Parapsychology

The scientific study of the paranormal

Parapsychology is divided into

- **Extrasensory perception (ESP)**
 - Telepathy (mind to mind)
 - Clairvoyance (mind to matter)
 - Precognition (mind to the future)
 - Postcognition (mind to the past)
- **Psychokinesis (PK)** (mind control of matter)
- **Survival Evidence** (mind to spirit)

Parapsychology

Telepathy/Clairvoyance

- European scientists started making ESP tests in the 1880s
 - Dr. J. B. Rhine at Duke University carried out extensive card guessing tests in the 1930s
 - Between 1880 & 1940 , 145 ESP studies were published using 77,796 subjects who made 4,918,186 single trial guesses.
 - In 106 of these studies the results exceeded chance expectations.
 - He used the Zenner cards
- QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.
- The Pierce -Pratt Series
 - 1850 guesses, 370 hits equal chance
 - 558 actual hits for a probability of chance of less than one in a hundred million

Parapsychology

Telepathy/Clairvoyance

Some interesting details

- Male students guessed better when the cards had sexually arousing pictures on them
- A female psychotherapy patient made above average selections of cards that had words that were of a pleasant nature and made below average selections for traumatically worded cards. (psi missing)

Parapsychology

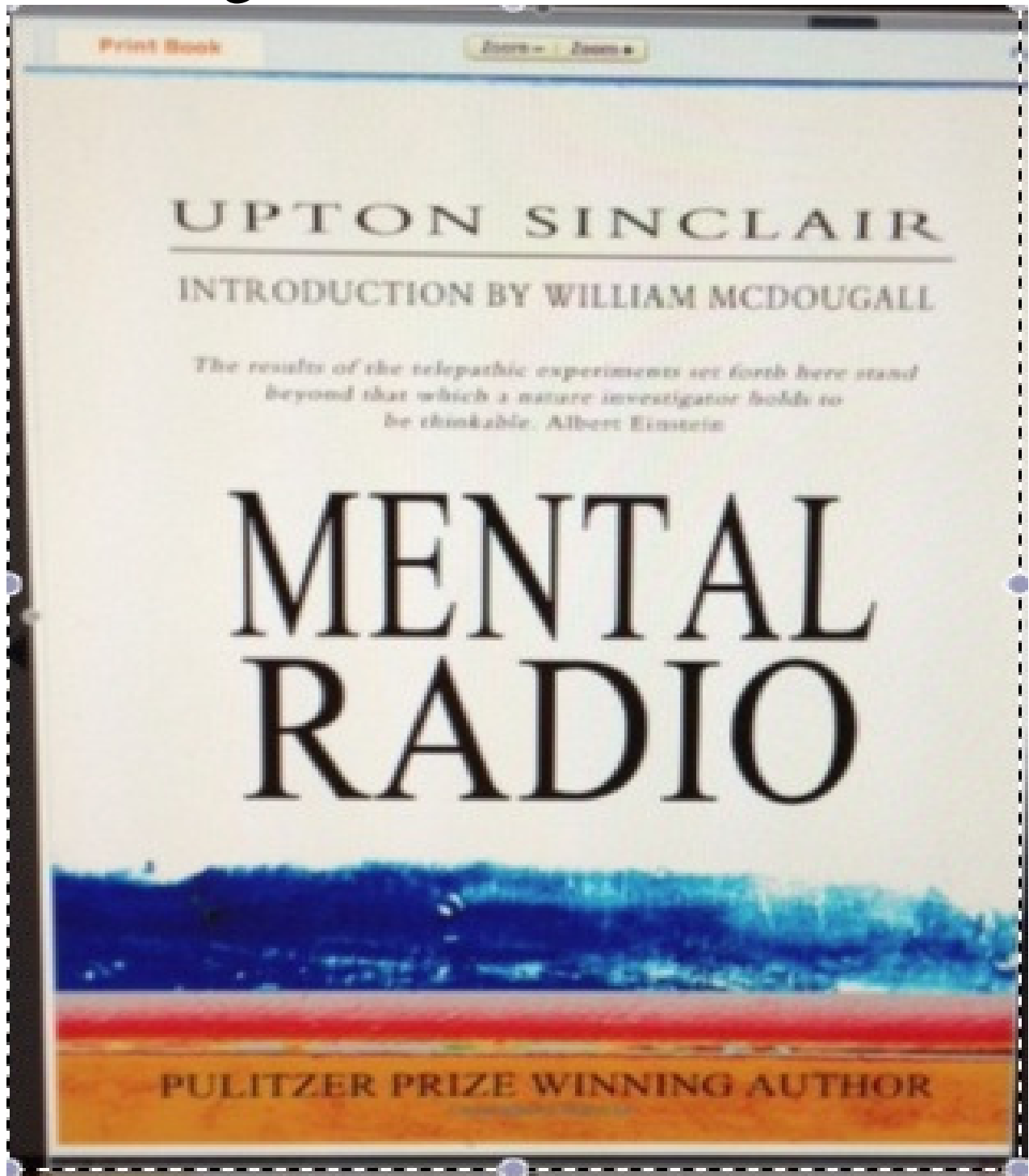
Telepathy/Clairvoyance

- Unconscious ESP
 - Dr. Dean (St Joseph's College) and Dr. Tart (Univ. Cal>)
 - Lie detectors showed that subjects reacted unconsciously to emotionally loaded messages sent by an agent in another room
 - Later tests showed unconscious reactions prior to selection of the targets
