

The Next Truth

Where Science and Myth Meet[©]

Volume 2 Issue 12

October 2020

Prof. Scott Bonn

Serial Killers

Defy Our "Collective
Consciousness."

**Prof. Jeffrey
A. Lockwood**

Imaginary
Insects
and Real
Problems

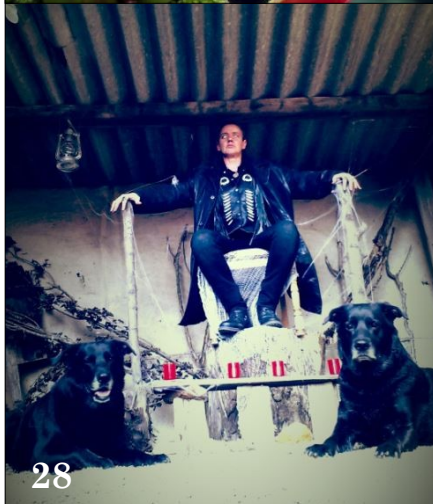
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The Next Truth

The Next Truth is an energetic magazine covering both systems of acquiring knowledge that use observation, experimentation, and replication to describe and explain natural phenomena known as Science and Noetic Sciences, a multidisciplinary field that brings objective scientific tools and techniques together with subjective inner knowing. In other words ... "Where Science and Myth Meet".

Our contributors are, without a doubt, tickling your indomitable curiosity and provide scientific explanations concerning topics viewed, and thought of, by the majority as myths.

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Happy
Halloween



“Parapsychology-deniers“, Do They Have Some Special Veto Power(s)?

Parapsychologists. What comes to mind first when hearing this term? Correct! A bunch of crazy people who are asking for research funding to proof the existence of white, free flying, bed-ding having an intelligence and mind-reading while looking into a piece of glass for instance. And all because they “think” that all that lies just outside the reach of our (familiar) visible spectrum is...real.

Throughout history, people have reported events that seem to violate the common sense view of space and time. Some psychologists have been at the forefront of investigating these phenomena with sophisticated research protocols and theory, while others have devoted much of their careers to criticizing the field.

It is unfortunate to see that too many are still expressing their doubts and thus instantly rejecting the authenticity of this field of research. I wonder why that is? Are you really that afraid of the possibility that, for instance, mental events might influence physical objects at a distance? Or that someone can read your diary while not physically being present?

Let me ask you a reasonable question; do you believe in God? I mean, do you accept the “evidence“ provided by a priest blindly when he or she is telling you that they are special because God is speaking through him or her and that you are not able to do this? Why is that...does a priest have a special gift or some kind of “telepathic super power“?

Another question that comes to mind is, mainstream science labels Near-Death-Experiences as nonsense or pseudoscience. But when we place those same people in a church, they listen to the biblical story of Jesus Christ rising from the death which, according to the bible, was witnessed by several people at the same time. Not to mention Lucifer or the behaviours and actions of all the other myriad angles and demons what is so fearful described in the

holy writings. Were these events, noted down on papyrus and vellums, all the fantasies of people experiencing heat stroke or had they eaten a little too much monatomic gold?

Anyway, it is truly remarkable to see that many accept the words echoing through a church, but demand cold, hard data, which should provide irrefutable evidence for its (non) existence, when similar words are coming from someone who is not wearing a cassock. I assume that these same people are listening a bit too much to this minority group of...um, well, “parapsychology-deniers“. Do they have some special veto power(s) that they can impose on the majority?

No, I am neither attacking religion or accepted science in any form. I am only stating that many of the unexplainable events, historical or not, are not approached with an open-mind and contains this infamous layer of negativity what is better known as...taboo.

Did you know that the word “taboo“ implies that investigating the topic is strictly forbidden and that anyone who dares to defy the taboo can expect severe punishment?

However, even though it is fact that mainstream science tends not to take parapsychology seriously and saying that if parapsychology has not won a widespread acceptance, because of the faults within the subject itself rather than alleged bigotry on the part of scientists and that it seems to exist mainly in the minds of parapsychology believers, it is not “proof“ for acting irrational and rejecting the claims made. If you can accept Einstein’s thoughts concerning time travel than why is it so hard to acknowledge that there is a legit truth in what has been criticized by some in the mainstream science?

As always, I leave it up to you whether it is all real or not. But I think we shouldn't sweep the possibility that parapsychologists are on to something, under the rug.

Contributors



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Prof. Jeffrey Alan Lockwood is an award-winning author and University of Wyoming professor of Natural Sciences and Humanities. He writes both non-fiction science books, as well as meditations. He is the recipient of both the Pushcart Prize and the John Burroughs Medal. Prof. Lockwood earned a B.S. degree in biology from New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, where he was the 1982 recipient of the Brown Award. He received a Ph.D. in entomology from Louisiana State University, after completing a dissertation entitled, The behavioral ecology of the first instar southern green stink bug, *Nezara viridula* (L.) www.jeffreylockwoodauthor.com



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Scott Bonn, PhD is Prof. of Criminology, media expert and analyst, public speaker and author. He is an expert on criminal motivations and behavior and is highly regarded for answering the puzzling question of "why the perpetrator did it" in complex criminal cases. Prof. Bonn received a doctorate in sociology at the University of Miami, and a MS degree in criminal justice administration at San Jose State University. His primary research interests include white-collar crime, state crime, domestic violence, serial homicide and how the media influence society. www.docbonn.com



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Halloween Express (USA)

If you're having a difficult time deciding what you want to be for Halloween - or any time of year - check out these HALLOWEEN COSTUME IDEAS. Halloween Express is one of the most aggressive and dynamic Halloween chains in the United States. Started in 1990, Halloween Express has both company owned and franchised locations throughout the U.S. Their merchandise assortment is updated annually to ensure that the latest product trends, as well as the tried-and-true best sellers and licensed product are part of the merchandise mix. www.halloweenexpress.com



CIA (Washington, D.C.)

The Central Intelligence Agency is a civilian foreign intelligence service of the federal government of the United States, tasked with gathering, processing, and analyzing national security information from around the world, primarily through the use of human intelligence. www.cia.gov



Ana Sandoiu (London, United Kingdom)

Ana arrived at Medical News Today armed with two bachelor's degrees, one master's degree, and a strong belief in "combinatorial play" — the idea that we need to feed our brains with things as diverse as physics and poetry to come up with anything creative. Before joining the team, Ana worked as a freelance writer, bringing philosophy to a wider audience and examining its intersections with technology and popular culture. In her role as an Editor, she helps nurture freelance writers and improve the authority and visibility of the Medical News Today brand. www.medicalnewstoday.com



Lynn Kathleen Russell (Lethbridge, Alberta)

Lynn researched 2500 near-death experiences for Dr. Jeffery Long. Lynn's spiritual knowledge inspired her to write the book; „The Wonder of You: What the Near-Death Experience Tells You About Yourself“. The second edition is expected out later in 2019 and is covering a very wide range of experiences, including her own. Lynn is a workshops facilitator and gives talks on the subject in where she uses science to show participants the magnificent spiritual beings we are. www.amazon.com

“The boundaries which divide Life from Death are at best shadowy and vague. Who shall say where the one ends, and where the other begins?” – *Edgar Allan Poe*



Ouija Boards: Science Explains the Spooky Sensation

By Ana Sandoiu, www.medicalnewstoday.com

Using eye-tracking devices and complex data analysis, a new psychology study shows how two predictive minds collaborate to create the Ouija board effect. New research reveals all the psychological mechanisms that are responsible for creating the “paranormal” sensation that Ouija boards often induce.

Since its invention in the late 19th century, the Ouija board has become a hallmark of popular culture. The decorated planchette conjures images of scared kids staying up late, Halloween horror movies, or TV shows old and new, such as *Charmed* or *Stranger Things*.

Ouija boards may have “haunted” most of our childhoods, but some people are Ouija enthusiasts well into their adulthood — and understandably so.

The appeal of a device that supposedly helps you communicate with the dead is undeniable. However, what if there was a simple scientific explanation for why Ouija boards work? Researchers led by Marc Andersen at Aarhus University in Denmark set out to demystify the Ouija board experience. Using eye-tracking devices and data analysis, Andersen and colleagues examined the behavior of 40 experienced Ouija board users at a Ouija board conference. The scientists’ findings were published in the journal *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*.

Using eye trackers to study ‘spooky’ feelings

The participants were equipped with eye tracking devices so that the researchers could study their — largely unconscious — predictive eye movements. That is, the researchers wanted to see if the participants first glanced at the letters they would later move the planchette to.

As the scientists explain, a person’s sense of agency, or the feeling that one has control over their actions, arises primarily from the brain’s ability to predict “the sensory consequences of an action, and then [compare] this prediction [with] the actual consequences. When prediction and consequence match, the result is the feeling that ‘I did that.’”

Andersen and team examined the participants’ eye movements in two different conditions: the “voluntary action condition” and the “Ouija condition.”

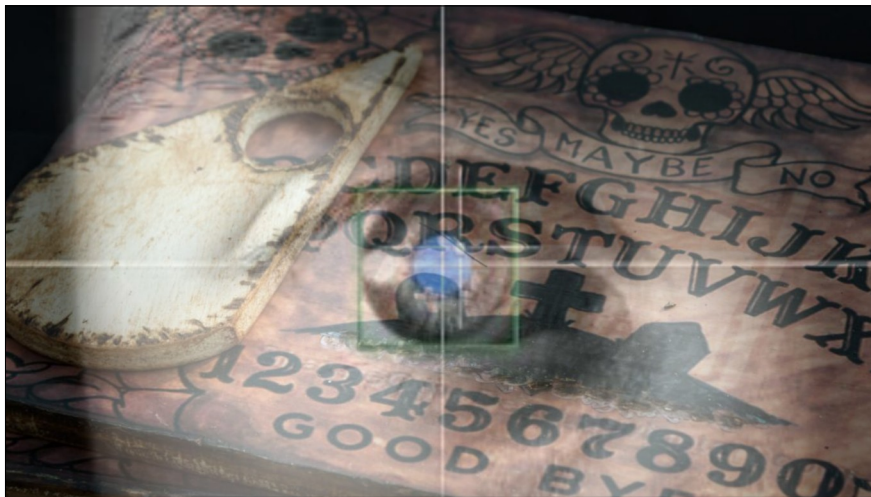
In the first condition, the participants — who worked in pairs — were asked to move the planchette deliberately to spell the word “Baltimore” or to point to “Yes” and “No,” respectively. In the Ouija condition, the participants

were asked to use the board as they normally would. The researchers then analyzed the recordings of the participants’ eye movements. When analyzing the data, they examined both the individual eye movements and the eye movements on a “pair level.”

Additionally, the researchers administered questionnaires to the participants that enquired about how strongly they believed in the “abilities” of the Ouija board, as well as their overall level of religiosity and spirituality.

One Ouija board user always predicts letters

As expected, the data analysis revealed that participants made more predictive eye movements in the voluntary condition than they did in the regular one. Unsurprisingly, given the underlying mechanisms of the sense of agency, >>>



the participants reported feeling much less in control in the Ouija condition than they did in the voluntary one. However, when the researchers looked to see whether at least one participant in each pair made a predictive eye movement, they found some interesting results.

“[W]hen we look at the pair level, we see that pairs in the ‘Ouija condition’ on average predict the letters of meaningful responses as well as isolated individuals do when purposely spelling responses in the ‘voluntary action condition.’”

“In other words, a pair that moves the Ouija planchette in a predominantly non-deliberate way collectively predict letters as well as an individual seen in isolation that is moving the planchette on purpose.”

So, when the Ouija board was used as usual, at least one participant knew where the planchette was going. “Our study suggests,” say its authors, “that successful Ouija board sessions critically depend on joint action.” The “spooky” or “paranormal” feeling that Ouija boards induce is due to the fact that participants take turns in predicting the next letter.

In addition, they say, “it appears that participants in the ‘Ouija condition’ generally underestimate their own contribution to the joint interaction.” This is supported by previous research on force escalation that showed that “self-generated forces are generally perceived as weaker than external forces of the same magnitude,” explain Andersen and colleagues.

Finally, in addition to the joint predictive effort and the underestimation of one’s movements, belief in the Ouija boards abilities also added to the “spooky” feeling. Participants who said that they thought the board can facilitate communication with spirits were more likely to report that the planchette had moved on its own.

■ ■ ■

This article was first published on the website of Medical News Today on August 25, 2018,
www.medicalnewstoday.com



**THE KENTUCKY
GHOST HUNTER**
DEAN KNIGHT

Hunting may be a strong word for “The Kentucky Ghost Hunter”, yet accurate. Even Dean was always taught not to be on the wrong page of a two page novel, he always knew there is something out there, something we do not yet understand because of the limited knowledge about the dim realms of the unexplained.

Dean brings the unknown towards himself and he is determined to prove exactly what it is that goes bumping in the night.

<https://kentuckyghosthunter.com>

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www.medicalnewstoday.com

Q&A

Did you know that the human body directly and rhythmically emits light? The intensity of the light emitted by the body is 1000 times lower than the sensitivity of our naked eyes.

Is the Majorana Fermions (aka the *Angle Particle*) the antiparticle of ordinary photons? Is the photon its own antiparticle - reflecting on itself - and being entangled at the same time?

If ultraweak photon emission is taking place when we find ourselves in e.g. a creepy surrounding and these photons are reflecting on themselves while being slightly charged... could this result in an effect of seeing ghostly apparitions? Are we looking at ourselves?!

Did you know...?

1. Pumpkins are fruits, not vegetables

Fruits are considered to be the part of the plant that has seeds on the inside. By this definition, a pumpkin is definitely a fruit. They're a member of the gourd family, which includes other fruits like watermelon and winter squash.

