

Bigelow Institute For Consciousness Studies

Journal of
**Scientific
Exploration**

Anomalistics
and
Frontier
Science



COMMENTARY

The 2021 Bigelow Institute for Consciousness Studies (BICS) Essay Contest

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<https://doi.org/10.31275/20222693>

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HIGHLIGHTS

The BICS essay contest successfully increased attention to the latest and perhaps most compelling scientific research on the topic of "life after death."

ABSTRACT

BICS was founded in 2020 to communicate, facilitate, educate, and organize scientific research and exploration into the survival of human consciousness (SOHC) after permanent bodily death. In early 2021 BICS announced an essay contest on the best evidence for survival of human consciousness with \$950,000 in prizes. Essay contestants were tasked to present evidence for SOHC after death beyond a reasonable doubt. "Beyond a reasonable doubt" is the most demanding and rigorous burden of proof in the criminal justice legal system and BICS challenged essay contestants to achieve this very high bar in order to maximize the focus on presentation of evidence from as many directions and sources as possible. By December 2020, seven respected judges from the research and academic communities were recruited. BICS received 1300 applications from all continents and invited 264 authors and groups of authors to submit essays. 204 essays were received from 38 countries. Following an intensive five-month judging process, a large group of essays was down-selected. So high was the standard among the dozens of essays that the judges had difficulty in choosing three essays for the top prizes. After several more rounds, eventually 29 essays were chosen and the prize money was increased from \$950,000 to \$1,800,000. Prizes were awarded at a gala in Las Vegas on December 4, 2021. Following the conclusion of the BICS essay contest, the organization is preparing for another major program. On September 1, 2022, BICS will unveil "Challenge 2023," which is a targeted grants program that is aimed at funding research proposals on SOHC with a particular focus on contact and communication with the afterlife.



Robert T. Bigelow

INTRODUCTION

The Bigelow Institute for Consciousness Studies (BICS) essay contest that was held in 2021 was arguably the most successful essay contest in the history of Surviv-

al of Human Consciousness (SOHC) research, both in the United States and internationally. By awarding a total of \$1,800,000 in prizes to 43 essay authors for 29 essays, the contest became a global phenomenon and galvanized more than 1300 contestants to submit applications to enter the

Delving Deep: An Exploration of the Bigelow Institute for Consciousness Studies

Are you intrigued by the mysteries of consciousness? Do you ponder the nature of reality and our place within it? Then you've come to the right place. This comprehensive guide delves into the fascinating world of the Bigelow Institute for Consciousness Studies (BICS), exploring its mission, research, and the significant impact it's making on our understanding of the mind. We'll unpack its unique approach, examine key projects, and address some frequently asked questions. Prepare to embark on a journey into the enigmatic realm of consciousness.

The Bigelow Institute: A Pioneer in Consciousness

Research

The Bigelow Institute for Consciousness Studies stands as a unique and groundbreaking organization dedicated to the scientific investigation of consciousness. Unlike many institutions focusing on specific aspects of neuroscience or psychology, BICS adopts a more holistic, interdisciplinary approach. This means they don't shy away from exploring unconventional avenues of research, considering everything from quantum physics to subjective experiences in their quest for understanding.

A Multifaceted Approach to Understanding Consciousness

BICS's commitment to interdisciplinary research is a key differentiator. They actively collaborate with researchers from diverse fields including physics, neuroscience, psychology, philosophy, and even parapsychology. This collaborative spirit fosters innovative research methodologies and perspectives that might be overlooked in more narrowly focused institutions. Their open-mindedness is a testament to their commitment to exploring the full spectrum of consciousness.

Key Research Areas at BICS

BICS's research agenda is ambitious and wide-ranging. Some of their key areas of focus include:

Near-Death Experiences (NDEs): BICS conducts rigorous scientific investigations into NDEs, analyzing reported experiences for common themes and potential neurological correlates. They aim to understand whether NDEs offer clues to the nature of consciousness beyond the physical brain.

Out-of-Body Experiences (OBEs): Similar to their NDE research, BICS investigates OBEs using a variety of scientific methods to explore the potential for consciousness to exist independently of the physical body.