- Dream Telepathy
 - Dr. Stanley Krippner at Maimondes Hospital Brooklyn N.Y.
 - Dreaming subjects reported dreams relating to target pictures concentrated on by a sender.
 - They selected the target picture well beyond chance probabilities

Parapsychology

Telepathy/Clairvoyance

- Drawing tests



Parapsychology

Telepathy/Clairvoyance

Sinclair and Mary Craig Lewis

- After sittings with a psychic, Mrs. Lewis trained herself to get into a relaxed state in which she was able to see the hidden drawing she was given.
- Over several years they carefully recorded 290 drawing sessions
- 65 (23%) were judged totally successful
- 155 (53%) partially successful
- 70 (24%) were failures

Parapsychology

Telepathy/Clairvoyance

Sinclair and Mary Craig Lewis

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Parapsychology

Telepathy/Clairvoyance

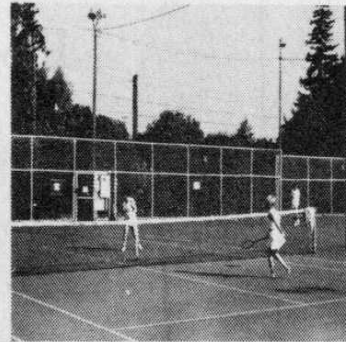
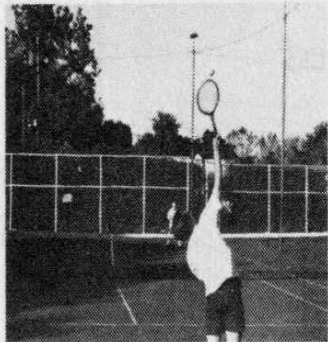
Sinclair and Mary Craig Lewis

- The scientists of the day reacted very strongly against the book, so much so that Einstein felt called upon to vigorously defend it.
- I HAVE READ THE BOOK of Upton Sinclair The results of the telepathic experiments carefully and plainly set forth in this book stand surely far beyond those which a nature investigator holds to be thinkable. **On the other hand, it is out of the question in the case of so conscientious an observer and writer as Upton Sinclair that he is carrying on a conscious deception of the reading world; his good faith and dependability are not to be doubted..** In no case should the psychologically interested circles pass over this book heedlessly. **[signed] A. Einstein May 23, 1930**

