

Tom Butler
Etheric Studies, (CC)2020
Seeking to Understand the Nature of Reality
ethericstudies.org

Etheric Studies Occasional Update 8

Tom Butler, October 2020

(Also at <https://mailchi.mp/788f78f656fb/etheric-studies-occasional-update-8>)



Sign of the times. Most of what you see over Peavine Peak near Reno is smoke from the August 2020 Loyalton Fire in California. We have had many days this summer in which we could not see the mountain.

Content

[Speaking Truth](#)

[Quora](#)

[Transcommunication White Paper is Now a Book](#)

[Essays](#)

[Thank You](#)

Contents of this document can be used under the Creative Commons (cc) [Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 3.0 Unported License](#)

Speaking Truth

I write a lot about the benefits of participating in what I refer to as a *cooperative community* of likeminded people. The idea is that we best learn about what we think through conversations with others.

If you examine the way we develop conscious perception of our world, you can see that we first unconsciously visualize information as we develop a sense of what we will say or do based on our worldview. Always, first comes the unconscious thought informed by worldview and then comes perception, expression or action.

In the same way, we are not directly consciously aware of what someone says to us. We first unconsciously sense the information and only become aware of what we think of what was said based on our worldview. Always, first comes the unconscious sensing of informed and then comes the perception of it as it has been changed to agree with our worldview.

When we formulate a response, what we say tells the person how well they communicated their point. We can tell how well we understood by how the other person reacts to our response. In a discussion, the exchange of ideas acts as a subtle way for us to teach our worldview what we intend. In the end, it is our intention that influences our worldview. Conversation is a powerful tool for gaining lucidity. How well we apply that lucidity represents our discerning intellect.

It is important to recognize that we seldom convince people of our point of view. In practice we plant seeds, which over time, might develop into other people's understanding of our point. Worldview only changes in small increments guided by repeated exposure to a new idea. That is why a teacher will expose a student to a new idea and then find ways to allow the student to live with the idea for a time so as to see how it fits into life.

The benefits of participation in a cooperative community only come when everyone does their best to speak honestly and rationally.

The Humanist Point of View

In many ways, ideas we think of as paranormal such as psychic ability or the continued existence of sentient personality after bodily death, are affronts to large parts of mainstream society. Many religions brand such concepts as Devil worship and the academic community fears that belief in such concepts corrupts the public's science literacy.

The paranormalist community does not exist in isolation. Mainstream society is always watching. With that in mind, you can probably see how the most foolish amongst us is seen to be representative of all of us.

Just as you want to participate in a paranormalist cooperative community to find opportunities for new understanding, so might you want to interact with people outside of the paranormalists community. However, when talking to people outside of our community, it is important to remember that you are probably not talking with likeminded folk.

Mainstream society may be fascinated with ghosts around Halloween but in practice, their fascination is about the same as their fascination with Tinkerbell. It is fun to think about, but it is considered stupid or anti-religion to believe in such things.

Humanism

I want to make the point that being spiritual does not mean meditating in a cave. Surrounding ourselves with only what we consider good and spiritual while avoiding everything we consider negative is like that. From my years of study and experience, I am convinced that we cannot progress spiritually unless we engage the world our human lives in. How else can we find ways to test our understanding of natural Law?

If you want a reason for why we incarnated into this lifetime, the one I can offer is that our task is to learn how to manage our human's instincts in a discerning way. Being humanist only means turning toward the greater good. *We are here to learn how to moderate our human's instinct for gene dominance with our spiritual instinct for humanism.*

If all of that is true, we further our personal seeking by candidly interacting with society as if it is a cooperative community. Our immediate objectives are two-fold. First, we benefit ourselves and the paranormalist community by learning to speak in terms that assure our listeners we are rational and informed. We want the public to understand our studies as a rational pursuit of knowledge because it is mainstream society that will eventually fund the research, or alternatively, force governments to suppress our work as a danger to society.

Second, we serve best by speaking humanist truth. This is not to say that we want to convert anyone. But, by gently questioning people's potentially anti-humanist comments, we give them an opportunity to reconsider their view, even as we give ourselves an opportunity to reconsider ours. Humanist social issues are many and complex, so it helps to focus on the more fundamental social drivers:

Acceptable Lying – Some parts of society now consider lying acceptable. Of course, people tend to be resigned to the idea that positions will be less than candid but there is virtually no penalty for corporate lying. It is when lying is normal that there is fertile ground for conspiracy theory and manipulation of the public by political parties, religions, corporations and foreign governments.