Remote Viewing: This controversial area explores the possibility of acquiring information about distant locations or events without the use of sensory input. BICS approaches this topic with a critical and scientific eye, aiming to separate speculation from verifiable evidence.

Consciousness and Quantum Physics: BICS explores the potential connections between consciousness and the laws of quantum mechanics, investigating whether quantum processes might play a role in conscious experience.

Funding and Transparency at the Bigelow Institute

BICS operates with a significant level of transparency, making their funding sources and research methodologies publicly accessible. This commitment to transparency is crucial for maintaining the integrity of their research and ensuring accountability. While the specifics of their funding may vary, their commitment to independent and objective research remains paramount.

The Impact of the Bigelow Institute's Work

The Bigelow Institute's contributions extend beyond individual research projects. By fostering a collaborative environment and tackling often-overlooked areas of consciousness research, BICS helps to shape the broader scientific landscape. They challenge conventional assumptions, encourage critical thinking, and promote open dialogue on this complex and multifaceted topic. Their influence is felt not only within the scientific community but also among the wider public, igniting curiosity and fostering a deeper understanding of the human mind.

Conclusion: The Ongoing Quest for Understanding Consciousness

The Bigelow Institute for Consciousness Studies plays a crucial role in advancing our understanding of one of humanity's most profound mysteries: consciousness. Through its interdisciplinary approach, rigorous research, and commitment to transparency, BICS is paving the way for groundbreaking discoveries. The ongoing quest to understand consciousness is a complex and challenging endeavor, and the Institute's work serves as a beacon of hope and progress in this fascinating field.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q1: Is the Bigelow Institute for Consciousness Studies affiliated with any universities?

A1: While BICS collaborates with researchers from various universities, it operates as an independent research institute.

Q2: How can I contribute to the Bigelow Institute's research?

A2: BICS welcomes donations to support its ongoing research. They may also accept applications from researchers seeking to collaborate on specific projects; check their website for updated information.

Q3: What is the Institute's stance on parapsychology?

A3: BICS approaches parapsychological phenomena with a scientific rigor, aiming to investigate claims with controlled experiments and critical analysis, rather than accepting them uncritically.

Q4: Are the findings from BICS peer-reviewed and published?

A4: Yes, many of BICS's research findings are published in peer-reviewed scientific journals,

ensuring that their work meets the highest standards of scientific scrutiny.

Q5: Where can I find more information about the Bigelow Institute's research?

A5: The best place to find detailed information is on the official Bigelow Institute for Consciousness Studies website. They regularly update their website with news, publications, and information on current projects.

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: A New Science of the Afterlife Daniel Drasin, 2023-06-13 Reveals how the continuity of consciousness beyond the physical body can be objectively demonstrated • Explores 15 promising avenues of post-materialist scientific investigation currently underway • Provides a succinct account of the experience of transition to the “next life” and what one might expect when one arrives there • Explains how materialism has prevented us from realizing a deeper understanding of the nature of space, time, life, death, and consciousness Sharing his more than three decades of research into the afterlife and paranormal phenomena, award-winning documentary filmmaker Daniel Drasin shows that the continuity of human consciousness beyond the physical body and after death constitutes a legitimate area of scientific inquiry and that it can be objectively demonstrated. Drasin begins by revealing how our belief in materialism—through its effects on our social norms, taboos, and even language—has deeply constrained our civilization’s understanding of the nature of space, time, life, death, and consciousness. However, as Drasin explains, our deeply ingrained cultural habits tied to materialism have begun to change. He explores 15 promising post-materialist scientific investigations currently underway, focusing in depth on three examples that offer the most objectively irrefutable evidence for the survival of consciousness, including electronic audio and visual communications from the other side, the groundbreaking five-year Scole Experiment in physical mediumship, and the profoundly evidential reincarnation case of James Leininger. Looking at how language frames our perceptions about life and death, the author presents thought experiments and simple exercises to help us see through materialist ideology and perceive a broader landscape of reality. He provides a succinct account of the experience of transition to the “next life” and explores what the afterlife is made of, where it’s located, how it works, and what it’s for. Drasin shows how, by thinking and speaking about death and the survival of consciousness in new ways, we can facilitate a clearer, more relaxed, comfortable, and rational conversation about what awaits us all sooner or later on the other side of life.