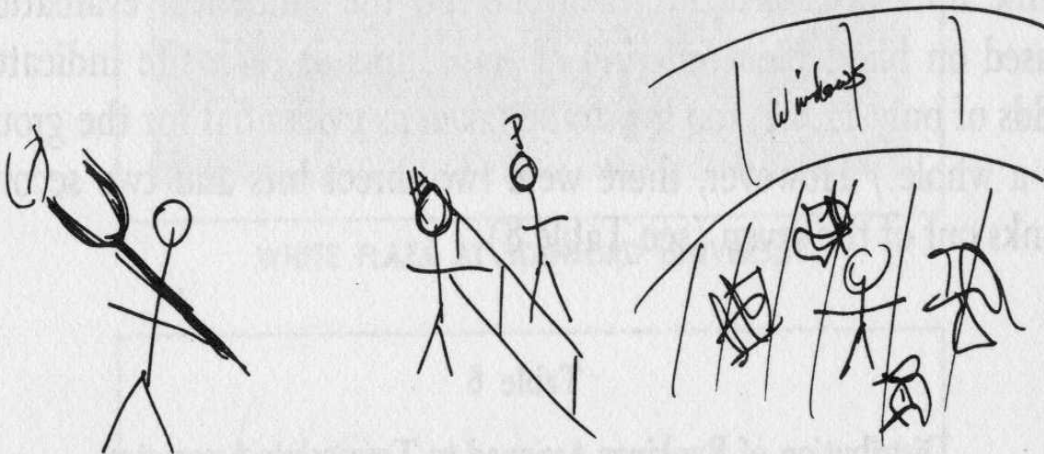
Parapsychology

Drawing tests

Looking for Gifted Subjects



TENNIS COURTS

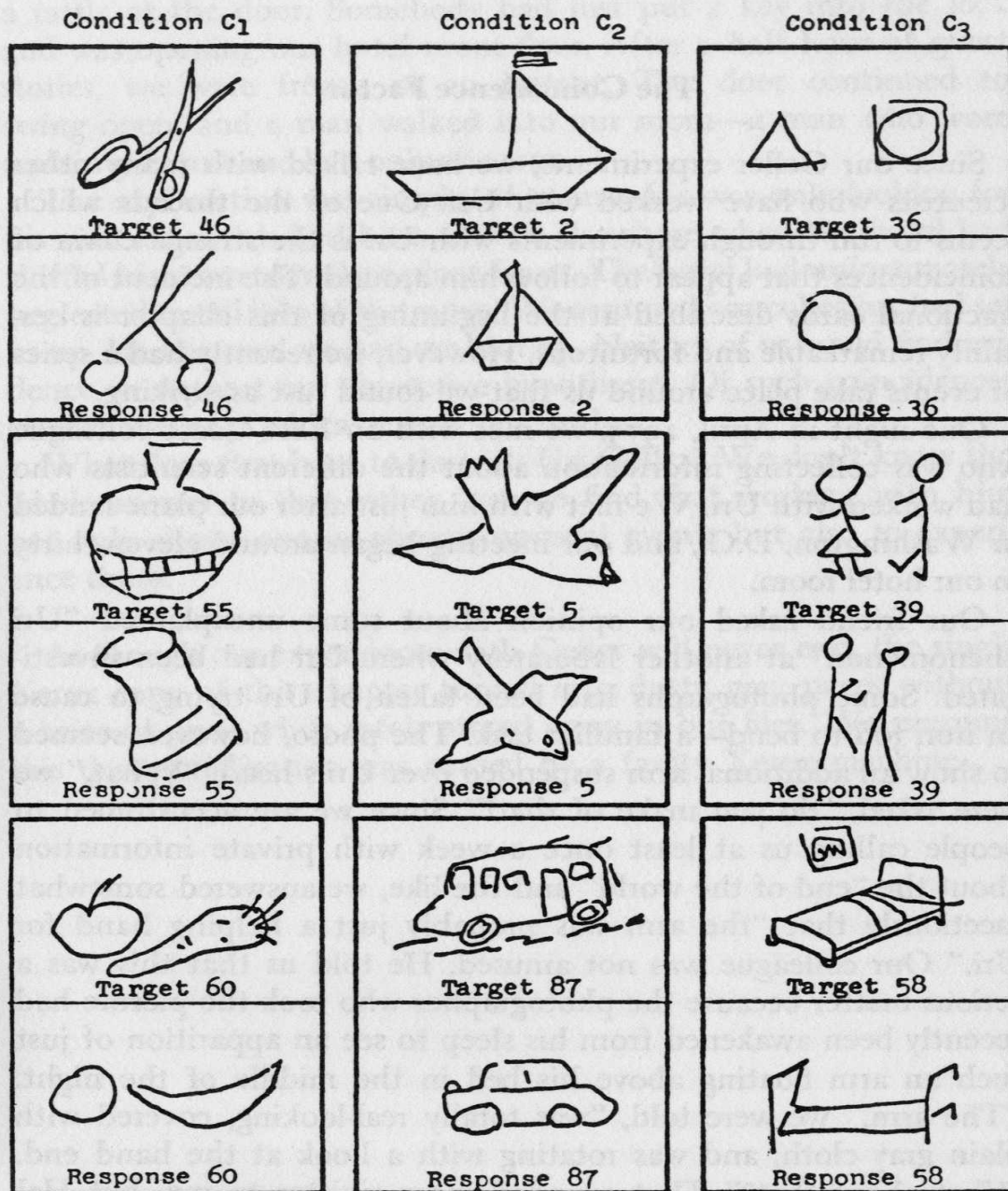


SUBJECT ELGIN (S2) DRAWINGS IN RESPONSE TO TENNIS COURT TARGET

Figure 15

Parapsychology

Drawing tests



THESE DRAWINGS ARE FROM A PAPER ENTITLED "AN ESP EXPERIMENT WITH A HIGH-SCORING SUBJECT" BY J. R. MUSSO AND M. GRANERO, BOTH OF WHOM ARE PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSORS AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY IN ARGENTINA. THEIR HIGH-SCORING SUBJECT WAS DR. JOSE MURATTI, WHO IS A PRACTICING PSYCHIATRIST