Diminishing “Others” – Lying makes it easy to provoke human instincts intended to protect the tribe by signaling out some people as not part of the tribe. *Systemic* is the best descriptor for the making of *others*. The key facts are:

Poverty –In effect, people left behind by society due to lack of economic opportunity.

Housing – A safe, clean place to live for everyone is a minimum for a healthy society. People living on the street represents a failed society. (Our failure.)

Education – The fundamental obligation society has to its citizens is education. Transferring funding to private schools and inappropriate government priorities, such as super colliders and more bombs, assure this obligation is not met.

Health – Poverty begets poor health. At the same time, sickness can economically ruin a wealthy family. Health concerns influence people’s daily decisions more than any other issue.

A fast way to be mistreated by society, and apparently law enforcement, is to appear unhealthy, uneducated and homeless. It is difficult to be prejudiced toward others when “others” are unrecognizable from “us.”

Feudal Economics – Is everyone paying their fair share? If businesses paid the actual cost of producing their product (pollution, environmental damage), distribution and product disposal, it is more likely that there would be more funds to provide a minimum standard of living to all citizens. Today, our economic system is based on how consumers can make companies more powerful, rather than how well companies can serve citizens. Therein lies the dangers of unregulated lobbyists.

Ideology Dominated Governance – The assumption that beliefs of the dominant religion should be the law of the land biases governance of the dominant political party. This is especially evident as conservatives seek to pack the courts with radical conservative judges. For instance, it is clear that conservative judges are expected to pass down rulings that favor the conservative views. Governance based on decree changes with the whim of the dominant party.

These basic factors inform just about every pro and anti-humanist decision in our society. For the same reasons, the pursuit of understanding about paranormal phenomena is directly threatened by both pro-religion and pro-science ideologies. When you provide a nonthreatening, rational face of the paranormal to your friends, you defuse reasons they might fear you.

Call to Action

As a Wikipedia editor, I was outnumbered by organized conservative skeptic editors. As I watched them establish Wikipedia law for [Fringe, Paranormal and Pseudoscience](#), I tried repeatedly to recruit help from others in the paranormalist community. I failed. Today, Wikipedia is not just “officially” biased because of those three Wiki rules, articles related to things paranormal are now effective propaganda tools used for misinforming the public about the phenomena we study.

Had other paranormalist participated in the arbitrations that produced the anti-paranormal rules, it is probable that the most potent educational tool in the world would be a useful tool for all of us. As it stands now, it is a standard of success for those who are offended by our study.

Thanks to organized skepticism, everything we study is now considered pseudoscience (false science) and a danger to society by many governments and virtually all of academia. If conservatives continue to have the ability to dominate *Others*, it is just a matter of time until they turn on us.

You need not fix these problems. It is enough that each of us speak truth to those who undermine our Nation’s humanism. Vote. Be vocal. If you see something that diminishes our humanist society, inform yourself and explain confidently and rationally about what might be improved.

Quora

My book, [Good to Know About the Paranormal](#), includes 240 of my answers to questions asked on Quora.com. People who may not be deeply involved in the study of things paranormal as some real inventive questions. Answering them gives me a way to find better explanations for the things I study. As a general introduction to our field, the Q&A seems to be a useful introduction.

Of course, I continue to answer questions. All are at [quora.com/profile/Tom-Butler-79](https://www.quora.com/profile/Tom-Butler-79) Most answers are lucky to receive a upvote. The answer here has received an astounding (for me) twenty upvotes and ten shares.

Quora Question:

[Why, if video evidence and reputable accounts of paranormal experiences exist, is this not studied seriously by schools and scholars? See the question and other answers here](#)

My Answer

Consider the answers thus far. They range from *none exists* to *might be photoshopped*. The one apparently informed answer wisely suggested [The Scientific Investigation of Psychic Phenomena](#) as a source of answers about things paranormal. Even there, though, there is a degree of incredulity blindness, as most of the articles I have examined there lean toward more normal explanations such as experimenter bias and concerns about unreliable witnesses.



Here is an example of visual ITC recorded with the light reflecting from moving water technique. The left frame is the original photograph of the moving water. The right is an enlargement of the face looking to your left. (There are other paranormal features but the one we refer to as a king is clearest.)