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: Proof of Heaven Eben Alexander, 2012-10-23 Shares an account of his religiously transformative near-death experience and revealing week-long coma, describing his scientific study of near-death phenomena while explaining what he learned about the nature of human consciousness.

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: The Shift Rob MacGregor, Trish MacGregor, 2022-10-20 Just out of sight and mostly outside the awareness of mainstream media, a shift in consciousness is underway that’s beyond religion, politics, and science as we know it now. It’s an accelerated perception shared by millions worldwide: we are all energetically entangled. What affects one, affects all. Here in this sea of evolving awareness, we perceive intuitively, through the heart, and often experience astonishing coincidences or synchronicities. It’s here we might momentarily connect with a lost loved one, catch a glimpse of our future, or be nudged unexpectedly onto a different path. These wake-up calls alert us to a deeper matrix of reality. Welcome to The Shift.

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: *The UFO Paradox* Keith Thompson, 2024-07-16 • Looks at witnesses’ reports as well as the theories of skeptics, revealing how UFOs represent a call from the cosmos to expand our understanding of reality • Explores UFO encounters against the backdrop of visionary experience—angelic visitations, near-death experiences, shamanic journeys,

and religious miracles • Shares the author's UFO discussions with late Harvard psychiatrist John Mack, philanthropist Laurance S. Rockefeller, and astronaut Edgar Mitchell In case after case related to UFO encounters and other unknown aerial phenomena (UAP), the same impasse is reached: testimony from witnesses on one side, dismissive responses from the authorities on the other. In the fertile void of this deadlock, however, lie extraordinary possibilities about the nature of mind and matter, spirit and soul, transforming the UFO into a celestial, metaphysical event. Focusing on the possibilities found by exploring both sides of the UFO debate, veteran UFO observer and reporter Keith Thompson shares profound insights and experiences from his several decades of research, revealing that the UFO phenomenon is decidedly real yet perhaps not what either side of the debate expects. He looks at UFOs as a genuine unknown, from outer space or manifesting from hidden dimensions, as well as the theories of skeptics and debunkers who insist that UFOs can be explained as hoaxes, hallucinations, or misidentified phenomena. He explores the modern flying saucer era against the backdrop of visionary experience—angelic visitations, near-death experiences, shamanic journeys, religious miracles, and fairy tales—and shows how UFOs are simultaneously physical and spiritual, presenting a form of intelligence capable of altering the perceptions of witnesses. Chronicling his own investigations into the UFO mystery, the author details how he introduced the late Harvard psychiatrist John Mack to accounts of alien abduction and how he was invited by philanthropist Laurance S. Rockefeller to lobby then-president Bill Clinton to disclose government-held UFO information. Sharing stories from his friendship with astronaut Edgar D. Mitchell, among others, the author recounts discussions on how best to interpret UFOs and non-ordinary phenomena of various kinds. Thompson reveals how the UFO phenomenon ultimately represents a call from the cosmos for humanity to open to greater dimensions of reality and recognize that our understanding of the universe is still far from complete.