2. The first jack-o'-lanterns

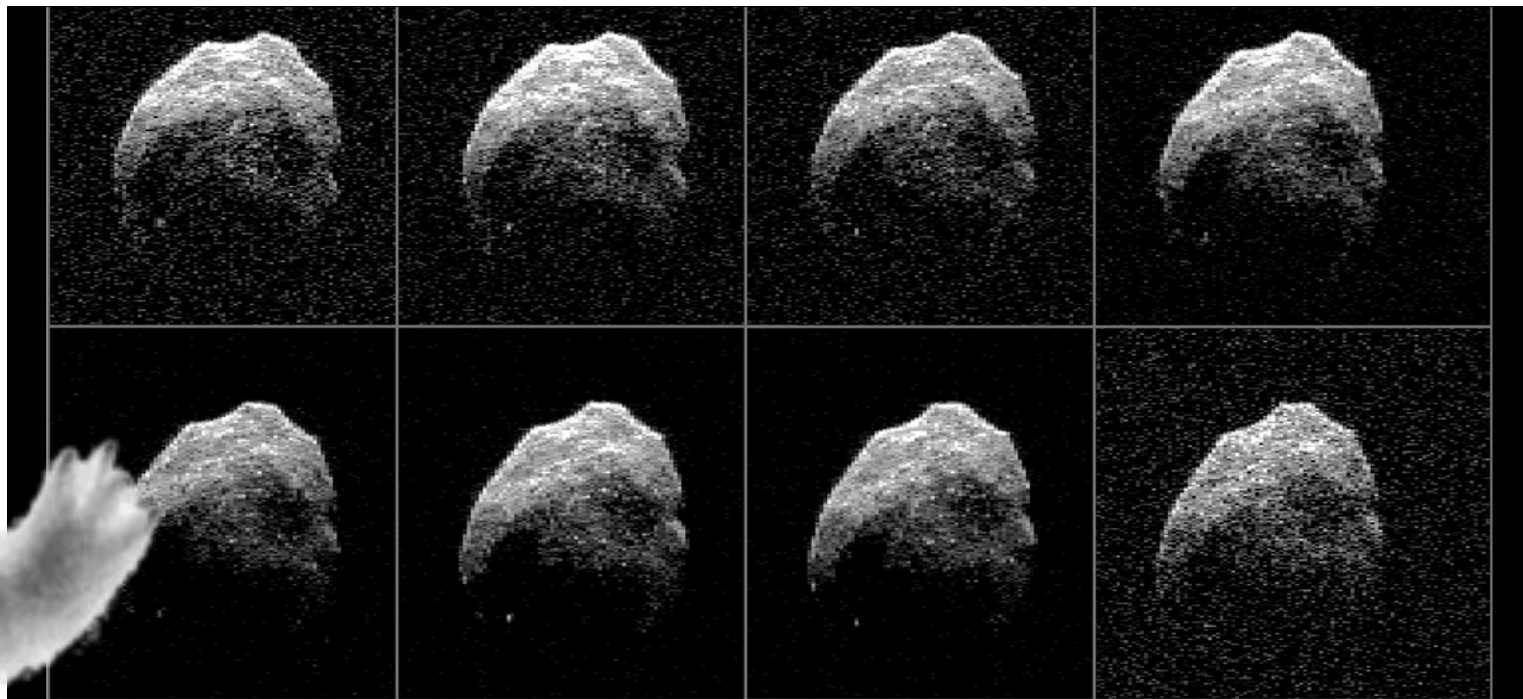
Early jack-o'-lanterns were made by carving turnips or potatoes — not pumpkins. The Irish and Scottish used them as part of their pagan Celtic celebrations, while the English did the same thing, just with beets instead. In fact, the tradition of the jack-o'-lantern stems from the Irish legend of a man named Stingy Jack who was known as somewhat of an unpleasant trickster. Immigrants brought their carving traditions to America, but found that pumpkins were a much easier alternative.

3. Pumpkin contest winner

Each year, growers compete for the title of largest pumpkin. The U.S. record for largest pumpkin ever grown was awarded to Steve Geddes of Boscawen, N.H. His pumpkin weighed 2,528 pounds, earning Geddes \$6,000 in prize money at the Deerfield Fair in 2018. The world record was set in 2016 by Mathias Willemijns of Belgium, whose pumpkin tipped the scale at a whopping 2,624 pounds.

www.triblive.com





2015 TB145
Goldstone-Green Bank Bistatic Radar Images
Oct 31, 2015 12:55-13:08 UTC, range resolution=3.75 m

Corona; could its true origin lie in an innocent bacteria from outer space and mutated in a vicious killer while being in our atmosphere?

2015 TB145's, a skull-shaped 'Halloween asteroid', last Earth flyby was in 2015. Some researchers think is a dead one, but what if this creepy looking asteroid is not. Could there be a possibility that during its three years journey to complete one lap around the sun, has collided with onther asteroid or passed along the sun a bit too close what woke up, or gave birth to, an known bacterial life form...passed it on to another asteroid/comet what in turn flew by Earth?

www.space.com

"On the evening of Thursday, July 24, a football-field-sized asteroid passed close to the Earth with very little warning. The asteroid, designated 2019 OK, approached Earth at about 40,400 miles (65,000 kilometers) above the surface, one fifth the distance to the Moon."

www.nasa.gov

Fact in the form of Panspermia or just a wild thought.
 Well, as always... I leave that up to you.

Questions you have been walking around with for years? The Next Truth provides an answer! Email your questions to;
info@nexttruth.com

Q&A



7 Things You Didn't Know About...Bats

1. Bats are the only mammals with this trait; they also take to the skies differently than other flying animals. Unlike the more rigid wings of birds and insects, bat wings have multiple joints and move in and out as well as up, down, back and forth with every stroke.
2. You might think echolocation is another defining Chiroptera trait, but not all bats send out sound waves that bounce off prey and potential obstacles to create a picture of their environment.
3. Fruit bats, for example, generally rely on their eyesight to find food. For decades, it was assumed they didn't echolocate, and most don't. But a 2014 study found three fruit bat species sometimes use a rudimentary method of echolocation: They make a clicking noise with their wings to navigate in darkness.
4. If not for the Vikings, we might call a bat a "rearmouse." It derives from the Anglo-Saxon term for the animal, hreáðe-mús. As Norsemen moved into what's now the United Kingdom, beginning in the ninth century, bakke, of Scandinavian origin, gradually replaced the word and evolved into bat.
5. Bats jam. Seriously. A 2014 Science study found that when competing for food, Mexican free-tailed bats emit an ultrasonic signal that effectively blocks the sound waves another bat sends out to home in on an insect. The interference causes the rival to miss its target.
6. Something else that's off-target: the myth that bats get tangled in long hair. Some scholars trace the notion to an early Christian edict that women must cover their heads because their hair attracted demons. Already associated with devilish things, bats were assumed also to have a thing for hair.
7. One more fiction that makes us batty is the whole vampire thing. Only three of the more than 1,200 bat species are sanguivorous. Any bat you meet is far more likely to eat a mosquito or pollinate fruit than go for your jugular.





What is special about the moon?

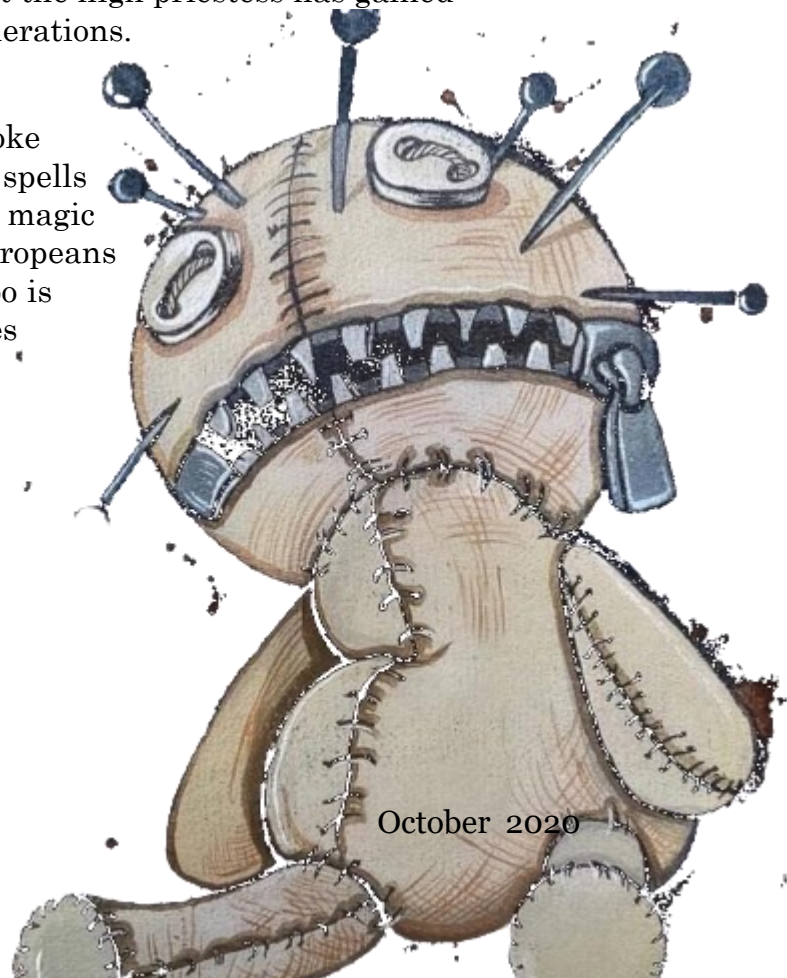
The Moon is unique in that it is the only spherical satellite orbiting a terrestrial planet. The reason for its shape is a result of its mass being great enough so that gravity pulls all of the Moon's matter toward its center equally. Another distinct property the Moon possesses lies in its size compared to the Earth.

www.theplanets.org

Voodoo is a charm, fetish, spell, or curse holding magic power for adherents of voodoo. Voodoo is an important part of family life in any community that practices it. The high priest has a great deal of influence and gives spiritual advice when it is asked for. He or she is also seen as a healer and practices with herbs and medicines. The knowledge that the high priestess has gained will have been passed along through prior generations. Practitioners of Voodoo also use spells.

For the main part, these are spells used to evoke good, not harm. There are healing spells, love spells and spells to celebrate joy. The image of black magic and harmful spells was mainly founded by Europeans who had a distrust of anything African. Voodoo is practiced as a religion in a number of countries around the world.

In Brazil, it is called Candomble, and in the Caribbean, it is called Obeah. In 2003, the government of Haiti sanctioned Voodoo as an official religion. Believers can now be baptized and married within the religion.





Paranormal Phenomena; Does the Origin Lie in a Forgotten Human Ability?

With film director, science-based paranormal
investigator and award winning author Benjamin
Radford

The Next Truth

Where Science and Myth Meet

We are building the bridge for you to
wander and explore this amazing
wonderland called...science!



Jack the Ripper; A Man or A Myth?

With Retired British Murder Squad
Detective Trevor Marriott

Imaginary Insects and Real Problems

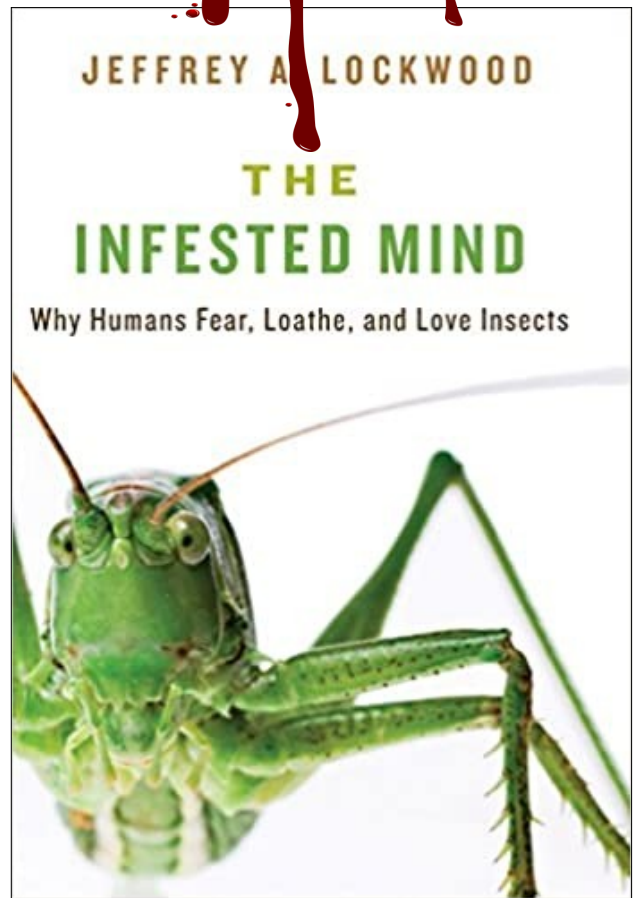
By Prof. Jeffrey Lockwood Ph.D. www.jeffreylockwoodauthor.com

Our minds are snarls of perceptions and beliefs—and one of the most tangled sets of experiences consists of hallucinations, illusions and delusions. Let's consider the first two of these phenomena in terms of how insects can infest the human psyche.

Hallucination arises internally; the experience is uniquely our own. The classic entomological hallucination is experienced with delirium tremens during alcohol withdrawal. These people often “see” insects on the walls or their bodies and experience tactile hallucinations—a feeling that insects are crawling across the skin, which is called *formication* (derived from Formicidae, the scientific name for ants). Chronic drugs use can also generate hallucinations, which have become known as ‘cocaine bugs’ and ‘crank bugs’ (in association with long-term amphetamine use).

Like a hallucination, an illusion is a misperception. However, illusions involve actual sensory stimuli (e.g., mirages). In illusory parasitosis, the individual experiences a genuine stimulus, but the sensation is incorrectly attributed to an insect or other parasite. A classic case unfolded in 1967 (the heyday of this disorder) when office workers reported prickling and tingling sensations. An exterminator applied an arsenal of pesticides, but the employees continued to feel small creatures crawling across their skin. As it turned out, some weeks earlier during installation of new equipment, nearly invisible particles of insulation had broken loose, were drawn into the ventilation system and then showered slowly over the office cubicles. When the ventilation system was thoroughly cleaned, the ‘infestation’ disappeared.