Therein lies the problem. Even amongst parapsychologists who claim the charter to study these phenomena, truth is seen to lie closer to the mainstream of science. I study Instrumental TransCommunication which has a visual aspect and an audio aspect (Electronic Voice Phenomena (EVP)). The possibility of EVP has very little acceptance by parapsychologists. The visual form of ITC has virtually no acceptance.

ITC can be easily replicated and its objective nature (can be witnessed by others without prompting) has been demonstrated. Since the collection of ITC examples can be replicated by using set protocols, the question of trickery can be eliminated. While anyone should eventually be able to collect ITC examples, the only requirement I would suggest to a researcher is that a practitioner with a proven record of example collection should be used for research.

The theoretical models we apply to ITC depend on many of the models used for such phenomena as psychic, mediumship and psychokinesis. The example above is not proof of survived personality after bodily death. It may only support the Psi Field Hypothesis in which it is held people sense psychically and express psychokinetically. The face may be from the memory of someone still in the flesh.

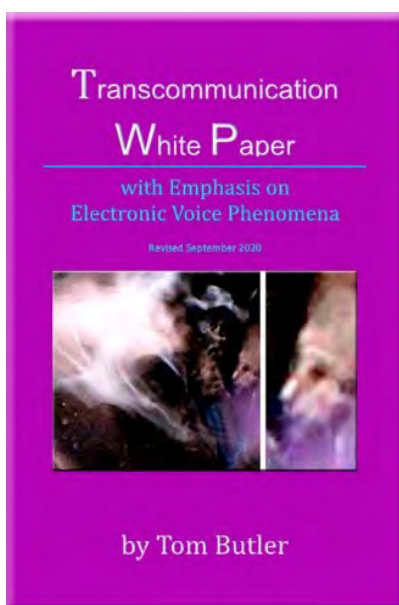
My point is that, by studying one aspect of the paranormal, we can learn a little about all aspects.

The answer to the question is not that the paranormal phenomena cannot be verified. Yes, some like a haunt experience might not be easily reproduced, but phenomena sharing the same apparent principles should inherit credibility as a group. The problem is not in the phenomena. The problem is in the cultural dynamics of scientism and religious-ideological beliefs.

I submit that most scientists do not study things paranormal because they don't believe in them.

(As of 10-7-2020) 3.1K views, 20 Upvotes, 10 Shares, 6 Comments

Transcommunication White Paper is Now a Book



Transcommunication White Paper with Emphasis on Electronic Voice Phenomena (EVP)

Available at <https://atransc.org/itc-white-paper/>

PDF Download at <https://atransc.org/ATransC%20Transcommunication%20White%20Paper.pdf>

These are under the Creative Commons Share with attribution license.

To help assure continued availability of the material, the paper is also available on [Amazon](#) as:

Paperback – \$5.80

eBook – \$3.99

The book format includes three bonus essays with supporting introductions. They are intended to help the person become a better practitioner. They are individually available online without introductory text at:

About First Sight Theory – ethericstudies.org/first-sight-theory/

Mind as Storyteller – ethericstudies.org/mind-as-storyteller/

Becoming Lucid – ethericstudies.org/becoming-lucid/

The first version of the *Transcommunication White Paper* was issued sometime in 2012. I wrote it to provide an overview of what we know about Electronic Voice Phenomena (EVP). From time-to-time over the years, I have updated it as we learned more. The current version was updated September 2020. It now focuses on transcommunication in general and includes theory and techniques for recording visual and audio forms of Instrumental TransCommunication (ITC).

Here is the Table of Contents:

Use License

Contents

Transcommunication White Paper

Introduction

- Paranormalist Community
- Terminology
- Hyperlucidity
- Anti-Expert
- Hyperlucidity Complex

A Brief History of ITC

Theories Proposed to Explain Observed ITC Phenomena

- Physical Universe Hypothesis
- Psi Hypothesis (Super-Psi, Physical Dualism))
- Strict Dualism (Survival Hypothesis)
- Implicit Cosmology

Witnessing ITC

- Paranormal is and is not
- Physical Dualism Explanations (Super-Psi)
- Evidence of Survival
- Error on the Side of the Mundane

Types of EVP

- Transform EVP
- Sidebar - Background Sound
- Random Selection
- Environmental Control of Speech Synthesis

Why the ATransC has turned away from Radio-Sweep

- Comparing radio-sweep with transform EVP
- Radio-Sweep
- Transform EVP
- Radio-sweep Conclusion
- Best Practices

