

Tom Butler
Etheric Studies, (CC)2018
Seeking to Understand the Nature of Reality
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Etheric Studies Occasional Update 6

Tom Butler, December 2019
(Also at)



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Winter

This issue is mainly to let you know that the ATransC Idea Exchange has been moved from Atransc.org/forum/ to <https://coop.ethericstudies.org/>. A redirect is in place so your old links should work. I was also able to migrate the database, meaning the old posts and member login information is still intact. Karen Mossey tells me that she did have to reset her password, though.

The old forum was on the MyBB architecture, which is old and difficult to use. The new one is based on a Wordpress plugin called WpForo. All of my sites are using Wordpress now. It is easier to use and well-maintained. One of my concerns has always been that someone would be able to maintain it when I go away. I think this new setup makes that a more reasonable expectation.



The young yellowtail hawk I featured a few issues back has grown a little. Notice that this December 8 picture shows no snow.

The whole idea of the Idea Exchange is to provide a place to form a cooperative community. For the Implicit Cosmology, I define the [Cooperative Community Organizing Principle](#) as: *Personalities are attracted to communities of like-minded people cooperating to facilitate progression.* In the spirit of *I teach you as you teach me*, participating in conversation with like-minded people is one of the most effective ways to further our personal progression. Of course, growth comes from hearing and considering other ideas, but it also comes from formulating a response. When we are actively seeking progression, in both phases of communication, our worldview is challenged to see reality a little more as it is.



Since I think the principle is largely true, maintaining a discussion board is part of sharing these ideas ... not for me, but for me to teach and learn. I invite you to participate, ask questions, help answer questions, share ideas, participate.

UFO Mufon

I am now a Mufon Field Investigator (apprentice).

That means I am awaiting the Nevada Coordinator in Los Vegas to connect me with a local veteran investigator so that I can acquire a little guided experience. He thinks there was one here who is now inactive, else it may be someone in California.

I commented on the differences between paranormalists and ufologists in the last issue. I cannot schedule a meetup with a UFO in the way that I can schedule a haunting investigation—I am inactive until some UFO flies by.

More to come.

Resources

mufon.com/

mufon.com/e-journal.html

mufontelelevision.com/insider/

<http://www.nicap.org/madar.htm>



Essays

[Christmas is for Compassion](#)

Discourse 4 in the Seeking 101 Series. I wrote it for my December [Spiritualist Society](#) talk. My objective was to show why the Biblical Jesus is considered an important wayshower to Spiritualists.

Quora

As you probably know, I find it useful to answer questions on the [Quora](#) website. I think a few people outside of the paranormalist community read the answers and there are a lot of people with misconceptions about these phenomena within.

This is my most recent contribution. I am posting here because I think the references may be of use to you.

Question: [Is there any science data and research supporting psychic phenomena?](#)

Answer

The short answer is “yes.” But as always, there are considerations.

The field of **parapsychology** is specifically focused on paranormal phenomena. From the [Parapsychological Association](#) website, “*Parapsychology is the scientific and scholarly study of three kinds of unusual events (ESP, mind-matter interaction, and survival), which are associated with human experience.*”

All parapsychologists are expected to be Ph.Ds. (academics), but not all are trained scientists. It is also important to understand that parapsychologists tend to be retired from an unrelated field. It seems the most common, for instance, are retired philosophy or psychology professors. It is possible to find a Ph.D. in biology, for instance, espousing truth about physical mediumship under cover of that unrelated degree.

“**Paranormalists**” is a useful term for people who have more than a casual interest in things paranormal. Some are academics, some are laypeople. Not all accept the evidence of paranormal phenomena.

There is a de facto **Academic-Layperson Partition** that tends to retard the free exchange of information. The effect is that academics seldom collaborate with laypeople and laypeople seldom understand what academics are up to. Reports and possibly resulting theories are written for other academics and seldom trickle down to laypeople as actionable guidance.

It is useful to divide the paranormalist science community into three categories:

Materialism is the philosophical view that only matter exists. Everything is physical and the interaction of things physical. We see this view in [Anomalistic Psychology](#).