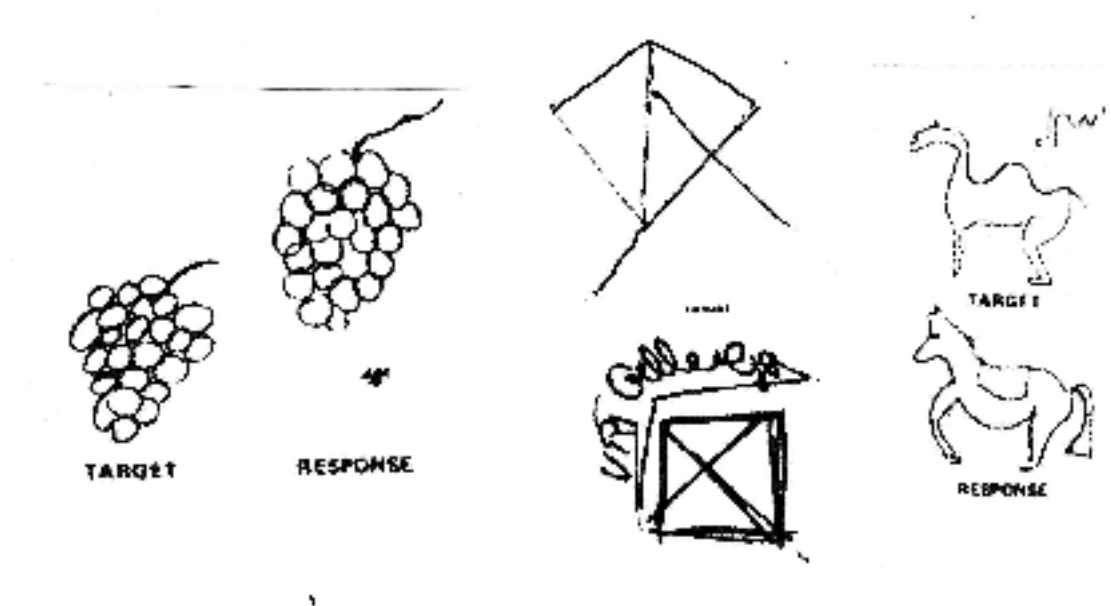
Figure 25

Parapsychology

Telepathy/Clairvoyance

- Drawing tests

Uri Geller



Parapsychology

Telepathy/Clairvoyance

- Ganzfeld tests

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Parapsychology

Precognition

- Pearce test, subject got up to 50% above chance levels guessing the order of cards in a pack before it had been shuffled
- Honorton & Ferrari meta analysis of force choice precognition tests between 1935 & 1987