Given the long history of lice and other vermin infesting our primate ancestors, humans are evolutionarily primed for feeling itchy—and we're also highly predisposed to find cause-and-effect associations. With illusory parasitosis, an individual often has some previous experience of an insect infestation (e.g., fleas in the carpet), so that the current sensation of itchiness (e.g., microscopic irritants) is ‘transposed’ to the

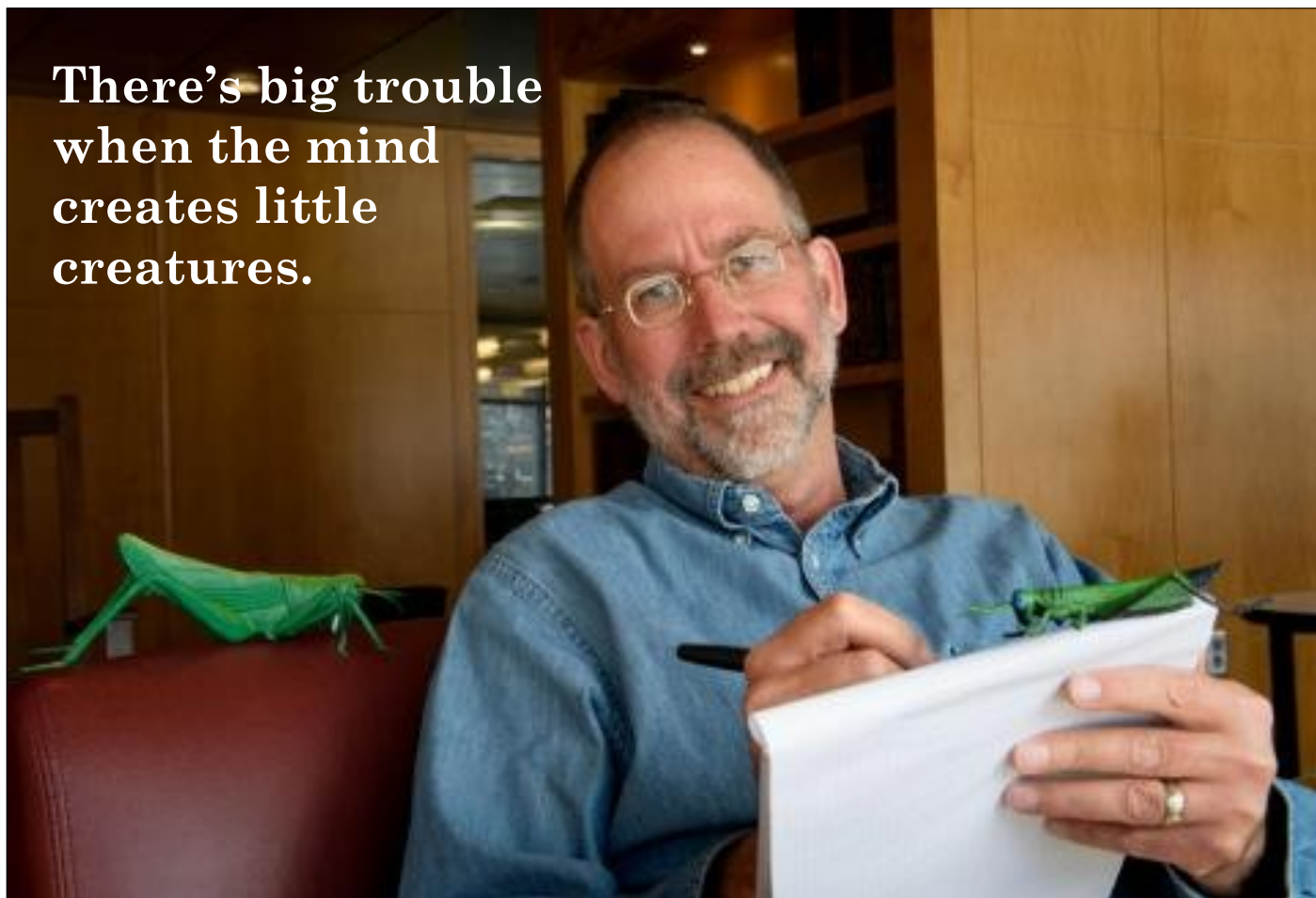


The human reaction to insects is neither purely biological nor simply cultural. And no one reacts to insects with indifference. Insects frighten, disgust and fascinate us. Jeff Lockwood explores this phenomenon through evolutionary science, human history, and contemporary psychology, as well as a debilitating bout with entomophobia in his work as an entomologist. www.amazon.com

earlier account. And itchiness is highly contagious—once a person starts scratching others begin to feel itchy themselves.

So when dozens of workers are scratching and complaining about non-existent insects, what can be done? First and most obviously, removing the source of irritation was important. But even after eliminating the stimulus, modifications in the social environment were sometimes needed. Psychologists ascertained that working conditions contributed to the emergence and spread of illusory parasitosis. In particular, the malady tended to appear when crowded, sedentary >>>

There's big trouble when the mind creates little creatures.



Prof. Jeffrey Alan Lockwood is an award-winning author and University of Wyoming professor of Natural Sciences and Humanities. He writes both nonfiction science books, as well as meditations. He is the recipient of both the Pushcart Prize and the John Burroughs Medal. www.uwyo.edu

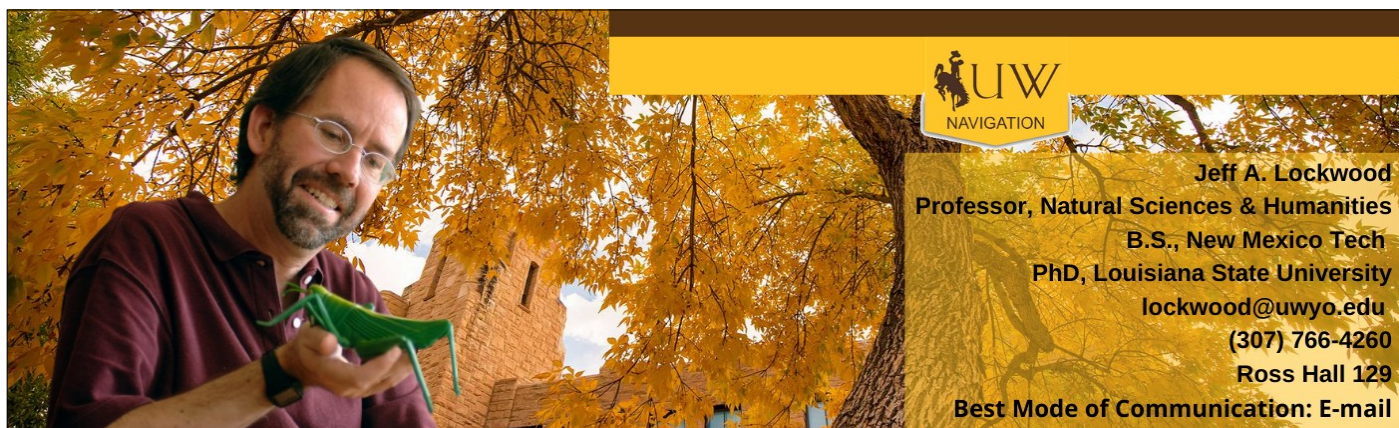
workers performed repetitive clerical work under intense pressure in drab, cluttered surroundings. In short, aesthetically and intellectually dull conditions fostered outbreaks.

I'll take up the phenomenon of delusory parasitosis in my next blog entry, which I hope you're just itching to read!

■ ■ ■

Nipping hallucinations and illusions in the bud can be terribly important, as imaginary insects can become embedded in the infested mind—with devastating consequences.

This article first appeared on the website of the Psychology Today under the creative license, www.psychologytoday.com





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Fun Facts and the History Of Halloween Decorations

By Halloween Express, www.halloweenexpress.com

As soon as that first waft of autumn air hits, it happens. The annual fall ritual of Halloween and autumn decorating begins. Brightly colored pumpkins, dried corn stalks, hay bales, scarecrows and autumn leaves adorn porches, doorways and yards throughout communities. The scarier and more frightening look of Halloween decor comes along with the fall months as well; adding it's own unique touch of spooky flair to the autumn vibe. It's an annual autumnal tradition that most of us enjoy every year; we do it without really thinking much about it. Have you ever wondered where the idea for all this Halloween seasonal decor came from? In order to get to the root of Halloween decorating as well as the popular Halloween symbols that go along with it, you have to look back into history a few thousand years.

Halloween Basics

Halloween today is one of the most favored of all the holidays. Between dressing up in costumes, going to parties and the beloved tradition of trick or treating, what's not to love about this traditional celebration? Halloween wasn't always so fun and happy, however, and if you've ever wondered about the darker and spookier side of Halloween, you can take a look back into history and dig into the mind of the deeply superstitious ancient man.

Several thousand years ago and long before Halloween as we know it, there was an end of the summer festival that was known as Samhain. As the harvest season came to its wintery close, ancient pagan Celtic people honored the gods and goddesses of the harvest by holding the celebration. Samhain was considered a time for the people to show gratitude and to pay homage to the gods of the harvest who the people felt were

responsible for their bounty. Samhain was marked with great celebrating and revelry by the locals, which included great feasting and dancing. Large bonfires were created in which animal sacrifices were made to honor the gods of the harvest. But Samhain was not all about happiness and good times. Samhain was also a time of great superstition, darkness and even fear. Samhain tradition had many deep seeded supernatural practices that were an integral part of the annual festivities. The somewhat fearful and uneducated people that lived during these ancient days fervently believed that the end of the harvest and

the onset of winter also created an unusual opportunity for the spirits of the newly deceased. During the short window of time surrounding Samhain, it was commonly believed that the souls of the dead could return to life and mingle amongst the living.

Not knowing what ramifications that might come with the

return of these spirits, local villagers took what they felt were necessary precautions, hoping this would ensure their safety and spare them from any evil doings that these spirits might potentially incite. Some of the safeguards that the locals used to ensure their safety against potentially vengeful spirits required some careful planning and preparation. Special lanterns with frightful faces cut into the flesh were made from turnips. These lanterns were used to light the way of the villagers during the Samhain festivities, but they were also thought to be a scary deterrent that would ward off any malevolent spirits that might be out and about. Additionally, lavish food offerings were left out on tables for the spirits to eat if they desired.

Finally, as a simple way to avoid any potential >>>



HALLOWEEN EXPRESS™

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contact with any dead spirits, local residents of the community put on masks; animal skins and frightening disguises that made them look as scary as possible. The point of these early costumes was to appear not only very frightful but to perhaps even look dead; thus it was thought that if a spirit came across someone dressed up like this, it would be assumed by the spirit that these folks were also just one of the deceased and they would be left alone.

Christian Influences on Halloween

When Christianity first came to the European countries the hierarchy and the missionaries of the church were quick to realize that the Celtic-pagan people were kind of set in their ways when it came to a good party and were not very likely to be hip to the idea of giving up their Samhain celebrating. Pope Gregory III devised a clever tactic of getting the Celts to convert to Christianity and to also keep their ancient traditions intact. The festivities surrounding Samhain were altered a bit and were changed, now being called "All Saints Day." All Saints Day or All Hallows Day was sanctioned by the Catholic church, black cat halloweenspecifically designated as a special day set aside in order to pray for all Saints and martyrs as well as a time to pray for the souls of the newly deceased, ensuring their safe passage into heaven.

One of the rituals that became popularly associated with All Saints Day was the practice of souling. The needy or impoverished would call upon the homes of the wealthier members of society and then offer to pray on behalf of their newly departed. In exchange for these special prayers, the more affluent folks would then offer the poorer visitors a "soul cake," a type of pastry, in return for these prayers. Recognizing the possibility that the more prayers a dead person had, the better off he might be, many took advantage of this mutually advantageous deal, and souling became an annual practice employed by many

during this time. The tradition of souling is likely the earliest source of the beloved ritual we know today as trick or treating.

Halloween Comes to America

The celebration of Halloween wasn't really a big part of the very earliest American culture and settlements. Puritans and Protestants were very afraid and obviously reluctant to participate in any holiday with a somewhat dubious history filled with deeply dark practices and any association with many things they were terrified of, including witchcraft, demons, ghosts and the like. Halloween and anything resembling it was generally disdained as well as shunned by the very religiously strict Puritan people.

The Irish potato famine that occurred in 1845 led to a massive influx of Irish immigrants that came to America. Along with the Irish people making their way west, also came many of the ancient Irish customs and traditions. One of the favorite institutions coming from the depths of Celtic history was that of Halloween; and the holiday of Halloween had now been officially brought into America. Although initially celebrated by only smaller ethnic enclaves of primarily Irish people, eventually the idea of celebrating Halloween became embraced by the masses.

The early American immigrants had many different traditions and bits of folklore to bring to the table when it came to getting into the spirit of Halloween and creating a proper celebration to go with it. Although originally having a very dark, mystical and supernatural history, Halloween traditions were now encouraged that had a more fun and family-oriented feel to them, with less emphasis being placed on ghosts, death, witchcraft and other extreme dark superstitions. Some scary traditions surrounding Halloween persisted more than others as the years passed. Fortune telling and the telling of ghost stories became very popular during >>>

this time of the year. Dressing up or guising in order to go door to door in search of goodies also became part of those very early annual Halloween rituals.

By the 1920's, Halloween celebrating had gotten completely out of control. The once fun and family friendly traditions surrounding the Halloween festivities were now fraught with vandalism, extreme levels of mischief and even in some cases, needless violence. Many communities were forced to put the kibosh on a lot of Halloween activities and merriment because of the extreme level of pranks and general mayhem that was often happening in conjunction with all the fun. The holiday of Halloween had become scary in a far different sort of way and a large level of hoodlumism had taken a hold of this once beloved holiday, causing great concerns in many municipalities across the country.

Because of the somewhat vicious turn that Halloween celebrating had taken, many communities took the opportunity to now take a strong stand about what would be accepted and what would not when it came to Halloween festivities. During WWII, the idea of Halloween was all but abandoned anyway due to sugar rationing, so much of the chaos that had been associated with this holiday died from natural causes.

By the time the war was over, Halloween was ready to be brought back to life with a new, fresh, family-friendly face.

The acts of maliciousness of the past were largely abandoned, as Halloween once again became a holiday fully embraced by children and families around the country. With the popularity of Halloween fully rekindled, decorating for this ever popular celebration took on a life of its own. Throughout the ensuing decades, the use of Halloween decorations has become more elaborate and more important with each and every passing year. Although our modern world has changed the way we decorate our homes each Halloween, much of the symbolism we use in our Halloween decor has its roots in ancient folklore found deep in history.

Read further on page 31



How Feeding Plants Can Turn You Into a Murderer

By Prof. Jim Davies Ph.D. , www.jimdavies.org

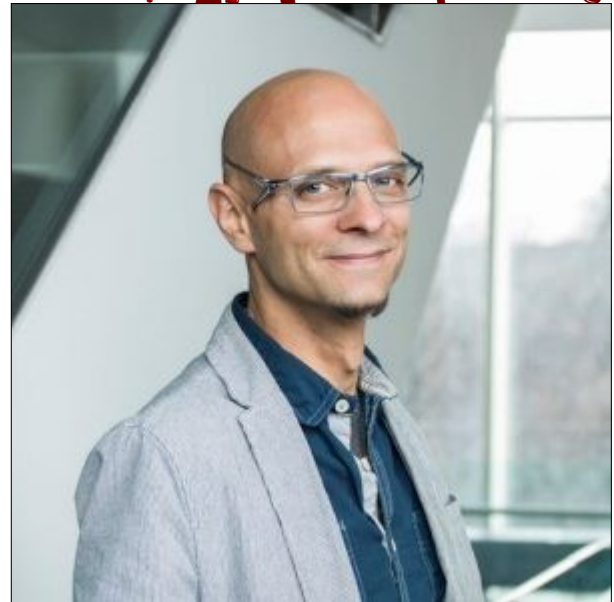
When people think of the imagination put to use, often what they think of are works of fiction. Fiction is enormously important in the world. The average person spends about six hours every day consuming fiction of one kind or another. And that's not all bad, because fiction allows us to climb into someone else's head and see what their life is like. In fact, scholars have argued that the introduction of novels to the general public has made people more empathic and, well, better.

