

10 Fallacies of Paranormal Investigators

Ghost Boxes and Ouija Boards Can Detect Ghosts

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Ghost boxes, Ouija boards and similar instruments are not measuring devices. They have never been proven to measure or detect anything, much less a ghost. These devices cannot provide any valid evidence of a ghost. Paranormal investigators should utilize proven measuring devices.



2 If It Can't Be Explained, It's Paranormal

The world is full of strange happenings, but often there is a natural cause. It is illogical to assume that because something cannot be immediately explained it is paranormal. Proving the paranormal requires diligent investigation and analysis leading to scientific testing.

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EVPs Are Evidence of Ghosts

EVPs (Electronic Voice Phenomena) can have a variety of explanations from radio waves to fingers rubbing on the recorder. Good investigators are careful not to jump to conclusions about a suspected EVP.



Spikes in Temperature or EMF Have a Paranormal Cause

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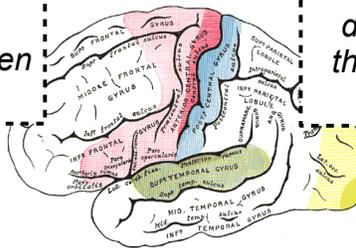
Radio signals, inaccurate devices, differences in reflectivity, or a not-so-steady hand can all produce seemingly strange readings. Great investigators learn how to use their equipment correctly to minimize false positives.



Using a Psychic Can Improve Investigations

Just like ghosts and Bigfoot, psychic ability is an unproven phenomenon. Any predictions or insight by a psychic is not considered valid evidence because it is from an unproven method.

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Skeptics Must Disprove Your Evidence

When a claim is made, like ghosts exist, the claimant has the obligation to prove it. Skeptics do not have to disprove your evidence but they would have to prove an alternate explanation.

Investigate Locations Only at Night with the Lights Off

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It is much easier to avoid false positives by investigating during the day or at least in good lighting. Investigating in the dark affects human perception and limits what cameras can capture.



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If You Engage in Debunking You Are Scientific



Debunking can be a useful way to eliminate false positives, but it is not a guarantee of being scientific. The real scientific method is complex and takes a great deal of education and work to understand and apply.

Eyewitness Testimony Is Always Reliable

Low light, long distance, short event time, adrenaline, fear and other factors can influence witness testimony. Most people aren't being deceptive but our brains sometimes interpret reality incorrectly. A small, distant animal can appear to be much larger and a fleeting shadow can seem like a menacing spirit.

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Do What They Do on 10 Paranormal TV Shows

TV Shows are for entertainment and many popular paranormal investigation shows are heavy on entertainment and light on good investigation practices. TV personalities and methods are poor examples of investigating paranormal claims. Great ghost hunters educate themselves on problem-solving techniques and investigation methods.