 - 309 studies by 62 investigators
 - 2 million individual trials by 50,000 subjects
 - Results were unlikely by chance to the order of 10 to the minus 25
- Brenda Dunne at Princeton's PEAR Lab
 - 336 trials of subject pre-selecting the location to which an experimenter will be sent
 - Results are unlikely by chance to the order of 10 to the minus 10

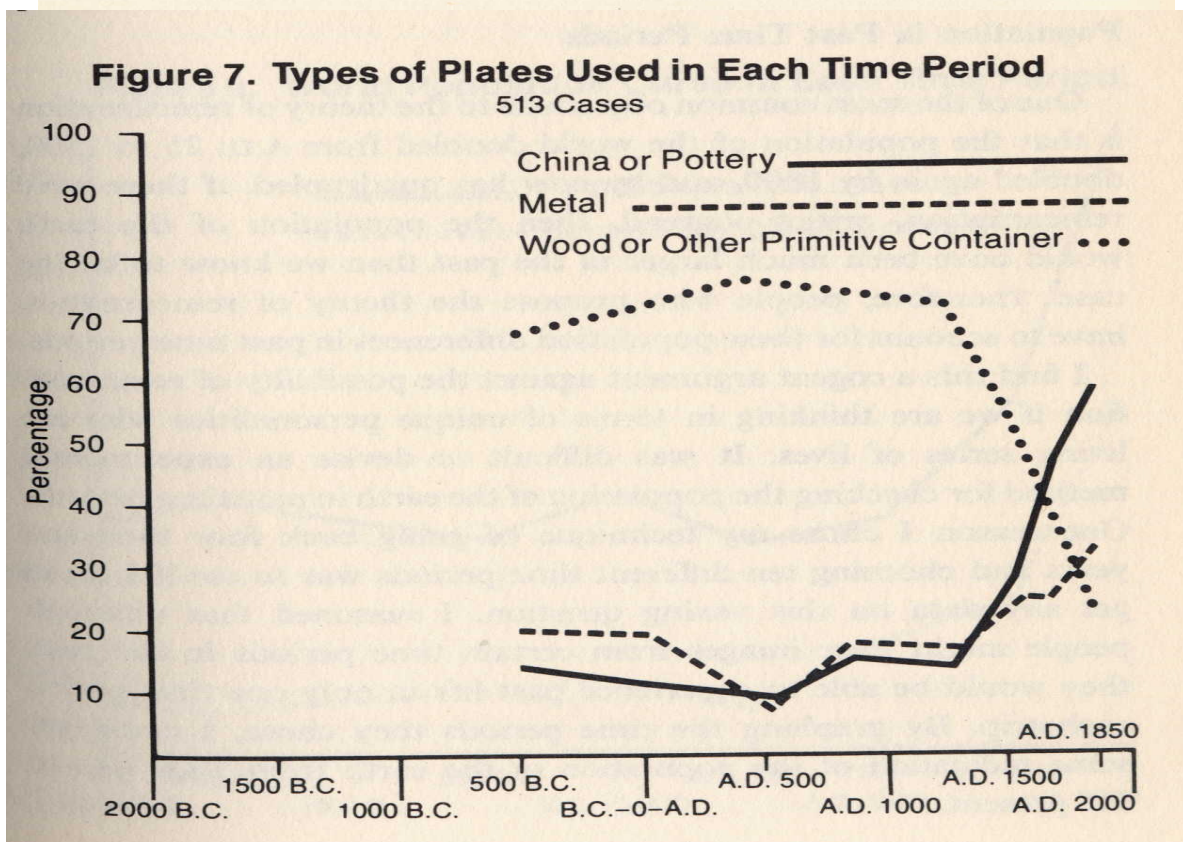
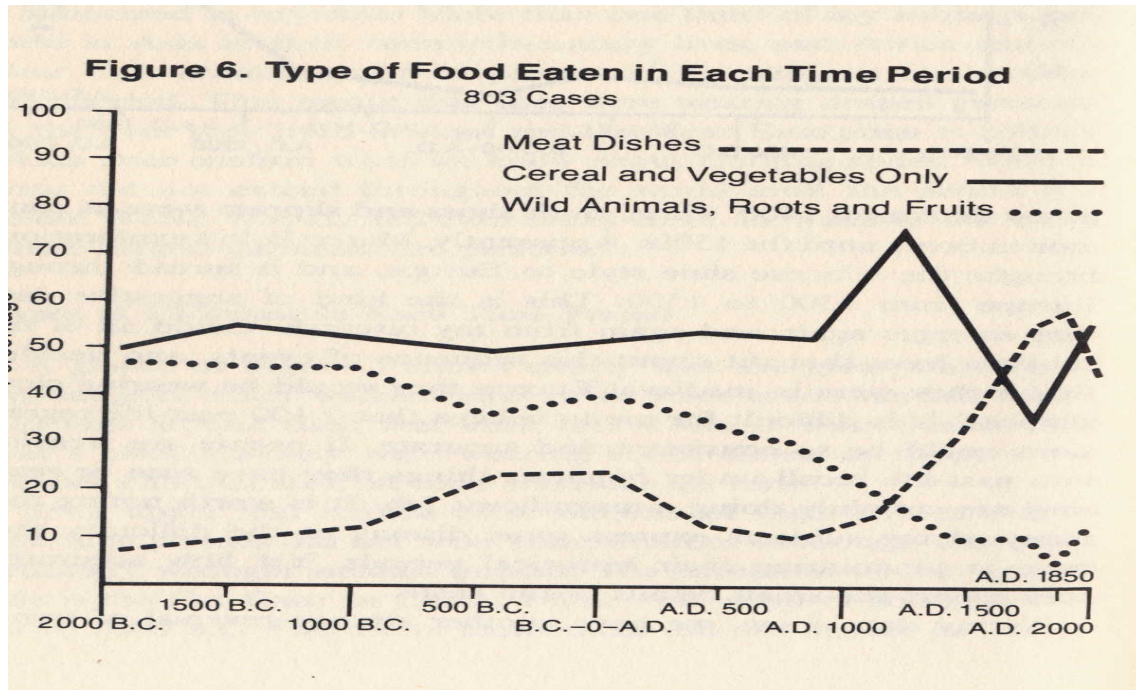
Parapsychology