In this post I'll discuss one of my favorite plays, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and use it to demonstrate the concept of gradualism as applied to committing immoral acts. I give away the plot here, so if you don't want it spoiled, stop reading now.

I'm referring to the plot in the play, which has a tragic ending, as opposed to the released version of the 1986 film, which has a happy ending. I'm writing about *Little Shop* now because soon the DVD will be released that discusses (but does not show) the alternate, tragic ending that was replaced when audiences were displeased by it. Indeed, for a comedy, it's pretty dark. Here's how the story goes:

Seymour is a poor employee at a flower shop who has a crush on his co-worker, Audrey. He happens upon an unusual plant and he discovers that it lives on human blood. The plant starts earning the struggling Skid Row flower shop money, but he must keep feeding the plant blood to keep it alive.

The play demonstrates a fundamental trait of human beings: we pay attention to new things, and habituate to the old. Seymour first reluctantly cuts *himself* to feed the plant. The plant, which can talk, convinces him that Audrey's abusive boyfriend Orin deserves to die because he is such a horrible person. The death is a murder of omission-- he could have saved him, but didn't, which in our moral psychology is must less bad than actually killing someone (this is called omission bias).



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www.mindingthebrainpodcast.com

He feeds the dead body to the plant. His boss Mushnik gets suspicious and confronts Seymour, who tells him that the receipts are kept in the plant. Mushnik climbs in and is devoured. Effectively, Seymour murders him.

The plot, and the plant, turn Seymour into a murderer with a clever mix of reasoning, self-interest, and most importantly, a slowly growing sequence of crimes, each one of which never seems sufficiently different from what he's already done before. Each request of the plant pushes him just a little more toward murder: cut yourself, allow an evil person to die, lure a person to his death.

Even though the crimes are getting more serious, Seymour probably feels the same, low-level anxiety and moral indecision throughout, but it's never quite enough to get him to stop. In reality it might take a person longer, but I'm >>>

impressed that the play manages to get even this level of moral range in the course of two hours.

As Steven Pinker says in his excellent 2011 book *The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined* (kindle location 12547):

"A second mechanism of moral disengagement is gradualism. People can slide into barbarities a baby step at a time that they would never undertake in a single plunge, because at no point does it feel like they are doing anything terribly different."

In the play the plant lures Audrey in and mortally harms her. Seymour finally tries to kill the plant, but is devoured himself. The plant has been spread all around the country because Seymour signed a document allowing a company to sell it. The bloodthirsty plants take over the world. The End. I know it sounds pretty grim from my recap of the plot, but trust me, the play is very funny.

In the movie he saves Audrey and electrocutes the plant to death. The ending image shows Seymour and Audrey moving into a new house, happy together. I hated the ending of the movie, partially, I'm sure, because it didn't fit what I expected. My father invested in a Boston production of the show and I saw it over and over in my early teens, and listened to the tape endlessly. When people see two versions of something, they usually prefer the one they were exposed to first (Pandelaere, Millet & van den Bergh, 2010).

But if I were to put a reason to it it would be this: I tend to like cautionary tales, where people give in to evil temptations and get punished for it. In the film version, Seymour allows a lot of people to be killed to get fame and love, and then at the end... gets the fame and love.

This guy is a murderer who only turned on the plant when it tried to hurt someone he loved. To me that makes the story kind of pointless at best and morally irresponsible at worst. What is the moral of the film? That you can make a deal with the devil, do terrible things, and then get out of it and have all your dreams come true?

Why do people like tales in which the bad get punished? It very well could be because of a piece of our moral psychology called cheater detection.

Cheater Detection

We have lived in complex societies in which rules must be followed for the greater good. When we perceive someone as taking advantage of the system, we get a righteous anger. That's our evolutionary "cheater detection" mechanism. When we see it in a story, the same detector is set off. When we see people "get what they deserve," it's satisfying.

We experience fiction and learn things about the real world, even if we don't mean to (Marsh & Fazio, 2006). It can make us inappropriately terrified (zombies), but it can also demonstrate in a very visceral way how our minds work, and make us more empathic to other people's problems and lives.

Imagination FTW!

I further discuss why we find stories satisfying in my book *Riveted: The Science of Why Jokes Make Us Laugh, Movies Make Us Cry, and Religion Makes Us Feel One with the Universe*.

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This article first appeared on the website of the Psychology Today under the creative license, www.psychologytoday.com





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The Dysfunctional Integration of Serial Killers in Society

By Professor Scott A. Bonn Ph.D, www.docbonn.com

According to the functionalist theoretical perspective of sociology introduced by the ground-breaking theorist Emile Durkheim in the nineteenth century, society is defined by a “collective consciousness” in which the members of society are invested and work together to protect.

In his classic research, Durkheim identified two concepts that he called “social facts”—integration and regulation—which offer powerful insights into the meaning of serial homicide in the modern world. More specifically, a lack of functional integration at the individual level and regulation at the societal level can help to explain the terrible actions of serial killers.

It must be remembered that Durkheim did not attribute social problems such as suicide or serial homicide to personal or individual-level pathologies. On the contrary, he attributed such phenomena to problematic conditions in society. Let’s explore the importance of integration and regulation to our understanding of serial homicide.

Integration, simply stated, is the strength of the individual’s attachment to society. Many institutions provide for the development and strength of integration, including religion, marriage, family, military service, and other organizations that give an individual a sense of purpose and belonging. Social clubs, charities and professional associations provide other opportunities for meaningful connections.

These important institutions and organizations increase integration, strengthen attachment to society and, thereby, help to prevent unwanted, disruptive behavior by individuals. Durkheim also said that certain galvanizing moments in the history of a civilization can lead to powerful social integration.

He used the term “collective effervescence” to describe a society’s jubilant reaction to key historical events. Powerful examples of collective effervescence in the U.S. were manifested in the patriotic fervor of the public during World War II



Prof. Bonn's book "Why We Love Serial Killers: The Curious Appeal of the World's Most Savage Murderers" is on the public's fascination with serial killers in which he offers insights into the minds of infamous predators and explains how and why serial killers are often transformed into ghoulish popular culture celebrities by the media. www.skyhorsepublishing.com

and in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Durkheim believed that individuals who are not properly integrated into society or its key institutions such as religion, work and family are particularly at risk to engage in deviant or criminal behavior. He said that individuals who lack functional integration are not protected from the temptations or strains of society that lead to deviance and crime.

I believe that Durkheim’s perspective offers important insights into the actions of serial killers in the modern world because such criminals typically feel disconnected both emotionally and psychologically to society. For example, Richard Ramirez, David Berkowitz, Aileen Wuornos, and Joel Rifkin who were serial killers, as well as >>>

It's no secret that we are both repulsed and seduced by serial killers.

But why is this so? Could it be that we have a gruesome fascination with serial killers for the same reasons we might morbidly stare at a catastrophic automobile accident? Or it is something more shocking and complex?

In his book "Why We Love Serial Killers", Dr. Scott Bonn, an expert in criminology, explains why while exploring our powerful appetite for the macabre.

www.amazon.com



dysfunctional loners and misfits, all demonstrated a lack of social integration.

Even serial killers who outwardly appear to be properly integrated such as Ted Bundy or Dennis Rader generally shun society and its major institutions. They may mimic normalcy and appear to be well adjusted but are really obsessed with murder. Thus, a lack of social integration is an important characteristic of modern-day serial homicide.

In contrast to a lack of integration, Durkheim stated that excessive social integration can result in obsessive attachments that can also lead a person to carry out antisocial or even criminal behavior. Excessive integration can foster a belief that certain criminal activity is in the best interests of society as a whole. Unnatural and misguided attachments are evident in the actions of terrorists and suicide bombers, for example, and the perpetrators of hate crimes against homosexuals.

Excessive integration can be seen in the actions of certain serial killers, too. For example, mission-oriented serial killers who seek to improve the world by killing specific types of people they abhor often demonstrate excessive attachment to twisted or misguided social norms. A mission-oriented killer will justify his murders as being necessary to rid the world of a group of people he believes to be undesirable or evil. Such groups may include prostitutes, the homeless, or those who are different from the killer in terms of race, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation.

The second social fact identified by Durkheim in his classic research, i.e., regulation, or the degree of external constraints on people is also crucial to an understanding of deviant behavior.

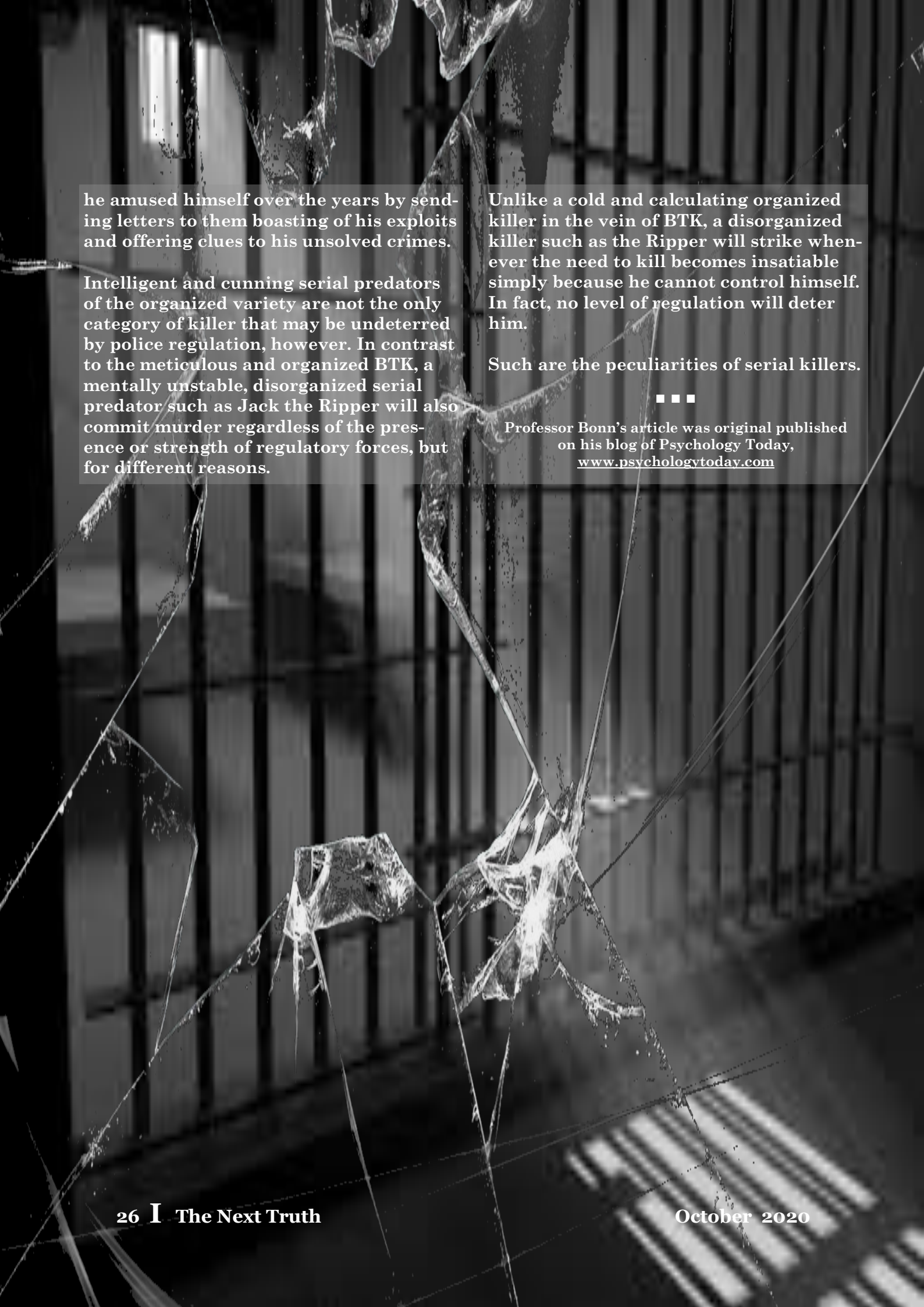
Antisocial and criminal activity including serial murder can occur when societal regulation is either too low or too high.

It must be remembered that serial killers are cunning and opportunistic. They are predators in every sense of the word. Serial killers will strike when they perceive law enforcement presence and regulation to be weakest because those conditions dramatically increase the chance of successfully committing murder and evading capture.

Highly organized serial killers such as Ted Bundy and John Wayne Gacy plan their murders meticulously in advance and consider the likelihood of success before launching an attack. Such serial killers will often make multiple contingency plans in the event of unforeseen problems and have several predetermined escape routes. They may also delay an attack until they believe that the circumstances and timing are just right for murder.

Durkheim also noted that excessive regulation and oppressive authority can actually serve as a stimulus for crime in certain individuals and circumstances. Among arrogant and psychopathic serial killers, for example, excessive and highly visible regulation can provide an attractive challenge. Psychopathic killers are generally grandiose, narcissistic, and reject the laws of society.

For example, Dennis Rader (BTK) was a psychopathic predator who believed that he was intellectually superior to his police pursuers. A malignant narcissist such as BTK will strike regardless of the level of police regulation pitted against him because he believes that he is invulnerable. BTK was so convinced of his superiority to law enforcement authorities in Wichita that >>>



he amused himself over the years by sending letters to them boasting of his exploits and offering clues to his unsolved crimes.

Intelligent and cunning serial predators of the organized variety are not the only category of killer that may be undeterred by police regulation, however. In contrast to the meticulous and organized BTK, a mentally unstable, disorganized serial predator such as Jack the Ripper will also commit murder regardless of the presence or strength of regulatory forces, but for different reasons.