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: *The Reliable Field Guide To UFO Science, Media And Data Sources* Stephen J. Dirac, 2022-07-29 What makes this UFO book different? The Reliable Field Guide to UFO Science, Media and Data Sources contains an incredible amount of research and source material, including: • What Proof Is Out there? • The Various Hypotheses and Phenomena • Relevant People, Science Experts, Programs and Projects • Research Organizations, Archives, Databases and Government Reports • 20th To Early 21st Century Researchers, Authors and Documentarians Remember, if you have been searching for an organized and holistic collection of data on this fascinating and divisive subject, The Reliable Field Guide to UFO Science, Media and Data Sources is the book you've been searching for. Not another UFO Book? This book is a complete and comprehensive 548 pages of solid resources and knowledge, not just on the subject of UFO's but also a deep dive into the various branches and related concepts such as the Starseed Hypothesis, the Sasquatch/Bigfoot Phenomenon, the Crop Circle Hypothesis, the Men In Black Hypothesis and many more. Is the TRUTH really out there? Exceptional claims require exceptional proofs however and the concept of Unidentified Flying Objects is no longer purely in the realms of science fiction/fantasy. Recently, with the latest improvements in image capturing and analytical technology and the proliferation of media and data sources we have acquired fantastic amounts of knowledge about the universe but still do not know how much more there is to be discovered. As J B S Haldane once said: 'The universe is not only stranger than we imagine, it is stranger than we can imagine.' It is only natural that an intelligent and inquisitive mind, fascinated by anomalous experiences, should eventually turn its attention to the UFO mystery. Whatever your position on UFO's, from total believer to a complete skeptic, it's always better to arm yourself with the most up-to-date information on what we currently know, what we think we know and the people and personalities behind the theories and explanations of the various phenomena. The Reliable Field Guide to UFO Science, Media and Data Sources recognizes that the concept of "UFO" must also incorporate the possibilities of a wider spectrum of Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena/UAP and explores these concepts and ideas thoroughly. This book takes a wide, holistic view of the subject and recognizes that the concept of "UFO" must also incorporate the possibilities of a wider spectrum of Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena/UAP.. USO, Unidentified Submerged Phenomena - Psychic Phenomena -

Paranormal - Survival of Consciousness after death - Sasquatch, Bigfoot - Government Black Programs, Conspiracies, USAP/Unacknowledged(waived) Special Access Programs - Breakaway civilization - Time Travel - Unknown Secret Histories of Humankind - Roswell and UFO Crash Retrievals - Government Cover-ups and Disinformation Programs - Remote Viewing - Ancient Cultures - UFO/UAP Hypotheses

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: Children's Past Lives Carol Bowman, 2012-02-01 Has your child lived before? In this fascinating, controversial, and groundbreaking book, Carol Bowman reveals overwhelming evidence of past life memories in children. Not only are such experiences real, they are far more common than most people realize. Bowman's extraordinary investigation was sparked when her young son, Chase, described his own past-life death on a Civil War battlefield--an account so accurate it was authenticated by an expert historian. Even more astonishing, Chase's chronic eczema and phobia of loud noises completely disappeared after he had the memory. Inspired by Chase's dramatic healing, Bowman compiled dozens of cases and wrote this comprehensive study to explain how very young children remember their past lives, spontaneously and naturally. In *Children's Past Lives*, she tells how to distinguish between a true past life memory and a fantasy, offers practical advice to parents on how to respond to a past life memory, and shows how to foster the spiritual and healing benefits of these experiences. Perhaps the most moving, convincing, and best-documented evidence yet for life after death, *Children's Past Lives* will stand alongside the classics of Betty J. Eadie, Raymond Moody, and Brian Weiss in its power to comfort, uplift, and transform our thinking about life after death

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: Insights in consciousness research 2021 Antonino Raffone, Narayanan Srinivasan, Luca Simione, Xerxes D. Arsiwalla, Johannes Kleiner, 2023-05-31

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: Past Life Healing Judy Sharp, 2022-10-27 Do we live many lives - and could trauma of the past still be affecting our health and wellbeing here and now? The author was completely healed of her own severe claustrophobia in one session and now has decades of professional experience helping others with issues such as fear of flying to stubborn weight gain or lost libido. The jury is out on regression therapy, with sceptics claiming that clients are simple 'making up stories'. It seems hard to believe, though, that the deeply relaxed non-rational mind could invent the level of detail described here, accompanied by powerful emotions and physical reactions. Is the client, rather, accessing an archetype, the collective unconscious or 'Akashic Records'? For the author, the bottom line is, simply, that in all cases the journeys proved effective in their healing. Her mantra is, "Find the root cause. Resolve it at source. Move on with your life."