Postcognition

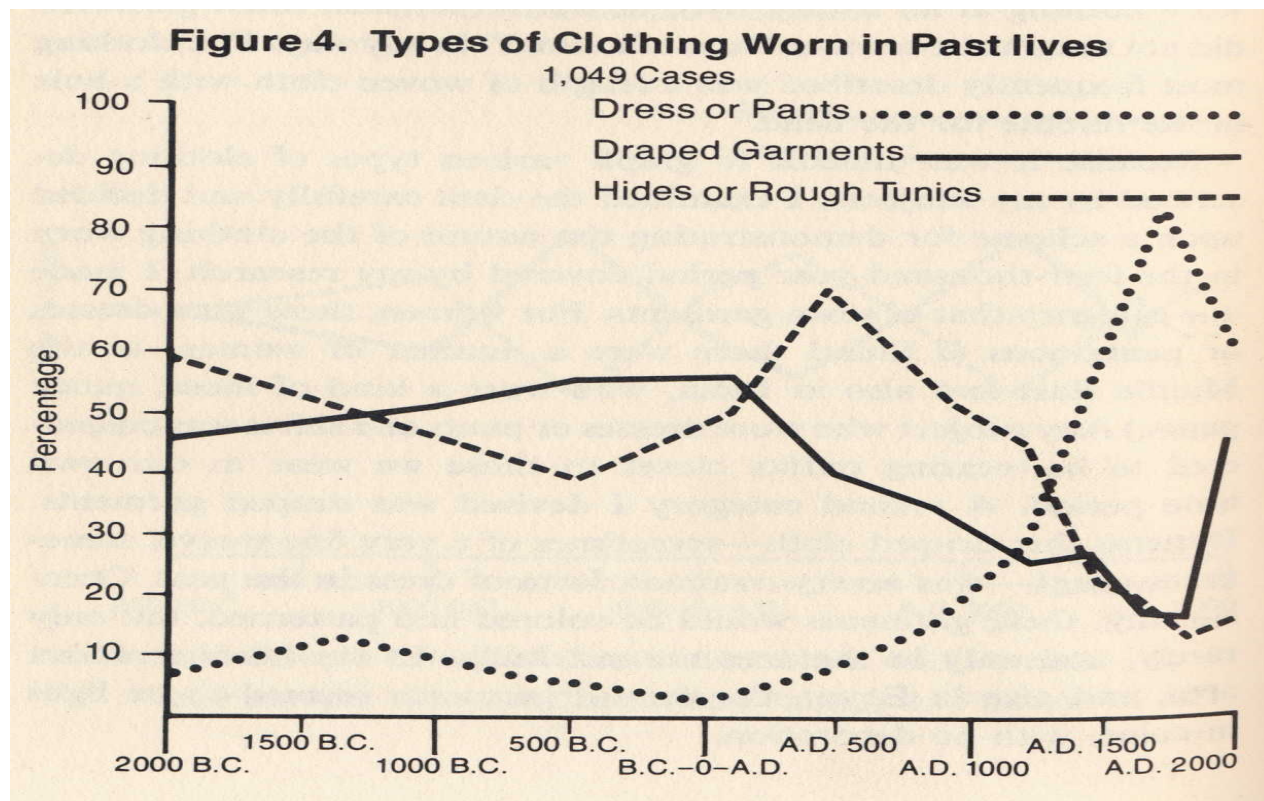
Hypnotic Past Life Regression

- The Bridey Murphy problem
 - An amateur hypnotist published (1956) a book describing the memories of his American subject as a 19th century Irish woman causing a long and still unresolved public discussion on past lives.
- In 1980 a hypnotized patient of Dr. Brian Weiss began discussing past life experiences.
 - Convinced because her stories were confirmed by available records Dr. Weiss now recommends using past life regression to treat patients
- In the 1970s Helen Wambach, Ph.D. psychologist regressed over 1000 people to past lives ranging from 2000 BC to the 1900s`
 - By asking them to describe their clothing, foot wear, food, and eating utensils she was able to construct graphs of their statements and compare them with the historical records for the time of their regressed life.
 - This is probably the best hard evidence for the reality of past life regressions, but it is not often referenced in academic discussions