In **Dualism**, reality consists of material (physical) and mind (spiritual). In this, mind is independent of body, but is expressed into the physical by way of the body. This view is often expressed in [Exceptional Experiences Psychology](#). The [Psi Field Hypothesis](#) and [First Sight Theory](#) are representative of this.

In **Monism**, all of reality is mind and the physical is an expression of mind. [Survival Metaphysics](#) is one view of this.

Mainstream science is predominantly materialistic. But here is the problem. Many parapsychologists are also materialists. Psychologists tend to be our harshest and least informed critics. Paranormalists think of such uninformed criticism as skeptics and debunkers.

Another factor that needs to be considered when evaluating the “science data and research supporting psychic phenomena” is that our understanding of these phenomena is evolving faster than most people realize. In my study, I have found that, in some cases, articles and reports can be out of date within ten or fifteen years.

A person’s expertise in a field, say the study of [Electronic Voice Phenomena](#) (EVP), can be dated by a single discovery. For instance, the realization that the voice is formed out of available noise in transform EVP, and that it tends to be initiated by brief spikes of sound, offers an explanation for why steady-state noise is not as useful as more chaotic noise. That came about around 2010. prior to that, even the steady-state noise of radio static was being recommended for background noise.

This rapid evolution of understanding has served to assure the obsolescence of academic authority that has crossed over from unrelated fields of study. Nevertheless, many parapsychological reports are written as if the obsolescence of the author’s expertise is not a factor.

Being peer-reviewed is not a recommendation when it is done in secrecy by people from unrelated fields.

Most paranormal phenomena involve a mental influence on a physical process. Consciousness is always involved. In dualism, the effect should be studied from the consciousness-to-physical perspective, but as physical people, to understand the full effect, it is also necessary to study the influence from a physical-to-consciousness perspective.

That means the study of psychic functioning, for instance, needs to be studied in terms of human factors (instincts, lucidity, worldview, motivation cultural influences), physics (conversion of mental processes to physical effect) and survival metaphysics (propagation of thought, physical characteristic conversion to mental influence). With this in mind, it is arguable that any effective study should be conducted by a team with representation from psychology, physics, electronics, and most importantly, practitioners who are able to produce the phenomena to be studied.

It is important that anyone studying this “science data and research” material is aware of the considerations I have described. The observer should always consider the qualifications of the author. One report does not establish truth. Science is evolving and the observer should always maintain a sort of *meta-analyses* mental image of that science as more research is considered.

I recommend that the observer considers both academic and lay sources.

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- Dean Radin, Ph.D. has a good list of literature I often use as a deanradin.com/evidence/evidence.htm
 - [100 Scientific Papers Offering Evidence for Psi Phenomena & Effects](#)
 - The Psi Encyclopedia includes articles written by parapsychologists but with no apparent lay input: [The Scientific Investigation of Psychic Phenomena](#).
 - [Research Articles Database](#) maintained by the SPR.

- ***Parapsychology: A Handbook for the 21st Century***
Edited by Etzel Cardeña, John Palmer and David Marcusson-Clavertz
McFarland, 2015, ISBN 978-0-7864-7916-0, ebook ISBN 978-1-4766-2105-0
 - As a layperson, I maintain a rather unorganized list of links at [References | Etheric Studies](#)
 - I recommend taking time to consider [Forever Family Foundation](#), [Paranormal Study](#), [Etheric Studies](#) and [Association TransCommunication](#)
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Thank You

2020 promises to be an interesting year. As I have found occasion to say many times this year, I think we are at a fork in the road. One takes us to a new feudal system as we preside over the decline of civilization due to an increasingly inhospitable planet. The other represents a new beginning as we work to restore a more compassionate society.

This is not a political perspective. Politics are healthy discourse leading to governance for the greater good. This is about the decision to respect one another and protect future generations. It is not possible to seek spiritual progression and also force personal belief on others.