Unlike a cold and calculating organized killer in the vein of BTK, a disorganized killer such as the Ripper will strike whenever the need to kill becomes insatiable simply because he cannot control himself. In fact, no level of regulation will deter him.

Such are the peculiarities of serial killers.

■ ■ ■

Professor Bonn's article was original published on his blog of Psychology Today, www.psychologytoday.com



Scott Bonn, Ph.D., is a criminologist, professor, TV news commentator, public speaker and author of the best-selling popular culture book “Why We Love Serial Killers: The Curious Appeal of the World’s Most Savage Murderers.”.

He frequently provides expert commentary and analysis for the major news media and he has appeared in a number of high-profile crime TV shows and documentaries on A&E, Discovery Network, Oxygen, Investigation Discovery and Travel Channel. Dr. Bonn also authored the critically acclaimed sociology book *Mass Deception: Moral Panic and the U.S. War on Iraq*. His recent fact-based crime novel, *Evil Guardian*, was inspired by his correspondence with real-life serial killers David Berkowitz (Son of Sam) and Dennis Rader (Bind, Torture, Kill).

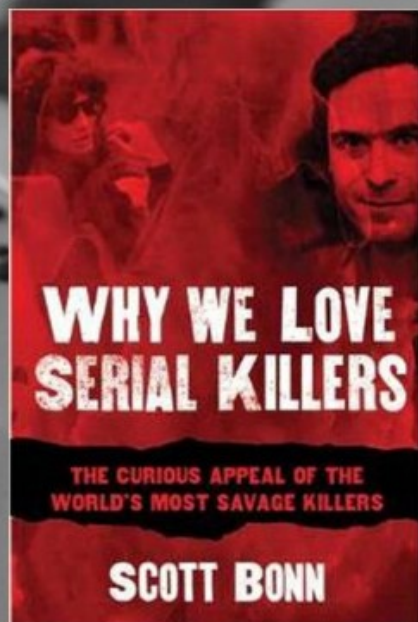
Dr. Bonn is an expert on criminal motivations and behavior and is highly regarded for answering the puzzling question of “why the perpetrator did it” in complex criminal cases. He examines many types of criminal activity, including serial murder, mass murder, sexual assault, terrorism, organized crime and white collar crime in his Psychology Today blog titled “Wicked Deeds” that has been read more than eight million times around the world. Dr. Bonn resides in Las Vegas, NV, with his wife and son.

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Spook Me, Please: What Psychology Tells Us About the Appeal of Halloween

By Prof. Dr. Mathias Clasen, <http://au.dk/en/mc@cc>

It's the time of year, at least in our part of the world, when darkness encroaches on us—literally and metaphorically. The symbols and agents of darkness dominate Halloween decorations everywhere, and Halloween is growing in popularity across Europe and in the US. According to the National Retail Federation, US Halloween spending now exceeds \$7 billion. In the UK, Halloween is worth about £330 million.

Why is this Americanised version of the ancient pagan festival so successful? Is it merely another instance of the McDonaldisation of culture, the increasing hegemony of American commercial culture, explicable in terms of market mechanisms alone? No. The dread scenarios evoked by the paraphernalia of Halloween are deeply fascinating to a prey species such as *Homo sapiens*. Ghouls, zombies, demons, giant spiders, and horrors hidden in darkness all engage evolutionarily ancient survival mechanisms—and all figure prominently in the scenography of horror films and in Halloween decorations. We seem to love the good thrill of a safe scare, and Halloween provides plenty of those.

Horror films, horror monsters, and the iconography of Halloween are culturally successful because they are well-adapted to engage evolved danger-management adaptations. We know that existence for our prehistoric ancestors was precarious. The threat of predation has been very real and very serious for hundreds of millions of years. As the anthropologist Lynn Isbell has shown, mammals and reptiles have been engaged in a lethal co-evolutionary arms race for a hundred million years or more, and that arms race has profoundly shaped our genome. A hard-wired, adaptive tendency to easily acquire fear of snakes explains the prevalence of snake phobias today, even in snake-less ecologies.

Similarly, the threat posed by poisonous spiders in prehistoric environments has left an eight-legged imprint in human DNA, an imprint that is expressed as a tendency to easily acquire fear of spiders. We are, at the very least, likely to pay close attention if a saucer-sized arthropod



Mathias Clasen is Associate Professor of Literature and Media in the Department of English, Aarhus University and the author of "Why Horror Seduces". A book that explains the functional seduction of horror entertainment, and draws on cutting-edge findings in the evolutionary social sciences, showing how the horror genre is a product of human nature.

www.global.oup.com

scuttles out from under the couch. Spiders engage attention—as recent research documented, spiders override inattentional blindness, our tendency to overlook even striking stimuli in peripheral awareness when we're engaged in a cognitively taxing task.

Another study claimed that five-month-old infants pay closer attention to schematic representations of spiders than to representations that consist of the same graphic elements but do not look like spiders. Spiders are inherently attention-demanding and, to most people, gross and a little scary, and that explains why they feature so prominently in Halloween iconography. They simply perform the functions of engaging attention and eliciting a shudder well.

Likewise, the usual suspects in the horror genre's antagonistic line-up—from supernatural monsters via rotting zombies to homicidal maniacs >>>

in masks—all connect squarely with defensive psychological adaptations that arose over evolutionary time in response to dangers in the environment, from the threat posed by hostile conspecifics and lethal pathogens to the bite of hungry carnivores. Although there were no child-eating clowns in prehistoric environments, a character like Pennywise the Dancing Clown has achieved pop-cultural infamy because it effectively targets danger-management mechanisms in human cognitive architecture.

The dangers of pre-historical existence have left deep grooves in human nature. The creatures and situations we typically fear—spiders, snakes, the dark, heights, confined spaces, and so on—are the same creatures and situations that posed real dangers to our evolutionary ancestors, even though they play little role in modern-day mortality statistics in the West. We should be afraid of driving too fast in a car, of smoking cigarettes, of eating unsaturated fats, and so on.

Our Halloween decorations should feature such elements prominently, but they don't. Why? Because humans evolved to swiftly detect, respond to, and develop phobias of stimuli that posed a threat over thousands of generations. The dangers posed by fatty acids and cigarettes are evolutionarily novel and have left no impression in human DNA. When we thrill to supernatural monsters and giant spiders, we are thrilling to the ghosts of dangers past, ghosts that persist in the human central nervous system despite relaxed selection pressures.

Of course the scary costumes and props of Halloween are symbolic and don't pose any real threat; they provide safe thrills, our love for which has roots deep in our mammalian heritage.

Other mammalian infants also find great pleasure in forms of play that allow them to get experience with life-threatening situations in a safe context. Children's play often revolves around simulating dangerous situations. Witness an infant responding enthusiastically to a game of peek-a-boo, the most primal of horror situations where the primary caretaker disappears from the infant's field of vision (and thus its world) for a few stress-inducing seconds ... only to reappear suddenly, causing a mild startle reaction. Or witness any kid delightedly simulating being chased

by a daddy- or a mommy-monster in a session of chase play or hide-and-seek. Such activities serve the adaptive functions of giving children experience with evasion techniques, they build locomotor skills and muscle tone, and they allow the children to get experience with their own cognitive and emotional responses to situations that feel dangerous but aren't.

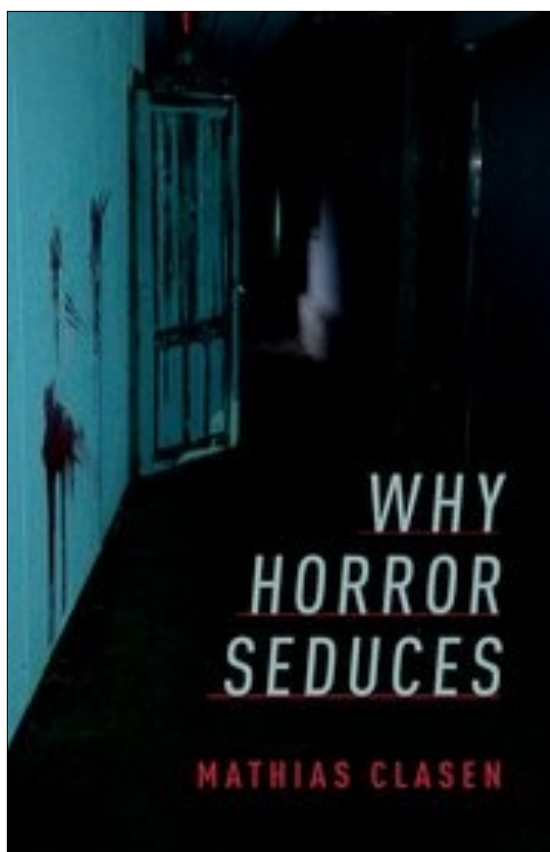
Such experience could become vital later in life, when they face truly dangerous situations or when they have to face and overcome their own fear.

Halloween has the potential to bring us into contact with our evolutionary heritage by confronting us with reflec-

tions of evolutionarily ancient, fear-inducing stimuli. Halloween is here to stay, so we might as well embrace it. When darkness falls, the monsters stir. That's true of prehistory no less than of horror films—and on the last day of dark October, they all come out to play.

■ ■ ■

This article first appeared on the website of Research Digest (The British Psychology Society), www.digest.bps.org.uk



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The Science and Technology of Time Travel May be Less Far-Fetched as it Sounds

In a universe so vast, is there any hope of us traveling fast enough so that we could visit the far-off realms of space? Will we ever be able to plant a flag in the most distant quadrants of the cosmos?

Even time travel is somewhat unique in science fiction, it has long been the Holy Grail for modern science. Some say we will never be able to travel in time, while others believe we are close to achieving the impossible. But what if time travel already exists?

Read the full interview of Theoretical physicist Prof. R. L. Mallett, PhD via: www.magcloud.com



For 60 years, DARPA has held to a singular and enduring mission: to make pivotal investments in breakthrough technologies for national security. DARPA goes to great lengths to identify, recruit and support excellent program managers—extraordinary individuals who are at the top of their fields and are hungry for the opportunity to push the limits of their disciplines.

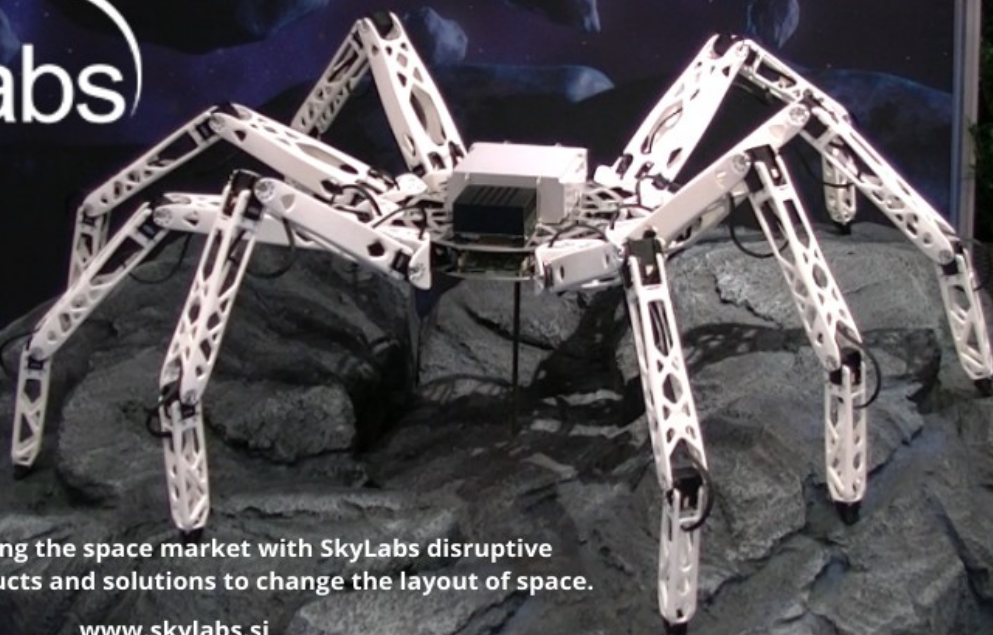
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Fun Facts and the History Of Halloween Decorations

By Halloween Express, www.halloweenexpress.com

Popular Halloween Decorating Symbols and Their Origins

The Halloween **Jack-o-Lantern** has long been one of the most popular, traditional and abiding symbols used in annual Halloween decorating. In our modern day, the Jack-o-Lantern is traditionally carved from a pumpkin with a face inscribed into the gourd's flesh that may vary from the most frightful stare to something far sillier or even comical. A modern Jack-o-Lantern is used primarily as a Halloween decor item, but in ancient days these traditional lanterns may have served a far more practical purpose. Ancient Halloween lore speaks of scary faces being carved into turnips, used by villagers to Jack-O-lantern light their way and also as deterrents that were thought to ward off evil spirits. Nowadays, Jack-o-Lanterns are usually placed out on the stoop in order to mischievously greet trick or treaters and cast a flickering, spooky glow for that perfect Halloween night ambience.

There is quite a bit of folklore and history regarding the origin of the Jack-O-Lantern. One popular legend speaks of a cranky and drunken prankster name Jack, who enjoyed playing mean spirited jokes on his fellow villagers. One day, being bored with the locals, Jack decided to play a trick on the devil himself. Conning and then trapping the devil up in the branches of a tall tree, Jack refused to let the devil down and used crosses and other religious symbols to keep him

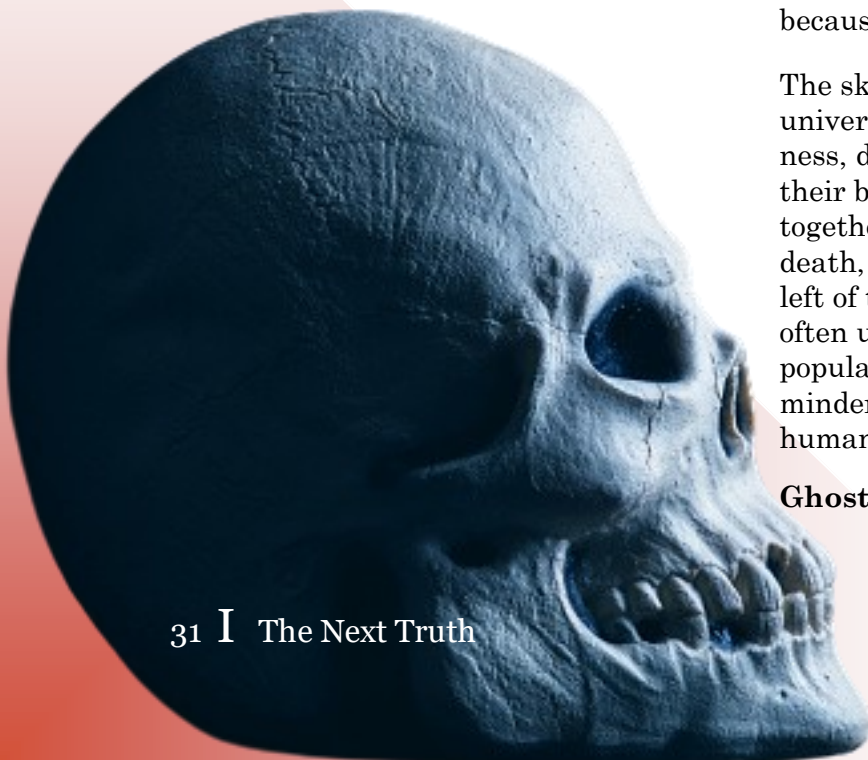
holed up in the leafy treetop. Jack, being a dim-witted opportunist, decided to make a deal with the devil. Jack would release the devil from the tree only if the devil in return would promise that no matter how bad his behavior ever was, he would never take his soul into hell. The devil agreed.

