

Parapsychology v. Pastoral Care

- Parapsychology- study of psi or psychic experience (Greek = unknown)
- Extrasensory Perception (ESP):
 - telepathy
 - clairvoyance
 - radiesthesia
 - (pre)(retro)cognition
- Psychokineses (PK)
 - (macro) (micro) telekinesis
 - teleportation
 - psychic healing
 - Recurrent Spontaneous PK
 - OBE, NDE, _____
 - Subjective paranormal experience

- Pastoral Care- Care given as a sacramental act of God.
 - Life after death
 - Assurance of God's presence
 - Awareness of the holy; sacred space
 - Faith, safety, good, evil
 - Grace: giving and receiving
 - Agency and change
 - Communion, relationship, estrangement, grief
 - Alignment with divine purpose



Hauntings

- Refer to a location or object.
- Repetitive image recorded on the environment.
- May have tragic or deep emotional overtones.
- The image has little intelligence of its own and does not interact with the observer.

Apparitions

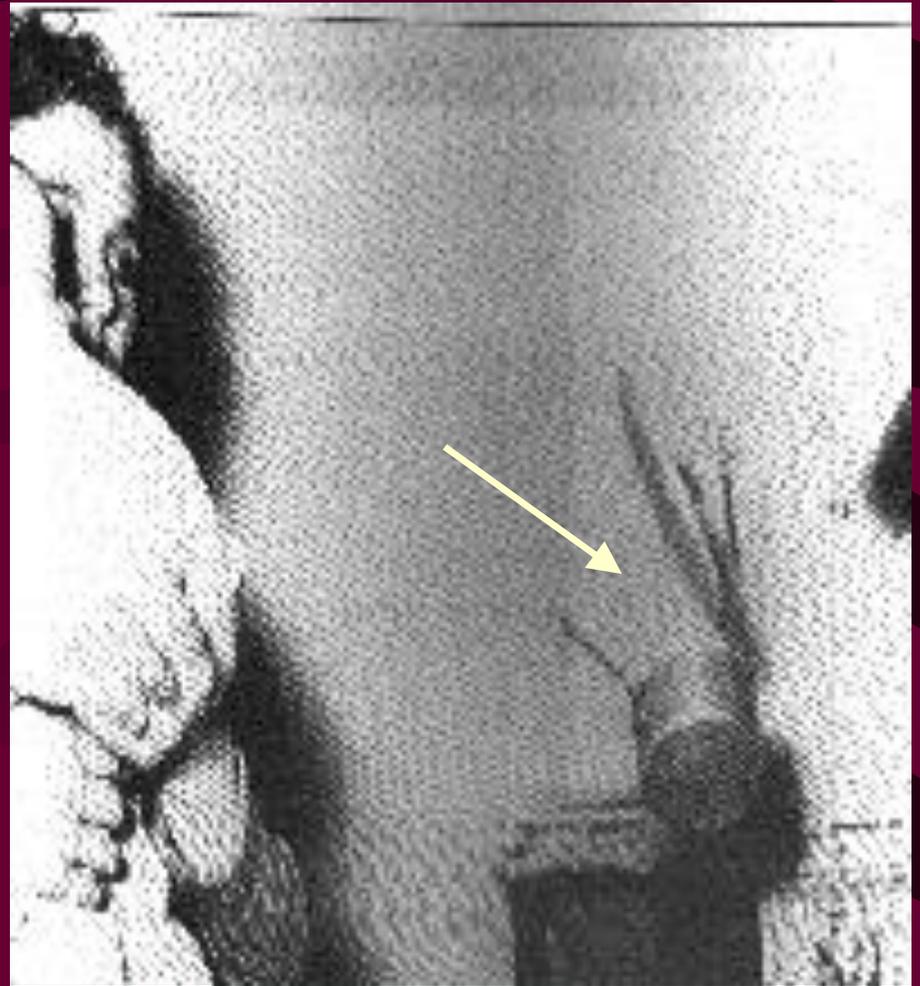


- A dead person.
- Can appear “solid.”
- Has personality, mind, and spirit.
- Interactive with the observer.
- Frequently has a personal connection to the observer.
- Frequently experienced near time of death.

Poltergeist

- Recurrent Spontaneous Psychokinesis (RSPK)
- Emanates from a living, present human agent
 - typically an emotionally disturbed adolescent
- Can be thought of as sacramental: an outward and visible sign of an otherwise invisible reality,

e.g., **Anger**



Normalizing the Experience

Haunted House

Sacred Space



Apparition

Guiding Spirit



Poltergeist

Mechanically Cursed



Decoding by the Observer



Fear is defining and counter-productive

Decoding by the Observer

Fear is defining and
counter-productive



Decoding by the Observer



Faith is defining and healing

Decoding by the Observer

Faith is defining and
healing



What to Do?

- Elicit story
 - CISM model may be helpful
 - Target the “ghost” or the receptor?
- Non-anxious presence
 - normalize the incident
 - measured response
- Remember “Subjective paranormal experience:”
 - Remain open to all possibilities
 - inc fraud, post-mortem survival, misperception, mental illness
- Redirect toward pastoral care
 - *e.g.*, organize by Pruyser, Hopewell, Fowler
 - How have people been changed?