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: *The Art of Ectoplasm* Serena Keshavjee, 2023-11-01 The legacy of the Hamiltons' psychic archive In the wake of the First World War and the 1918-19 pandemic, the world was left grappling with a profound sense of loss. It was against this backdrop that a Winnipeg couple, physician T.G. Hamilton and nurse Lillian Hamilton, began their research, documenting and photographing séances they held in their home laboratory. Their extensive study of the survival of human consciousness after death resulted in a stunning collection of hundreds of photographs, including images of tables flying through the air, mediums in trances, and, most curious of all, ectoplasm—a strange, white substance through which ghosts could apparently manifest. *The Art of Ectoplasm* invites readers to explore the Hamiltons' research and photographic evidence which has attracted international attention from scholars and artists alike. Notable figures like Arthur Conan Doyle participated in the Hamilton family's séances, and their investigations garnered support among the psychical scientific community, including renowned physicist Oliver Lodge, the inventor of wireless telegraphy. In the century since their creation, the Hamilton photographs (now housed at the University of Manitoba) have continued to perplex and inspire as the subject of academic study, comedic parody, and artistic and cinematic renderings. This fascinating collection reflects on the history and legacy of the startling and uncanny images found in the Hamilton Family archive. As contemporary society continues to feel the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, *The Art of Ectoplasm* offers a compelling look at a chapter in social history not

entirely unlike our own.

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: Navigating UFO/UAP: A Comprehensive Guide to the UFO/UAP Subject and Key Information Sources - A New 2024 Edition Timothy Clarke, 2023-12-20 This book informs and gives you a valuable analytical overview of the complex mosaic that makes up the subject where every combination is on display. As you flip through the pages, absorb the scale and sophistication of the private and governmental military and intelligence apparatus entangled in the UFO/UAP enigma. Browsing through the table of contents, you'll see a blend of an encyclopedia, history book, roadmap and primer on the subject. It's not just a bunch of facts; it's an exploration of the current and historical sources and the intriguing hypotheses buzzing around the topic. Chapter 5, The Various Hypotheses, is a 165-page deep dive into the many possibilities and is a book within a book. This book opens a portal into the perplexing universe of Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAP), promising to be your trusted guide through the intricacies of this captivating subject. As you delve into the table of contents, envision a blend of encyclopedia, history book, roadmap, and primer—an exploration designed to transcend mere facts. Chapter 5 The Various Hypotheses, delves 165 pages deep into the myriad of possibilities, a book within a book, unravelling the mysterious tapestry that is the UFO/UAP phenomena. Chapter after chapter, from the deep mysteries to the intricacies of government operations, this book aims to leave no stone unturned. It's an invitation to question, explore, and make sense of what could be the most exciting time in human history.

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: Living in a Mindful Universe Eben Alexander, Karen Newell, 2017-10-17 In 2008, Dr Eben Alexander's brain was severely damaged by a devastating case of bacterial meningitis, and he lapsed into a weeklong coma. It was almost certainly a death sentence, but Dr Alexander miraculously survived - and brought back with him an astounding story. During those seven days in coma, he was plunged into the deepest realms of consciousness, and came to understand profound truths about the universe we inhabit. What he learned changed everything he knew about the brain mind, and consciousness and drove him to ask a question confounding the entire scientific community: How do you explain the origins of consciousness if it is not a byproduct of the brain? In Living in a Mindful Universe, the New York Times bestselling author of Proof of Heaven and The Map of Heaven shares his insights into the true nature of consciousness. Embracing his radically new worldview, he began a committed program of personal exploration into non-local consciousness. Along the way, he met Karen Newell, who had spent most of her lifetime living the worldview he had only just discovered was possible. Her personal knowledge came from testing various techniques and theories as part of her daily routine. With Living in a Mindful Universe, they share techniques that can be used to tap into our greater mind and explore how the power of the heart can enhance healing, relationships, creativity, guidance and more. Using various modalities related to meditation and mindfulness described herein, you too can gain the power to access that infinite source of knowing so vital to us all.

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: The Myth of an Afterlife Michael Martin, Keith Augustine, 2015-03-12 Because every single one of us will die, most of us would like to know what—if anything—awaits us afterward, not to mention the fate of lost loved ones. Given the nearly universal vested interest in deciding this question in favor of an afterlife, it is no surprise that the vast majority of books on the topic affirm the reality of life after death without a backward glance. But the evidence of our senses and the ever-gaining strength of scientific evidence strongly suggest otherwise. In The Myth of an Afterlife: The Case against Life after Death, Michael Martin and Keith Augustine collect a series of contributions that redress this imbalance in the literature by providing a strong, comprehensive, and up-to-date casebook of the chief arguments against an afterlife. Divided into four separate sections, this collection opens with a broad overview of the issues, as contributors consider the strongest evidence of whether or not we survive death—in particular the biological basis of all mental states and their grounding in brain activity that ceases to function at death. Next, contributors consider a host of conceptual and empirical difficulties that confront the various ways of “surviving” death—from bodiless minds to bodily resurrection to any form of