When Jack finally died, his enduringly evil life-style had negated any opportunity for him to enter heaven, and yet the devil was true to his promise and did not take Jack into hell. Jack's soul was forced to roam the earth for eternity. As a final gesture of wicked altruism, the devil tossed Jack an ember to burn in a turnip as he eternally wandered the earth on his endless journey. In this moment, the first Jack-o-Lantern was born.

The skeleton has been associated with Halloween and Halloween decorating for thousands of years, the skull being viewed by the Celtic people as the house of the soul. If you go very far back into history, it was thought that during the days surrounding the celebration of Samhain, the dead had the ability to return to roam the earth and mingle amongst the living during these festivities. Dressing up to appear dead, the local villagers would don any costume or mask that would effectively ward off any potentially evil spirits. You can bet that the look of a skeleton would most certainly have been preferred for this task because of its gaunt, very deathlike appearance.

The skeleton or skull has long been used as a universal symbol that represents mortality, illness, danger or death. When a person is living, their bones are a support mechanism that holds together the flesh of the human body. After death, the skeletal remains are often all that is left of the human who once lived. The skeleton is often used during the Halloween season as a popular decoration, as it is a frightening reminder of human mortality and a clear symbol of humanity's fear of dying.

Ghosts are likely one of the oldest and most authentic of all the Halloween symbols. >>>



Ancient folklore taught that during the celebratory time that was the precursor to our modern-day Halloween, spirits of the newly deceased would be out and about at the dawn of winter, intermingling with the living however they liked. Because the lines between life and death were considered to be somewhat blurred during these early Halloween festivities and spirits were thought to be out in full force, the idea of a seeing a ghost on Halloween would not have been considered all that farfetched.

As time went on, many of the traditions of Halloween went along with it and many of these traditions are still a huge part of Halloween celebrating in our modern day.

Today dressing up in Halloween costumes that appear to be ghostly beings is a very fun and popular way to get into the spooky spirit of Halloween. Telling ghost stories and tales of the paranormal is also a favorite activity done at Halloween time. When it comes to Halloween decorating, the use of ghosts, ghostly-looking beings or even pseudo-apparitions is a great way to set a truly scary scene that is perfect for the Halloween season.

The black cat has long been a symbol of bad luck as well as it being a very commonly used Halloween decorating symbol. The black cat has a bit of an evil reputation going as far back as the time of the middle ages. During this time, the black cat was often associated with witches, witchcraft or even the devil himself. The black cat was often thought to be the witches familiar or sidekick--and in those days, being in cahoots with a witch was definitely not a good thing, especially when suspected witches were being burned at the stake or being hung in the gallows! Sometimes black cats were said to be gifts to witches from Satan; others went as far to say that the black cat was the devil himself in disguise.

Witches/Cauldrons/Broomsticks: The witch has been heavily associated with Halloween for hundreds of years. The cackling, brew-making old hag image of the witch however is probably mostly created from fiction although some say she may be representative of the Triple Pagan Goddess "the Crone". Before Christianity came to Europe and people began to be converted, there had been wise women amongst

the pagans who were well versed in the use of plants and herbs a way to treat sicknesses and disease. When Catholicism came to town, the hierarchy of the church wasn't so keen on these gals of medicine, and considered any woman of power and knowledge a threat to the church. Anything and everything was done to tarnish the reputations of these once helpful women, including associating them with devil worship and other evil doing. The common man would eventually become very fearful of these women (now labeled as witches) and only the bravest of souls would seek these healers out, doing so in utter secrecy.

As part of creating a completely evil persona surrounding the witch and her witchcraft, embellished stories and folklore were told and then repeated for decades about women who cast evil spells on others and created brews and elixirs that would serve the devil's malevolent purposes. The witch would supposedly concoct her sinful potions in her simmering cauldron. Rumors also ran amok with even crazier ideas such as poisonous substances or hallucinogens being placed on broomsticks that supposed witches would then ride with their nether regions as a faster means of getting the toxins (hallucinogens) into their bodies. Although the supposed witch wasn't actually flying, the sensation that the hallucinogenic drug supplied was often something that simulated the sensation of flying to the person using it. These "flying ointments" and the very unconventional way of applying them may have been the origin of where the notion of the witch on the broomstick came from, but this classic image of the witch has stuck with us regardless and the witch is still one of the most popular Halloween decorating symbols out there.

Bats: Now what does an innocuous little flying rodent have to do with Halloween anyway? Like many other traditional Halloween symbols, the bat's history with Halloween goes back deep into ancient days. >>>

Long before Halloween was Halloween and the ancient Celts were celebrating the holiday known as Samhain, part of the festivities happened around great bonfires. Bonfires were built to dance around and were also part of the animal sacrifices that were made to the pagan gods the Celts worshipped and felt were responsible for their bounty. Bonfires of course, naturally attract a lot of bugs; so at night while these large bonfires were burning brightly while the villagers were celebrating, bugs of all kinds were attracted to the light and were flying around in great abundance.

The local bat population was clearly not dingbats, and when they saw an opportunity for a good feeding frenzy, they were all too happy to take full advantage of it. The bats came out to eat the bugs; it's as simple as that. Bats have been associated with Halloween ever since. The connection between Halloween and bats probably got an extra boost when the rumored "flying ointment" that was purported to be enjoyed by evil witches was said to contain bat's blood as one of its ingredients.

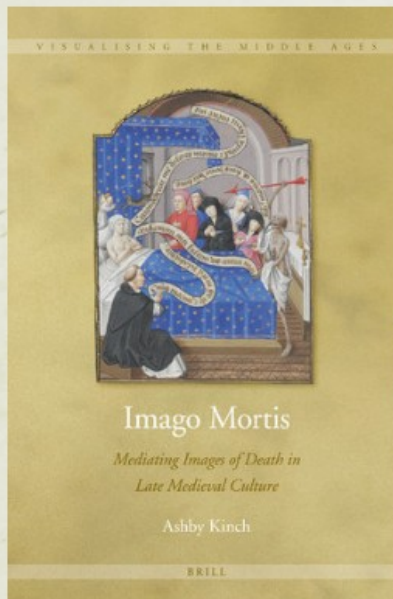
Once Spanish explorers discovered vampire bats in the 17th century, the bat's reputation and association with darkness became further intensified. Gruesome and likely embellished tales of these blood-drinking creatures were passed on and retold.

The truth is, this particular variety of bat does indeed eat the blood of livestock and various animals, lapping it up like a little kitten would lap up a saucer full of milk.

Rumors of vampires and other vampire-like nocturnal monsters had already been running amok back in ancient days, so to behold an actual living, breathing animal that was exhibiting this morbid behavior was quite appalling to these generally very superstitious generation of people. It was likely only a matter of time before this creature became associated with some of the other rumored monsters of the time period, namely vampires. When Bram Stoker wrote his infamous horror classic novel, "Dracula," the connection was forever solidified in the pages of his book as in the story, Dracula was often known to disguise himself conveniently as a vampire bat.

Read further on page 36

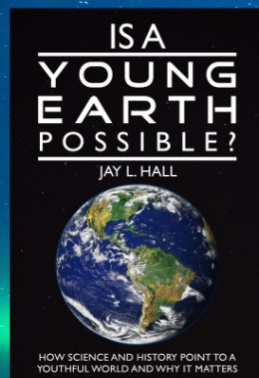




Imago Mortis: Mediating Images of Death in Late Medieval Culture

In his book professor Ashby Kinch argues that late medieval artists, writers, and patrons creatively adapted conventional death iconography in ways that ultimately affirm their artistic, social and political identities.

www.amazon.com



Prof. Jay L. Hall

In his latest book "Is a Young Earth Possible?" Prof. J. L. Hall discusses a number of key issues such as climate change, homeschooling, government funding of science, bullying, depression, fake news, net censorship, and free speech.

www.amazon.co.uk



Tok Thompson

Can a chimp use habeas corpus to sue for freedom?
Can androids be citizens?

There are two main threads of posthumanism: the first dealing with the increasingly slippery slope between "human" and "animal," and the second dealing with artificial intelligences and the growing cyborg quality of human culture.

In Posthuman Folklore, author Tok Thompson traces both the philosophies behind these shifts, and the ways in which people increasingly are enacting such ideas to better understand the posthuman experience of contemporary life.

www.amazon.com

(at bedtime)

5 yo: Leave the door open!

Me: But that will keep you awake.

5 yo: It needs to be open so the
shadow people can leave.

Me: (never sleeps again!)



Fun Facts and the History Of Halloween Decorations

By Halloween Express, www.halloweenexpress.com

Spiders: What is it about this spindly, web-weaving creature that goes so perfectly with Halloween? Obviously, there is that definite creep factor which sort of goes without saying, but why have spiders and spider webs become so much an intrinsic part of Halloween decorating? Come Halloween time, you can rarely walk a block without seeing someone's home or yard completely bedecked in pretend spider webbing with all sorts of fake spiders strategically placed within it. As it turns out, spiders have long been viewed as a bit of a mystical, supernatural creature. Spiders are creepy looking for sure and some of them can even kill you. This nefarious reputation has earned the spider a much earned, honorable spot in the Halloween symbols scariest list. Besides, what kind of a haunted house, graveyard or crypt isn't simply loaded with old cobwebs? Spiders and their dusty leavings simply make everything seem scarier.

The Halloween color scheme has long been considered to be orange and black. Orange represents the color of the harvest and the color black is the color representing death. Since the origins of Halloween celebrate both the harvest as well as honoring the newly deceased, it seems logical then that orange and black would be the perfect color choices to represent the festivities.

Symbols of the Fall Harvest: In addition to an entire cast of scary characters and images that are popular during the celebration of Halloween, there are also those autumn symbols that are a little bit more innocuous and benign, but still remain ever popular for use as part of our annual Halloween decor. Scarecrows, cornhusks, fall leaves, dried wheat, pumpkins and other gourds--all these items and many more fall themed symbols are commonly used to add a colorful and appropriate autumnal touch to fall and Halloween decorating. >>>



to create with a little bit of quick wall transformation. Everyday photos and pictures can be replaced with scary, haunted and ghoulish pictures. Spider webbing can be draped and hung from corners and small spaces. Clever poster-like wall coverings can instantly transform an ordinary room into a mad scientist's laboratory or create the look of a haunted house.

Gory Details: There are times when only the most macabre and grisly Halloween decorations are going to work when setting up a spooky or terrifying Halloween scene. Haunted houses, spook alleys and other such places are expected to have some pretty gnarly looking, not to mention hideous decor pieces lying about that are designed to both scare as well as send shivers down most anyone's spine. Gruesome-looking fake body parts, monstrous beings, rodents, ravens and bats, ghastly zombies, mummies, black cats or even an insidiously scary clown or two--all these and many more Halloween decor items can be a huge part of creating those

extra gruesome special effects that at Halloween time, most everyone loves.

Yard or Outdoor Decor:

Decorating the outside of your home for Halloween is almost more important than decorating the inside. These days, there are all sorts of Halloween decorations that are designed specifically for outdoor use and will quickly transform the look of your ordinary home into something that appears a lot more eerie and frightful. Tombstones

and coffins can transform your yard into a makeshift graveyard, while giant and colorful inflatable decorations can make a bold and whimsical statement that your entire neighborhood can appreciate for Halloween. >>>

Types of Halloween Decorations

There is a very wide array of Halloween decorations found out in today's marketplace. Depending on what type of Halloween display you are setting up and who is going to see it, the styles of decorations you can buy really do run the gamut. From cute and whimsical to quite ghastly and almost sickening, Halloween decorations can be found to suit most anyone's decorating needs.

Halloween decorations that hang from various structures are especially effective when it comes to creating a spooky and ghostly effect. A hanging prop can look as though it is floating almost like an apparition or can be put someplace unexpected to create a little bit of extra scare factor. Hanging props can be easily hung at eye level to make sure that your visitors visualize them more readily, creating a bigger impact as well.

Wall Decor: A scary Halloween ambience is easy

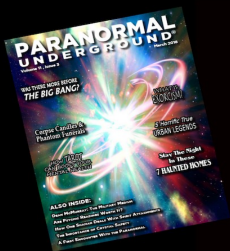
Lighted Halloween Decorations: Decorations that use light are a popular way to decorate your home for Halloween. Imagine a row of illuminated skulls marking the pathway up to your front door? Or how about a pair of eerie, glowing eyes staring at you from the face of one of the creepiest monsters you've ever seen? From lanterns, light strings and lamps to ghastly lighted freaks that are meant to scare, or even the use of black or strobe lights to set that perfect frightening Halloween mood--the use of lighting is an effective way to create an extra scary sort of Halloween fun.

Halloween decorating is an ancient tradition that continues to be very popular now in our modern day. Although the specifics of what we use to decorate our homes and yards every Halloween may be far different than those things used by our ancient forefathers, many of the old symbols and traditions that the ancients embraced will be a part of our modern day Halloween customs forevermore. From ancient man reveling in the Samhain festivities thousands of years ago, to the much more modern Halloween celebrations of today, at Halloween time, the one thing you can always count on is that there has always been something a little bit scary out there, lurking silently in the dark.