Characteristics of EVP

- Transform EVP
- All forms of EVP

Recording for EVP

- Types of Recording Sessions
- EVP Recording Procedure
- Classifying Examples
- Keeping a Log
- Analyzing the Recording for EVP
- Sidebar: Realtime EVP
- Storage and Sharing

Things to Remember

Recording Visual ITC

- Video Loop ITC
- Light Reflected from Moving Water Technique

Association TransCommunication (ATransC) Today

Appendices

- Three Stones

If I Was Your Teacher
About First Sight Theory
The First Stone is The Veil
Abstract
The Problem
Trans-Survival Hypothesis
First Sight Theory
Ruleset for the Perceptual Process
Ideas That Further Understanding

The Second Stone is The Judge
Mind as Storyteller
Abstract
Temperament Mediated Perception
Spiritual Anatomy
Perception Modifiers
Personal Seeking

Evolving Worldview
Storytelling
Addendum
A Ruleset for the Perceptual Loop
First Sight Theory
The Temperament Mediated Perception Model
Seems Right Decision Making
Hyperlucidity
Concluding Remarks

The Third Stone is Lucidity
Becoming Lucid
Abstract
Lucidity
Lucidity is a Phenomenon of Duality
Lucidity is Not a Natural State of Awareness for a Person
Survival Metaphysics
Building Blocks of Who We Are
Personal Ethics as a Tool for Becoming Lucid
Managing Our Human's Instincts to Become Lucid
In Summary
References

From the back cover

The paper is intended to document what is currently known by the ATransC directors about transcommunication. It includes background information about theory, concepts and techniques that are important for the understanding of phenomena related to EVP-ITC, psychic and mediumistic phenomena.

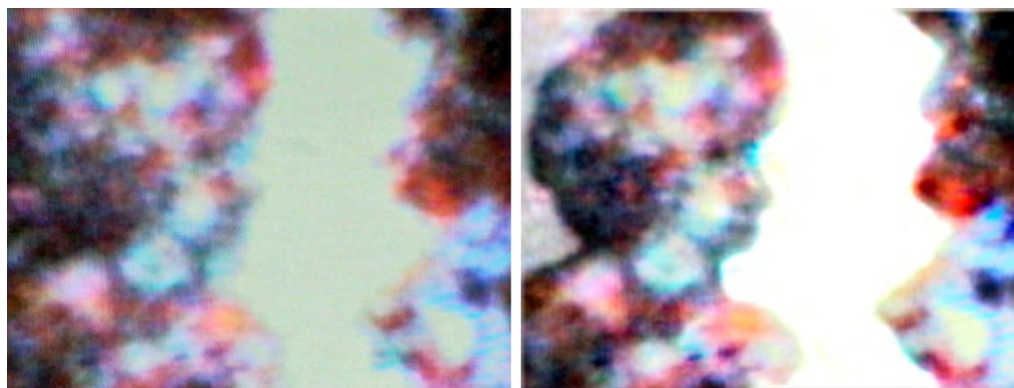
I refer people to the Transcommunication White Paper five or six times a week. When I do so, I always wish I had the opportunity to explain the importance of personal development.

The three most important points I would make about personal development are concerned with how we think, the effect of how we think on what we experience and how to apply that knowledge toward becoming more self-aware.

This little book includes all of that.

Essays

[Seeking 101 Index](#)



Video loop ITC – Girl with small dog (below) looking at dog and rabbit. Left is original. Right is enhanced.

Introduction

We exist to gain understanding of our world through experience, thereby furthering our collective's understanding of reality. We do this with the habitual expression of intention to understand the implications of our actions and learning to live in accordance with that understanding. That is the Mindful Way of the seeker.

A series of Discourses about our spiritual nature is being written with a teaching course in mind. Together, the Discourses should provide information that will assist seekers on their personal quest for understanding.

Each Discourse is targeted for 1,500 words and at least one picture. The first publication right is offered to the Spiritualist Association of Churches National Spiritualist Summit Magazine.