posthumous survival. Then essayists turn to internal inconsistencies between traditional theological conceptions of an afterlife—heaven, hell, karmic rebirth—and widely held ethical principles central to the belief systems supporting those notions. In the final section, authors offer critical evaluations of the main types of evidence for an afterlife. Fully interdisciplinary, *The Myth of an Afterlife: The Case against Life after Death* brings together a variety of fields of research to make that case, including cognitiveneuroscience, philosophy of mind, personal identity, philosophy of religion, moralphilosophy, psychical research, and anomalistic psychology. As the definitive casebook of arguments against life after death, this collection is required reading for any instructor, researcher, and student of philosophy, religious studies, or theology. It issues to raise provocative issues new to readers, regardless of background, from those who believe fervently in the reality of an afterlife to those who do not or are undecided on the matter.

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: *La Révolution Sociétale* Dorsan Cogels, 2022-06-21 La révolution sociétale est un enjeu actuel majeur. À l'heure où les cadrans sont dans le rouge pour nous avertir qu'un changement de paradigme est la seule alternative pour pouvoir léguer un monde soutenable aux générations futures, cet ouvrage est un appel à la révolution des valeurs sur lesquelles se base notre société. Parce que la solution ne viendra pas d'en haut, chacun peut, et se doit, d'être un acteur du changement et militer activement et pacifiquement par ses choix et sa manière de vivre. Parce que le changement doit être vécu et que les solutions apportées se doivent d'être à la hauteur des enjeux auxquels fait face notre société, la mise en mouvement est ici encouragée en donnant de vraies solutions pratiques, des solutions qui permettent de se libérer de l'ancien système pour se mettre à construire le nouveau, en jouissant d'un bien vivre, d'un retour aux sources, à l'essentiel, au juste. La révolution sociétale est un changement de fond, de valeurs, de vision de la vie. Parce qu'il propose une analyse pragmatique ainsi que philosophico-spirituelle de la vie et de l'être humain, de son état naturel à son état en société, en plus d'un modèle de transition, de conseils et réflexions sur les aspects pratiques, cet ouvrage s'adresse à tous ceux qui sont ouverts et intéressés par le changement. Particulièrement si vous avez décidé de bouger, d'augmenter votre autonomie, votre résilience et votre qualité de vie en créant une communauté d'aventuriers révolutionnaires...

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: *Human and Machine Consciousness* David Gamez, 2018-03-07 Consciousness is widely perceived as one of the most fundamental, interesting and difficult problems of our time. However, we still know next to nothing about the relationship between consciousness and the brain and we can only speculate about the consciousness of animals and machines. *Human and Machine Consciousness* presents a new foundation for the scientific study of consciousness. It sets out a bold interpretation of consciousness that neutralizes the philosophical problems and explains how we can make scientific predictions about the consciousness of animals, brain-damaged patients and machines. Gamez interprets the scientific study of consciousness as a search for mathematical theories that map between measurements of consciousness and measurements of the physical world. We can use artificial intelligence to discover these theories and they could make accurate predictions about the consciousness of humans, animals and artificial systems. *Human and Machine Consciousness* also provides original insights into unusual conscious experiences, such as hallucinations, religious experiences and out-of-body states, and demonstrates how 'designer' states of consciousness could be created in the future. Gamez explains difficult concepts in a clear way that closely engages with scientific research. His punchy, concise prose is packed with vivid examples, making it suitable for the educated general reader as well as philosophers and scientists. Problems are brought to life in colourful illustrations and a helpful summary is given at the end of each chapter. The endnotes provide detailed discussions of individual points and full references to the scientific and philosophical literature.