I think all of you know and understand this. Our task is to turn understanding into action by speaking out, voting and supporting our candidate. Have the courage to speak out when we are confronted with such ethical aberrations as political tribalism, racism, abuse of self-determination under cover of religion and capitalistic excess.

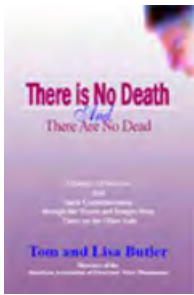
To paraphrase Patrick Henry, *“Now is the Time for All Seekers to Stand up for Humanity.”*

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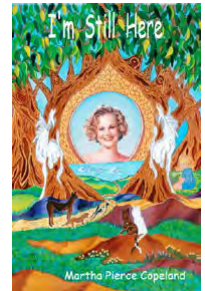


One of our first tasks when we assumed leadership of the American Association of Electronic Voice Phenomena (AA-EVP) was to write a book we could direct people to for guidance about ITC. At that time, there was not much available, and we wanted to make sure our members were given reasonably useful, supportable information. We wrote *There is No Death and There are No Dead* and published it under the AA-EVP Publishing imprint.

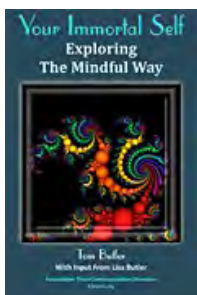
The book has received considerable praise as an introductory book. 100% of the proceeds have gone to support operations, outreach and research conducted by the Association.

[On Amazon](#)

AA-EVP member Martha Copeland wrote *I'm Still Here*. Martha was one of the founding members of the Big Circle. The book provides an important study of the way Martha coped with the untimely loss of her daughter, Cathy. Beyond the grief, *I'm Still Here* includes hints about how Cathy might have responded to death, the ways she did find to communicate after transition and how other members of the Big Circle helped Martha.



It is Martha's EVP of Cathy scolding her still physical dog Doja that gives us important proof that we survive physical death. [Listen to hear "Doja no."](#) [On Amazon](#)



More time became available for me to write after we changed the ATransC away from a member-supported organization. I am a theoretician by nature and speaking as a mystic, I see a world of patterns in the play of concepts, rather than as a "nuts and bolts" world.

It has been natural for me to see ITC as a pattern of interacting concepts. Again, as a mystic, it is as if the pattern is a self-organizing model in my mind's eye that shows me how one phenomenon relates/compares to another.

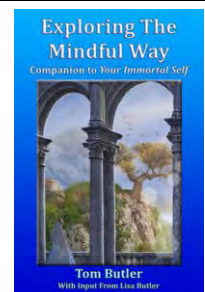
In my mind, the most important aspect of these phenomena is the way we are part of the dance ... not as humans, but as immortal personalities. It has been through ITC, especially EVP, that I have come to see our actual nature as a conduit for the formation of the speech and images of ITC in our physical devices.

Your Immortal Self represents an effort to explain our relationship with these phenomena, the nature of our actual self and how we might learn to be better ITC practitioners by being more successful seekers. The book begins with a comprehensive effort to define the Survival Hypothesis and establish verifiable proof.

For a small fee, the PDF version of this book is available on the [Lulu website](#). I like PDF for this book because it has so many internal links. It is easier to study using a PDF file. [On Amazon](#)

I have been told that *Your Immortal Self* is a difficult read. While I understand some of the concepts can be obscure, I wrote this in *Your Immortal Self*:

Not trying to understand this material because it is too complicated is unacceptable. There is an old Zen Buddhist saying: "Before enlightenment chop wood – carry water, after enlightenment chop wood – carry water." One must do the work to understand. One must do the work to continue learning. Study the material and do not expect to understand all of it with one reading. Contemplate your worldview. Ask questions. Argue!



I write today to find ways to illustrate the principles described in *Your Immortal Self*, as they apply to particular situations. In doing so, I hoped to make the principles more approachable and help pave the way to spiritual maturity for my readers. *Exploring the Mindful Way* is a compilation of 21 such essays. [On Amazon](#)