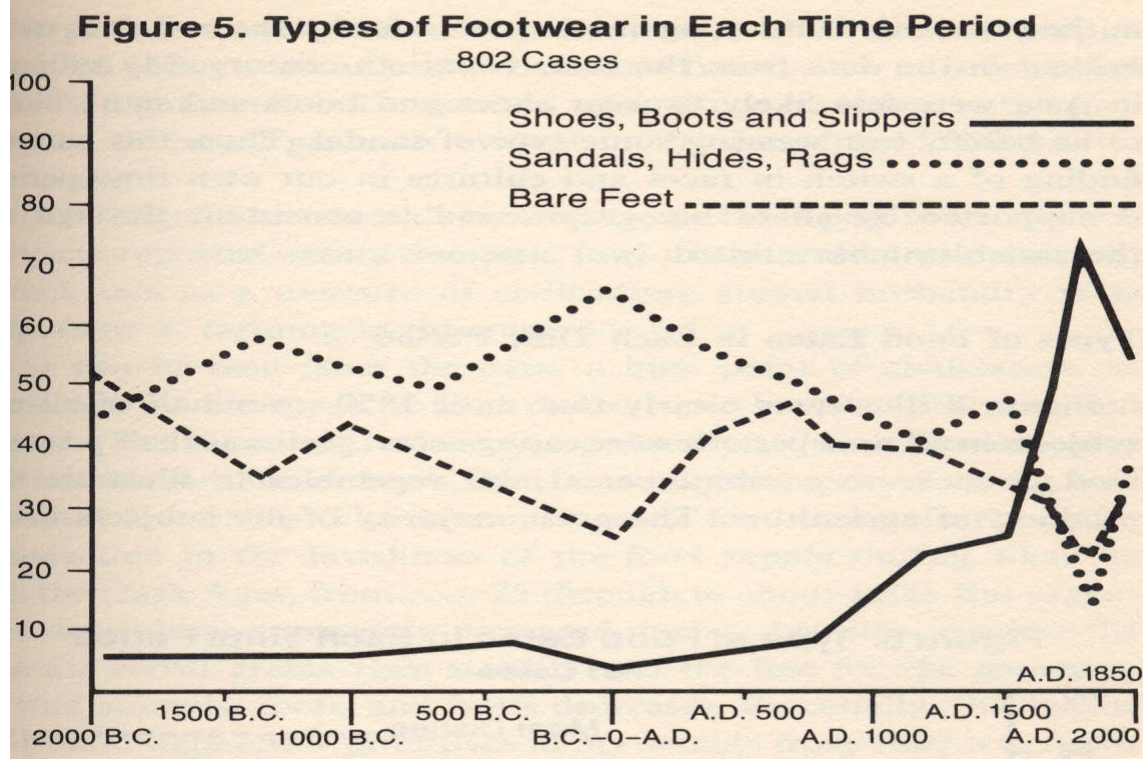
Hypnotic past life regression



Hypnotic past life regression



ADDING IT UP 129



Parapsychology

Psychokinesis (PK)

Princeton Engineering Anomalies Research (PEAR) LAB.

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Parapsychology

Psychokinesis (PK)

Princeton Engineering Anomalies Research (PEAR) LAB..

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Parapsychology

Some conclusions

- Parapsychology has found by rigorous tests that minds can have non physical information transfers
 - With Other Minds,
 - From Matter,
 - From the Future
 - From the Past
 - And can control matter
- This changes our basic theories about ourselves and our universe
 - **It proves that our minds are not the creation of our physical brains**

The Mind/Brain Issue

- “The Irreducible Mind” “Toward A Psychology For The 21st Century” (2007) by Edward and Emily Kelly et al from the University of Virginia
 - “Current mainstream scientific opinion holds that all aspects of human mind and consciousness are generated by physical processes occurring in brains. **The present volume demonstrates ...empirically ... that this reductive materialism is not only incomplete but false**”
- William James’ “transmission” mind/brain theory.
 - The brain acts like a multi-channelled TV that is normally set on the five sense channels but can in some people, some of the time, access channels that provide information from non-sensory sources to our ***non-material*** consciousness/mind.

Parapsychology

- Parapsychology was inducted into the AAAS in 1969 as a “real” science.
 - This was an acknowledgment of the scientific credibility of the work started by Dr. J. B. Rhine at Duke University in the 1930s
 - It was a very controversial decision
 - **The data are mostly ignored by academic psychology**
- A survey of over 1100 college Profs
 - Is ESP a fact or a likely possibility?
 - Yes
 - 55% natural scientists
 - 66 % social scientists,
 - 77% Arts academics
 - **34% psychologists**
 - 75% General population

Parapsychology

- We can end with the good news of two new books summarizing the results of two researchers lifetime of research in parapsychology
- Charles T. Tart, Ph.D. “The End of Materialism, How Evidence of the Paranormal is bringing Science and Spirit Together”
- Lawrence LeShan, Ph.D. “A New Science of the Paranormal, The Promise of Psychical Research”
- Both announce that the reality of the paranormal destroys the concept of materialism
- Read both but pick LeShan first, its shorter and more fun