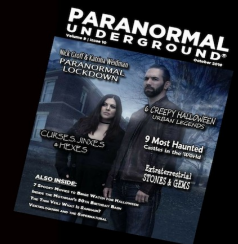
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Benjamin Radford

Ben Radford is one of the world's few science-based paranormal investigators, and has done first-hand research into mysterious phenomena in sixteen countries on four continents including psychics, ghosts and haunted houses; exorcisms, miracles, Bigfoot, stigmata, lake monsters, UFO sightings, reincarnation, and crop circles, and many other topics. He is perhaps best known for solving the mysteries of the Santa Fe Courthouse Ghost in 2007, the Hispanic vampire el chupacabra in 2010, and his book *Bad Clowns*, the first to fully examine the evil clown phenomenon.

[HTTP://BENJAMINRADFORD.COM/](http://benjaminradford.com/)

INVESTIGATING GHOSTS

The Scientific Search for Spirits



BENJAMIN RADFORD

Author of Scientific Paranormal Investigation: How to Solve Unexplained Mysteries

Spooky CIA Stories for Halloween

By the Central Intelligence Agency, www.cia.gov

Spoofs. The CIA is famous for them. But this Halloween, we decided to explore a different kind of spooky story, tales best told by candle-light or when gathered around a roaring bonfire in the cool of a late autumn eve.

Like everyone else, Agency officers love a good ghost story. Working late at Headquarters, and in locations around the world, it's no wonder that strange experiences have given way to ghostly legends. CIA officers, analysts, police, maintenance crews, and visitors have reported spooky stories of all kinds – ranging from the uncanny sound of footsteps in an empty hallway to seeing the apparition of a former Director, huddled over an old map in the library at night.

Often, these unsettling experiences are explained away by fatigue or an over-active imagination. Sometimes, however, a story is just a little too real, a little too strange, and told by someone not known for flights of fancy. In those cases, the stories begin to make their way around the Agency, whispered in the dim of the evening after a long day's work, usually beginning with the words,

“Hey, did you hear the story about...” In the spirit of Halloween, we decided to gather a few of these spooky tales and share them with you. All of the stories you are about to read are reported to be true. Sometimes, the names of people and places have been changed... to protect the spooks, of course. Happy hauntings!

“Good Day, Mr. Director”

Early in my career, the elevators in the older section of CIA Headquarters (known as the Original Headquarters Building or OHB) were known to have quirks (I think they still do). Occasionally, the elevator would stop and the doors would open at a floor with no one there, and no one on the elevator had requested that floor.

I heard second-hand that the “thing to do” when that happened was to say “Good day, Mr. Director,” because it was assumed that the doors opened for the ghost of Allen Dulles. OHB was his project, as many know, but he never was able to move into his office, having been replaced as CIA Director just before it was ready. >>>





Late Night Pick-Up Game

Late one night back in 1986 when I was on the Agency Security Protective Force making my security/safety rounds, I heard what sounded like someone bouncing a basketball. As I made my way to the old arch-way that framed the entrance to the gym, it was obvious that someone was shooting baskets. My first thought was, why would anyone be shooting baskets at this time of night?

As I entered the room, there were no lights on and the dribbling of the basketball stopped. When I finally found the light switch, I spotted a basketball sitting in middle of the floor. I was expecting to hear running footsteps, but heard none, just a lone basketball sitting at the free-throw line. I returned to post and told my boss this story, and I remember him telling me about the ghosts that other guards had seen or heard.

Was it a ghost? I don't know, and I can't explain why I did not hear any footsteps or see anyone. After this incident, I paid close attention from that day on when I was near the gym at night. I never heard the bouncing basketball again.

Work Never Ends for the Chief

A colleague of mine had to stay at the office late one night to write some cables and get caught up on other work. Her office was small and she was the last person in the office that night. While the silence of being alone had, up to that point, allowed her to work more efficiently, this night was different. As she typed on her keyboard, she swore that she could hear typing coming from a typewriter. At first, she thought it was the sound of someone else typing from a normal keyboard, but the sound of the carriage return bell every ten seconds or so left her with no doubt that, somehow, she was hearing a typewriter. Curiously, she could only hear these sounds, faintly, as she typed herself; every time she stopped to listen to the mysterious sounds more closely, the sounds ceased.

Finally, when she was ready to depart for the evening, she decided to check the office one more time before locking up. After all, she heard faint typing noises earlier, so she thought maybe someone had come back into the office unbeknownst to her. After verifying that, indeed, she was the only person left in the office, she >>>

walked toward the door, passing an unused and faintly lit office. As she passed by the doorway, she caught a glimpse of a man in the office, wearing a suit and a fedora, holding the phone to his ear. She backpedaled immediately to see who it was and to tell this person that he would be the last person remaining. But, when she looked into the office not even a moment later, she discovered it empty, and moreover, without a phone installed. She decided to put the whole incident out of her mind and go home.

The next day she could not shake the impression she got from the previous night and cautiously mentioned the experience to a coworker, dismissing it immediately as the result of her fatigue that night. "Oh, you saw the Chief," was her coworker's unexpected reply. She insisted that by that late hour, she had already seen the chief go home for the day, but the coworker said, "No, the Chief is what we call the guy some people have seen in this office late at night." Apparently, more than a few of her coworkers had seen this mysterious figure before.

All who have experienced his presence have done so while working in the office alone, late at night, though some have experienced him in different ways.

Some claimed to hear unexplainable footsteps, while others occasionally caught a whiff of cologne in a long-empty office. A few have seen him, always wearing his suit and fedora and standing while talking on the phone. For this reason, some in the office theorized that he is the spirit of a man who often stayed late at work and, after putting his hat on, picked up the phone to call his wife and tell her that he is on his way home.

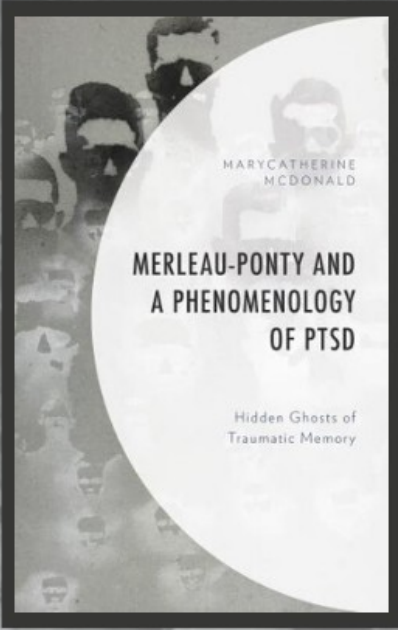
Library Ghost

Many years ago, when I worked at Headquarters, a colleague of mine who arranged travel for officers overseas, let's call him Don, told me of his "ghost sighting" in the CIA Library. He was working very late and was walking through the library.

As he turned a corner, he saw a man bending over a table, looking at a map. It caught him off guard to see someone so late at night.

He said that the man turned his head to look at Don, smiled and disappeared. Don said the man had on a pinstriped suit and that he resembled Bill Casey [former Director of the CIA-William Joseph Casey].

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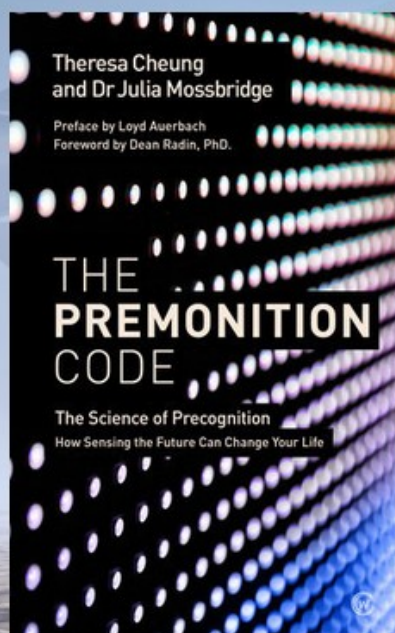


Merleau-Ponty and a Phenomenology of PTSD
Hidden Ghosts of Traumatic Memory
MaryCatherine McDonald

Using the phenomenological approach of Maurice Merleau-Ponty – which focuses on the first-person, lived experience of the trauma victim – *Merleau-Ponty and a Phenomenology of PTSD: Hidden Ghosts of Traumatic Memory* focuses on reframing our understanding of combat trauma in two fundamental ways.

First, the concepts of embodiment and adaptation give us an understanding of the human being as fundamentally adaptive. This allows us to view traumatic responses as adaptive as well. Second, phenomenology reveals that a different ghost haunts those who are afflicted by trauma.

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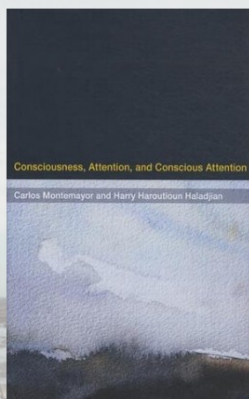


Sensing the future is possible!

In this groundbreaking book, bestselling author Theresa Cheung joins forces with cognitive neuroscientist Julia Mossbridge, PhD, Director of the Innovation Lab at The Institute of Noetic Sciences (IONS). Together they unravel the mystery and the cutting-edge science of precognition, often called 'premonition', by revealing revolutionary new research showing that sensing the future is possible.

The book is also covering practical tools and techniques you can use to develop your own powers of precognition.

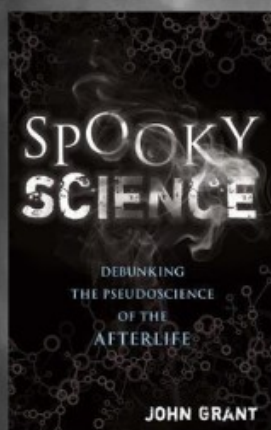
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In this book, Carlos Montemayor and Harry Haladjian offer new insights and proposals about how best to understand and study the relationship between consciousness and attention by examining their functional aspects.

Montemayor and Haladjian's goal is to help unify the study of consciousness and attention across the disciplines. A focused examination of conscious attention will, they believe, enable theoretical progress that will further our understanding of the human mind.

www.amazon.com



John Grant

Skeptics of the supernatural will enjoy this humorous jaunt through the long history of scientific inquiry into paranormal and psychic phenomena. Life after death, spirit communication, the astral plane, reincarnation: on the relatively rare occasions when scientists have tried to apply their methods to the paranormal, they've often ended up embarrassed--fooled by obvious charlatans, deluded into making irrational and unsubstantiated claims, or frustrated in their attempt to find something that just isn't there.

John Grant--author of Discarded Science and Corrupted Science--investigates the pseudoscience of spooky stuff to fascinating and often hilarious effect.

www.amazon.com

Fear by Design (part I)

By Lynn K. Russell,

The purpose of this article is to point out how we are being falsely manipulated into a state of dread in order to gain control over us.

Humans love a mystery. In years gone by we gathered around a bonfire and told spooky stories. Today we have become more sophisticated and wonder about the Bermuda triangle, crop circles, or Nazca lines of Peru. It's fun to believe in these things, and we really don't want them to be solved. All logical explanations to their reality are quickly rejected.

When conspiracy theories first began, they fit into this category. But they have advanced in their severity until they are threatening us and our sense of reality. They are filled with nothing but dreams and conjectures, not based on fact. Believers seriously need to educate themselves on their reality. Most conspiracy theories I have witnessed are silly, and looked at logically, fall apart. We need to get smart and not fall for the first fairy tale we hear.

Fear is an instinctual, biochemical, and emotional reaction to threat. It tells us to get the heck out of there immediately or get ready to fight to the death if needed. In this regard, we are no different than most lifeforms on earth; there is an inborn terror of death. One advantage humans have over other creatures is our intelligence. We not only build protections into our lives, but we can also use logic to get out of difficult situations.

Throughout history, we have needed fear for our personal continuation and the perpetuation of our species. As we evolved, we created ways to protect ourselves through tools, structures, and social systems.

One of the most vital protections has been our connection to one another. As far back as can be traced, we have lived in groups or tribes and have depended on one another to survive. Today we assemble in gatherings from hamlets to gigantic cities, and, within those larger societal structures, we have smaller groups from families and organizations to burbs and burrows. Thus, for many, being separated from society can be terrifying, and may feel like we have lost our life-line.

A paper by Helen Thompson, August 2015 showed that traumatic or long-standing adversity alter our genes. That modification is then be passed down to the future generations through the DNA. Therefore, it is prudent to recognize that our violent history has left a stamp within each of us.

Humans have had a violent history dating back as far as we have recorded. Religions have had a particularly strong effect as they were the crux for the societal structure. Thus, everyone must play their part and adhere to the rules or experience the wrath of the church.

Most religions of the world have a built-in element of dread. When, for instance, the Jews first occupied Canaan, they were continually fighting off outsiders wanting to take over their land. In addition to everyday disasters such as weather-related disasters and illnesses, they struggled to understand why this was happening to them.

Their religion said they were the chosen people, yet tragedies and traumas kept arriving at their doorstep. Multiple laws evolved to ensure they were appeasing their deity, that appeared to be angry with them. >>>



Photo source: www.dreamstime.com



Are We Aware of Our Journey to 'The Afterlife'?

With author & NDE expert
Lynn Kathleen Russell

Are we, in some unexplainable manner, 100% aware of this final journey we take in the moment death is medically declared? Or is it just the mind playing tricks with you?

Scheduled for October, 20th is the TNT-Podcast of Lynn Kathleen Russell, who is the author of the book "The Wonder of You", about if Near death and Out of Body Experiences are our connection with this vast space we have become familiar with as, the universe. www.nexttruth.com

The Crusades of the Roman Catholic Church are well documented. At the base of their religion was the belief that Jesus had died for our sins, and true believers must pay back that sacrifice. Also, the Catholic Church saw the Pope as the ultimate ruler. In their eyes, he got his authority directly from God. Eventually, the Pope became the highest authority and went on a slaughtering rampage of anyone who disagreed. Panic and terror followed everywhere they went. Indeed, the last inquisition lasted 356 years and only ended 186 years ago. In the space of human history, this is not a long time ago. The first automobile was patented then, and Coca Cola was born. Thus, we can assume that these events have left their mark on our genes.

(In all fairness, while the Roman Catholic Church did create havoc and fear, they were the first ones to set up hospitals, schools, and a form of welfare for their parishioners well before governments did.)

When the Protestant religions were established in the 1500s, they too added unhealthy servings of distress and trepidation.

Now, one could only gain salvation only through Jesus Christ. Everything was predetermined, so there were no options for getting out of it. Plus, the new leaders established the laws of God.

It takes little imagination to see how these teachings have become methods of control and power over the people. Who was to say, what put us in God's favor? There were too many opportunities for spiritual terrorism.