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: *Angels in the Trenches* Dr Leo Ruickbie, 2020-01-21 After a miraculous escape from the German military juggernaut in the small Belgian town of Mons in 1914, the first major battle that the British Expeditionary Force would face in the First World War, the British really believed that they were on the side of the angels. Indeed, after

1916, the number of spiritualist societies in the United Kingdom almost doubled, from 158 to 309. As Arthur Conan Doyle explained, 'The deaths occurring in almost every family in the land brought a sudden and concentrated interest in the life after death. People not only asked the question, If a man die, shall he live again? but they eagerly sought to know if communication was possible with the dear ones they had lost.' From the Angel of Mons to the popular boom in spiritualism as the horrors of industrialised warfare reaped their terrible harvest, the paranormal - and its use in propaganda - was one of the key aspects of the First World War. *Angels in the Trenches* takes us from defining moments, such as the Angel of Mons on the Front Line, to spirit communication on the Home Front, often involving the great and the good of the period, such as aristocrat Dame Edith Lytton, founder of the War Refugees Committee, and the physicist Sir Oliver Lodge, Principal of Birmingham University. We see here people at every level of society struggling to come to terms with the ferocity and terror of the war, and their own losses: soldiers looking for miracles on the battlefield; parents searching for lost sons in the séance room. It is a human story of people forced to look beyond the apparent certainties of the everyday - and this book follows them on that journey.

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: *Hunt for the Skinwalker* Colm A. Kelleher, George Knapp, 2005-12-06 The author of the controversial bestseller *Brain Trust* brings his scientific expertise to the chilling true story of unexplained phenomena on Utah's Skinwalker Ranch -- and challenges us with a new vision of reality. For more than fifty years, the bizarre events at a remote Utah ranch have ranged from the perplexing to the wholly terrifying. Vanishing and mutilated cattle. Unidentified Flying Objects. The appearance of huge, otherworldly creatures. Invisible objects emitting magnetic fields with the power to spark a cattle stampede. Flying orbs of light with dazzling maneuverability and lethal consequences. For one family, life on the Skinwalker Ranch had become a life under siege by an unknown enemy or enemies. Nothing else could explain the horrors that surrounded them -- perhaps science could. Leading a first-class team of research scientists on a disturbing odyssey into the unknown, Colm Kelleher spent hundreds of days and nights on the Skinwalker property and experienced firsthand many of its haunting mysteries. With investigative reporter George Knapp -- the only journalist allowed to witness and document the team's work -- Kelleher chronicles in superb detail the spectacular happenings the team observed personally, and the theories of modern physics behind the phenomena. Far from the coldly detached findings one might expect, their conclusions are utterly hair-raising in their implications. Opening a door to the unseen world around us, *Hunt for the Skinwalker* is a clarion call to expand our vision far beyond what we know.

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: *Comparing Religions* Jeffrey J. Kripal, Ata Anzali, Andrea R. Jain, Erin Prophet, Stefan Sanchez, 2024-03-25 Teaches students the art and practice of comparison in the globalizing world, fully updated to reflect recent scholarship and major developments in the field *Comparing Religions: The Study of Us that Changes Us* is a wholly original, absorbing, and provocative reimagining of the comparative study of religion in the 21st century. The first textbook of its kind to foreground the extraordinary or "paranormal" aspects of religious experience, this innovative volume reviews the fundamental tenets of the world's religions, discusses the benefits and problems of comparative inquiry, explores how the practice can impact a person's worldview and values, and much more. Asserting that religions have always engaged in comparing one another, the authors provide insights into the history, trends, debates, and questions of explicit comparativism in the modern world. Easily accessible chapters examine the challenges of studying religion using a comparative approach rather than focusing on religious identity, inspiring students to think seriously about religious pluralism as they engage in comparative practice. Throughout the text, a wealth of diverse case studies and vivid illustrations are complemented by chapter outlines, summaries, toolkits, discussion questions, and other learning features. Substantially updated with new and revised material, the second edition of *Comparing Religions: Draws from both comparative work and critical theory to present a well-balanced introduction to contemporary practice Explains classic comparative themes, provides a historical outline of comparative practices, and offers key strategies for understanding, analyzing, and re-reading*

religion Draws on a wide range of religious traditions to illustrate the complexity and efficacy of comparative practice Embraces the transcendent nature of the religious experience in all its forms, including in popular culture, film, and television Contains a classroom-proven, three-part structure with easy-to-digest, thematically organized chapters Features a companion website with information on individual religious traditions, additional images, a glossary, discussion questions, and links to supplementary material Comparing Religions: The Study of Us that Changes Us, Second Edition, is the perfect textbook for undergraduate students and faculty in comparative religion, the study of religion, and world religions, as well as a valuable resource for general readers interested in understanding this rewarding area.

