

10 Fallacies of Paranormal Skeptics

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That Device is Unscientific

Some instruments like ghost boxes and Ouija boards are not scientific because they haven't been proven to measure anything. However, many other devices like EMF meters and voice recorders can be used to gather scientifically valid observations. As long as the devices are in good working order, calibrated and are used to gather repeatable results, they meet the scientific standards.



2

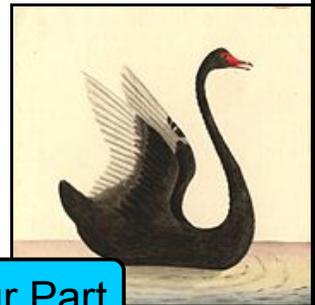
It's Been 30 Years Without Proof: It Must Be False

The amount of time passed is irrelevant to the probability of a claim being true. Limitations in technology, poor research practices, lack of scientific involvement and limited understanding of the phenomenon can all contribute to slow progress in research.

3

We Can't Disprove a Ghost So We've Done Our Part

This is a red herring. Skeptics do not have to disprove the existence of ghosts or other paranormal phenomena. But when a skeptic makes a counterclaim like a ghost is actually pareidolia or a waking dream, they are required to prove that claim. Remember, the burden of proof is on the claimant.



Invoking Occam's Razor Settles the Argument

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Occam's Razor is often called upon to claim a paranormal explanation is false. Occam's Razor is a heuristic method and a poor judge of validity. That's why science relies on testing, and not Occam's Razor, to determine whether a hypothesis is true or false.



The Opposition is Illogical

Logic is a tricky thing especially with complex problems. Opposing sides can both present logical arguments. Both skeptics and believers are guilty of illogical thought and analysis.



Mr. X Said It's Fake, So It's Fake

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Opponents of paranormal claims sometimes cherry-pick expert opinions, ignoring contradictory opinions. This is used to "disprove" a claim which is an appeal to authority fallacy.

You Should Have X Degree to Be Considered Credible 7

Credentialism is used to claim an opponent has no standing to offer credible research and commentary. Many in the field are well educated in a variety of topics and individuals should be judged by works not diplomas. Credentialism is not productive or necessary.



Using the Term Critical Thinker Makes You One

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Critical thinking cannot simply be summoned at will: It is a skill that takes years to develop and constant introspection to maintain. It can quickly be lost if one lets biased views bleed through. Great critical thinkers continuously evaluate their ability to think critically about issues.

A Few Hoaxes Implies They Are All Hoaxes

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Often it is implied that because a few cases were hoaxed the entire phenomenon is the product of a hoax. The same happens with mis-identification. This is illogical as the causes of seemingly similar paranormal phenomena can be very different. Cases and claims must to be evaluated independently to ensure logical and valid conclusions.



Engaging Believers 10 Is a Waste of Time

Science requires transparency and peer-evaluation. It is not ruled by a voting majority but allows a single dissenter to present a reasonable argument against accepted knowledge. Skeptics should engage believers and continuously seek better ways to engage this audience. This process will only make skeptical arguments stronger.