There have been a few times throughout human history that there has not been a war somewhere. From the Catholic battles to kings taking over other people's lands, our violent past trails across the world.

The Great Depression

In the first half of the twentieth century, the world became entangled in two major wars and sandwiched in between was the Great Depression. These three events hit the world with a boxer's one-two punch. Seemingly overnight, people went from a place of security to paupers. Around the world, homelessness and famine became too familiar. >>>

Desperation is what was felt by the majority.

The major causes of the Great Depression were the stock market and the banking system. It was Franklin D. Roosevelt who recognized the actual cause of the Depression was fear. Anxiety was the force that got the ball rolling, and panic gave it momentum. In his inauguration speech, he said, "...let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is...fear itself — nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance." He was not only referring to the angst; the people were struggling with, poverty and severe lack, but also with the anxiety that was preventing them from moving beyond it.

Roosevelt brought in what he called "The New Deal", which included innovative thinking for his time. He established laws that protected the economy and individual citizens from ever suffering like that again. The Great Depression lasted ten years and finally ended at the beginning of the Second World War.

It is interesting from a sociological perspective to peek at the entertainment industry during WWII. Primarily romantic fluff and elaborately staged song and dance movies crowded the big screen. People did not want anything serious; their entertainment took them away from that part of their lives. For those who did not enjoy the musicals, there were the *Topper* and *Ma and Pa Kettle* movies. Silly little light films to take away the pain of the time.

Ten years after WWII, the world was transforming into a whole new place. Europe had rebuilt their bombed cities, and people around the globe had settled down to raise young families; the Baby Boom had begun. Around this time, the movie industry took another turn that fits with our discussion of fear. Alfred Hitchcock realized that people enjoyed being scared. Not the kind of fear that threatened their survival, but enough to give them a quick adrenaline rush. His early films were wrapped in intrigue and mystery, but as time went by, they became more violent, with *Psycho* and *The Birds* topping the list.

The 1950s saw the big screen filled with monsters and aliens that wanted to rip us to pieces. Gradually, these movies evolved, and by the 1970s, the directors wanted more realism.

For the next thirty years, the screens were filled with blood, guts, and gore. Horror movies and thrillers were kings, and it was hard to find a family-friendly film.

It is essential to mention that it was the general public that demanded this type of entertainment. If we did not flock to those movies, the industry would not make them. They were the true money makers.

Sadly, this entertainment has now morphed into online games where we can build an avatar that represents us within the game. We see many games overloaded with extreme violence that keeps the adrenaline going. There are concerns that excessive carnage is harming children's brains. But the producers of these types of entertainment assured us that it is okay, they have it all under control. Of course, they do; and here we are, a society that is more violent than at any time in modern history.

The Great Depression has a direct correlation on the fear of today. Things ran pretty smoothly for thirty years under Roosevelt's reforms, that was until greed once more demanded the floor. In the 1960s, the next generation of investors had moved into the spots occupied by those who had gone through the Depression. They had not experienced this time of desperate need and wanted some of Roosevelt's regulations relaxed. They saw excellent opportunities to make even more money slipping away and complained bitterly about the social programs. They thought too much money was going into these programs, thus causing their taxes to be too high. For the next twenty years, different Presidents either increased or decreased social programs according to their fiscal policies.

An article by R. Benenson, in *CQ Researcher*, 1984, explains that shortly after P Ronald Reagan became President, severe cuts were aimed at the low-income earners. Those who had been able to maintain a decent living when they coupled their earnings with government subsidies were no longer able to support a proper home. That meant that low-income earners and single parents had to work three or four jobs to keep the home. And, if they wanted to raise their children away from the slums, it required both parents working two to three jobs each. >>>

Meanwhile, what was happening as the children were left to raise themselves? It may have cut taxes to the wealthy, but now the poor no longer had the spending power to keep the markets flexible.

In 2001 the unthinkable happened. The World Trade Centers were destroyed, taking thousands of lives with them. This disaster sent the people of the United States into a whirl; this was the first time they had tasted the effects of such violence from outside sources. Violence within the United States has indeed taken far more lives than The World Trade Centers. But that violence is home-grown; it is not foreign.

Retaliation was a must, and George W. Bush claimed weapons of mass destruction that were never found. He exaggerated information to get approval to bring the country into a war that is still active 19 years later.

The banking regulations established by Roosevelt prevented flexibility in the banks' operations to the point that they argued they had become stagnant. Thus, bit by bit, the New Deal laws were relaxed until once more the freedom of the banks became dangerous to the economy. In 2008 the economy fell for the second time and caused the Great Recession. People with million-dollar jobs were losing their livelihood, homes, and often their families. Those same people who complained about social services using up too much money were now shocked to find themselves the ones out on the street and using food stamps.

The common phrase heard was "too big to fail," meaning that if these companies failed, the loss of jobs would put the country into bankruptcy. Also, many of these corporations were international; thus, their failure reverberated around the world. Ginormous bailout packages were needed to keep the US auto industry afloat, so people could keep their jobs.

Once more, the nations of the world panicked, and fear became the world's constant companion. Shortly after the fall in 2008, a new crisis hit the Earth. It started with Syria and a madman behind the trigger. It blossomed out to several nations around the world; the refugee catastrophe struck the world. From all corners of the world, humans were fleeing their homeland in search of safety.

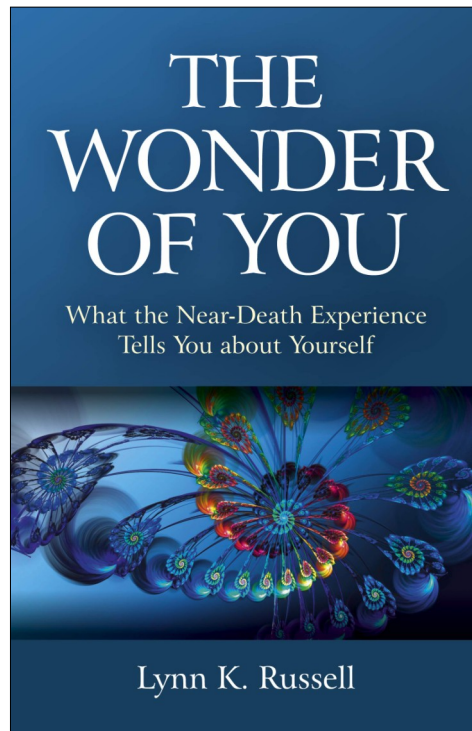
The world was not ready for them. People were recovering from the latest financial disaster and felt too vulnerable to open their arms to these strangers who were coming to take their jobs and security away. *Cha-chink* another link in the chain of fear.

In 2008 the United States voted in their first black President. The fact that he managed to put the pieces back together again and get the economy humming or that they were marvelous human beings, seems to have been irrelevant. The fact that they were black send a portion of the population into a whirl.


Was there anyone who could have predicted the reaction to a black family living in the White House?

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Part II will published in the November edition



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Top 20 Largest Spider Species Explained

The world is full of weird and wonderful creatures; however, there are perhaps none more bone-chillingly wonderful than spiders. These eight-legged prehistoric creatures are found all over the world, they come in many different shapes and sizes, and can be poisonous or harmless. Nevertheless, spiders definitely are not something I, nor you, would want to come in to contact with at any time of day, let alone in a dark alley.

Now you may probably think the biggest spiders to ever walk the Earth lived in prehistoric times because back then everything was bigger, from wolves to sloths to camels. But here's the truth: giant spiders might have existed in prehistoric times — perhaps we've just never found any evidence of them. But until we do, the world's largest known spiders are actually modern spiders. So today let's take a look at 20 of the largest spider species known to mankind!

Number 20: Mexican Red-Kneed Tarantula (5.5 inches)

As the name suggests this tarantula is usually found in Mexico and are also known to be found in southwestern United States and Panama. When mature this tarantula has a dark colored body with an orange patch on the joints of its legs. The second element of legs is orange red.

Number 19: Cerbalus Aravaensis (5.5 inches)

Caballus Aravaensis is a huntsman spider found in the southern Arava valley of Israel and Jordan. It lives in sand dunes and partly stable

sands at the edge of salt marshes. This spider is also a highly capable architect that constructs underground dens with hinged trap door like operculum made of sand and glue in order to disguise the entrance from predators.

Number 18: Honduran Curly Haired Tarantula (5.5 inches)

The Honduran curly haired tarantula is a large variety of spider. The spider has a dark brown to dark blue colored body with a golden bronze Sheen due to long golden hairs that cover the

body. This type of tarantula is native to the jungles of Costa Rica and Honduras. It's a burrowing species.

Number 17: Brazilian Wandering Spider (5.9 inches)

Brazilian Wandering Spiders also called armed spiders or banana spiders belong to the genus pointed tria

which means murderous and Greek and it's no wonder why. It is one of the most venomous spiders on Earth.

Number 16: Chilean Rose hair tarantula (6 inches)

Chilean Rose hair tarantulas are calm docile spiders native to desert scrub habitats in South America. They have dark bodied with Rose hewed hair and are found throughout northern Chile Bolivia and Argentina these active predators use their body size to subdue prey.

Number 15: Trinidad Chevron Tarantula (7 inches)

The Trinidad Chevron tarantula is a unique >>>



Goliath Birdeater
Photo source:
www.critter.science.com



Mysore Ornamental Tarantula

Photo source: www.mymonsters.co.za

old-world tree-dwelling tarantula native to Trinidad hence the name. They're easily distinguishable by their beautiful markings. It's a tree-dwelling translates webbed hideouts within the nooks and crannies of trees logs and vegetation.

Number 14: Mysore Ornamental Tarantula (7 inches)

The striking arboreal species of tarantula from India has bold striking markings on its carapace and abdomen. The Mysore tarantula is classified as vulnerable due to its restricted and declining range and occupancy and the ongoing fragmentation of its habitat. The species is commonly traded in the pet trade.

Number 13: Goliath Pink Toe Tarantula (7 inches)

The Goliath pink toe tarantula is an arboreal new world tarantula which is native to part of the Amazon River Basin in Brazil. The mature pink toe tarantula has a dark color body and pinkish feet hence its name. Juvenile specimens,

however have pinkish bodies and dark colored feet.

Number 12: Hercules Baboon Spider (8 inches)

The only known specimen of the Hercules baboon spider was captured in Nigeria about a hundred years ago and resides at the Natural History Museum in London. It's said to be the rarest of its kind and has not been observed in a wild for quite a long span of time after 1900.

Number 11: Colombian Giant Tarantula (6 to 8 inches)

The Colombian giant tarantula mega phobia robust 'm eats mice lizards and large insects so you could keep one for home pest control. However mega phobia is best known for its aggressive temperament. These tarantulas are found in the tropical rainforests of Colombia and Brazil.

Number 10: Poecilotheria rajaei (8 inches)

Tarantulas don't only live in Central and South America. The facesize tarantula poecilotheria >>>



Mexican Red-Kneed Tarantula

Photo source: www.tarantulaheaven.com

Rajai has adapted to deforestation in Sri Lanka to make its home in abandoned buildings and is also found in India. These spiders common name is self-explanatory, its scientific name *Piccolo's* area translates from greek to mean spotted wild beast. It likes to eat bird's lizard's rodents and even snakes.

Number 9: Chaco Golden Knee Tarantula (8.5 inches)

The check o golden eater Angela is black or dark brown in color and as yellow markings around the knee joints. This type of tarantula is native to Argentina Uruguay and Brazil. Rather than a web maker the Chico golden knee is considered a burrower an adaptable spider that can survive in the dry spells and also the monsoon seasons.

Number 8: Giant Baboon Spider (9 inches)

The Cameroon red baboon tarantula also known as the giant bamboo spider is a large tarantula from Africa Cameroon and Togo. It has a variation of colors which range from black after a fresh molt and then turns to an orange red coloration which then changes to more of a brown color as it gets ready to molt again.

Number 7: *Lampropelma violaceopes* (Singapore Blue) (10 inches)

One of the largest arboreal tarantulas, Singapore Blue, is a large arboreal species of tarantula from Malaysia and Singapore. It primarily preys on large beetles, cockroaches, large crickets, mantids and other large arthropods. Occasionally young mice birds and other small vertebrates are also taken.

Number 6: Brazilian fire-red tarantulas (*Lasiadora difficilis*) (10 inches)

Also named the Brazilian fire red bird eater the Brazilian fire red tarantula is large and terrestrial spending all of its life on the ground. The tarantula is known to increase in size very fast and is native to Brazil and can be found in rainforests due to its abundant rainfall.

Number 5: *Grammostola anthracina* (10 plus inches)

Grammostola anthracina is a species of spider belonging to the family theraphosa dai tarantulas. It's found in Uruguay Paraguay Brazil and Argentina. Be sure to visit South America if you're seeking enormous spiders. >>>

Grandma stole is a species what can live up to 20 years.

Number 4: Brazilian Salmon Pink Bird Eater (11 inches)

Despite the name the Brazilian salmon pink bird-eater spider doesn't eat birds it instead feasts on insects, lizards, frogs and mice. This spider lives in the rainforests of Brazil. It has a brown body with salmon pink hairs that it shoots at its prey to disable them. Then it pounces on its prey and spits digestive juices on it pre digesting the victim before sucking it up.

Number 3: Bahia scarlet (*Lasiadora klugi*) (12 inches)

The Lazio Dora Kluge is a tarantula endemic to Brazil. Its common name refers to the state of Bahia. It looks similar to the salmon pink bird eater but has darker red hairs on its abdomen and has a heavier and thicker build than the pink bird eater.

Number 2: Giant Huntsman Spider (12 inches)

The huntsman spider is really big! This spider is native to Asia but can also be found in subtropical areas of Florida Texas and California.

These spiders actually traveled to the US by hitching a ride on bananas which is why they're also called banana spiders. So, better watch out next time you eat an imported banana. Now the creepiest factor about the huntsman is that they're really fast. They can walk sideways and can scurry up perfectly smooth surfaces.

Number 1: Goliath Birdeater (12 inches)

The largest spider in the world is the Goliath bird-eating tarantula. Yes, as the name suggests this spider is large enough to eat birds and it does. However, it's probably more afraid of you than you are of it since humans, who live in its habitat, catch it and cook it.


The Goliath bird eater is considered bigger than the huntsman spider because it has a heavier body mass. The Goliath has tiny hairs on its body that it shoots at whoever or whatever it's threatening it. If you want to see the largest spider in the world in its natural habitat it can be found in burrows in the rain forests and swamps of northern South America.

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Lampropelma violaceopes (Singapore blue)

Photo source: Wikipedia



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