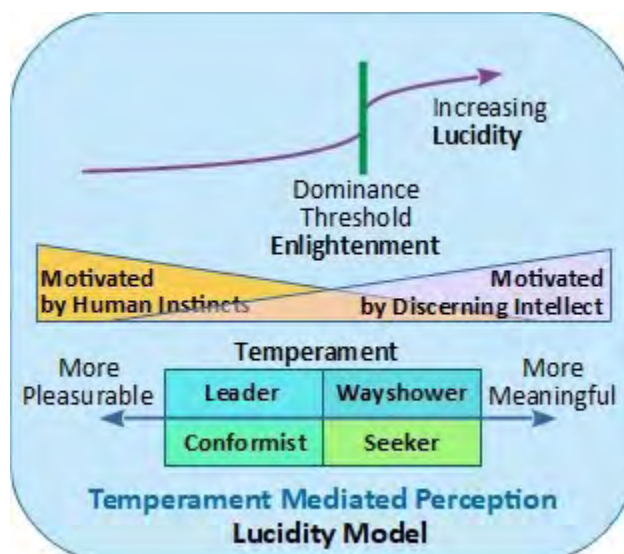
Index

1. [Lucidity](#)
2. [The One Thing](#)
3. [Mindful Way](#)
4. [Christmas is for Compassion](#)
5. [Spiritual Anatomy](#)

Proposed Essays

6. Three Aspects of a Teacher
7. Natural Law
8. Fields
9. Metaphysics
10. Spiritualism as a Science
11. Spiritualism as a Philosophy
12. Spiritualism as a Religion
13. Ethic
14. Free Will

Discourse 5, [Spiritual Anatomy](#)



Abstract

This essay is intended to explain the essence of our spiritual anatomy. The assumptions used here are based on current mainstream and parapsychological science and lessons learned from transcommunication (mediumship and instrumental)

Thank You

After the pandemic comes under control and the election is over, the daily work remains as before. Self-serving people around the country have been emboldened by Trump's anti-science, anti-rational, anti-humanist example. If he is re-elected, paranormalists might consider assuming an even lower public profile.

If he is not reelected, and assuming a peaceful transfer of power, there will be a lot of fence-mending to do. By presenting a rational, humanist front to the world, each of us serves best by mending those fences in ways that further our study. This is the time to look forward to a more just society, but also a more rational society that is open to living as if we are more than our body.

Thank you for being on this list and taking the time to read the material. Please feel free to open a discussion, ask a question or comment on the idea Exchange at coop.ethericstudies.org/.

May you and your family be safe, healthy and live in a humanist Democracy.

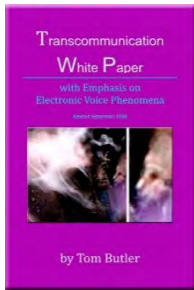
Tom Butler

ATransC.org

EthericStudies.org

tombutler@ethericstudies.org

Transcommunication White Paper with Emphasis on Electronic Voice Phenomena (EVP)



The *Transcommunication White Paper* is intended to document what is currently known by the ATransC directors about transcommunication. It includes background information about theory, concepts and techniques that are important for the understanding of phenomena related to EVP-ITC, psychic and mediumistic phenomena.

Please note that there is a version of this paper, including a free downloadable PDF, at atransc.org.

I refer people to the *Transcommunication White Paper* five or six times a week. When I do so, I always wish I had the opportunity to explain the importance of personal development.

The three most important points I would make about personal development are concerned with how we think, the effect of how we think on what we experience and how to apply that knowledge toward becoming more self-aware. See [the web page](#).

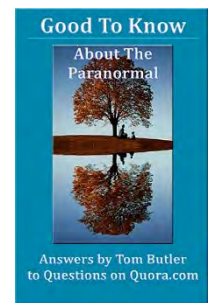
This little book includes all of that. [The book is exclusively available on Amazon](#)

Good to Know About the Paranormal

Many of you know that I have spent a lot of time answering questions about things paranormal on Quora.com. The first was the 2017 question: “How accurate is EVP recordings?”

I have been answering the questions because most of the other answers are simply wrong, anti-paranormal or misleading. Our community is still developing a culture that supports free discovery and meaningful sharing of ideas. It has been my vision that my answers might somehow aid in developing that culture.

As it turns out, I have answered quite a lot of Quora.com questions. I have compiled 240 of my answers into this book. See [the web page](#). The book is exclusively available on [Amazon](#)



Your Immortal Self, exploring the mindful way



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.

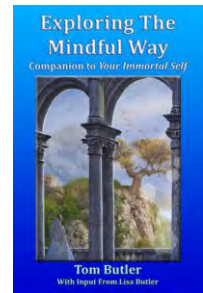
Your Immortal Self represents an effort to explain our relationship with these phenomena, the nature of our actual self and how we might learn to be better ITC practitioners by being more successful seekers. The book begins with a comprehensive effort to define the Survival Hypothesis and establish verifiable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

Exploring the Mindful Way

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. See [the web page](#). [On Amazon](#)