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: Surviving Death Leslie Kean, 2018-03-06 THE INSPIRATION FOR THE NETFLIX ORIGINAL SERIES • An impeccably researched, page-turning investigation, revealing stunning and wide-ranging evidence suggesting that consciousness survives death, from New York Times bestselling author Leslie Kean “An engaging, personal, and transformative journey that challenges the skeptic and informs us all.”—Harold E. Puthoff, Ph.D., director of the Institute for Advanced Studies at Austin In this groundbreaking book, award-winning journalist and New York Times bestselling author Leslie Kean investigates the unexplained continuity of the human psyche after death. Here, Kean explores the most compelling case studies of young children reporting verifiable details from past lives, contemporary mediums who seem to defy the boundaries of the brain and of the physical world, apparitions providing information about their lives on earth, and people who die and then come back to report journeys into another dimension. Based on facts and scientific studies, *Surviving Death* includes fascinating chapters by medical doctors, psychiatrists, and PhDs from four countries. As a seasoned reporter whose work transcends belief systems and ideology, Kean enriches the narrative by including her own unexpected, confounding experiences encountered while she probed the question concerning all of us: Do we survive death?

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: Non-Ordinary Mental Expressions Etzel Cardeña, Enrico Facco, 2015-03-16 Nothing provided

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: The Map of Heaven Eben Alexander, 2014-10-07 The author of the #1 New York Times bestseller *Proof of Heaven* teams up with the sages of times past, modern scientists, and with ordinary people who have had profound spiritual experiences to show the reality of heaven and our true identities as spiritual beings. When Dr. Eben Alexander told the story of his near-death experience and his vivid journey to the other side, many readers wrote to say it resonated with them profoundly. Thanks to them, Dr. Alexander realized that sharing his story allowed people to rediscover what so many in ancient times knew: there is more to life, and to the universe, than this single earthly life. Dr. Alexander and his coauthor Ptolemy Tompkins were surprised to see how often his readers' visions of the afterlife synced up with each other and with those of the world's spiritual leaders, as well as its philosophers and scientists. In *The Map of Heaven*, he shares the stories people have told him and shows how they are echoed both in the world's faiths and in its latest scientific insights. It turns out there is much agreement, across time and terrain, about the journey of the soul and its survival beyond death. In this book, Dr. Alexander makes the case for heaven as a genuine place, showing how we have forgotten, but are now at last remembering, who we really are and what our destiny truly is. *The Map of Heaven* takes the broad view to reveal how modern science is on the verge of the most profound revolution in recorded history—all around the phenomenon of consciousness itself!

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: Soul Survivor Andrea Leininger, Bruce Leininger, 2009-08-03 James Leininger was just two years old when he began having disturbing nightmares that would not stop. He screamed out in the night: 'Plane on fire! Little man can't get out!' While nightmares are common among children, what happened next shocked those around him... James began to reveal details of planes and war tragedies that no two-year-old boy could know. His desperate parents were at a loss to help him until he said three things: 'Corsair', 'Natoma' and 'Jack Larsen'. From these tantalising clues, James's parents travelled thousands of miles and

spent many long years piecing together these facts to try and find an answer that could end his torment. Finally, despite his mother's fears and his father's staunch Christian beliefs, they found only one possibility to the endless coincidences that surrounded every detail in James's life – that their son was reliving the past life of a World War II fighter pilot. Their touching story is one that will challenge sceptics and confirm the beliefs of those who already believe in life after death.

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: Return From Heaven Carol Bowman, 2003-04-29 What if you could see a loved one who has died, not in a future spiritual realm, but here and now, in this lifetime? It is possible, says Carol Bowman, author of *Children's Past Lives* and a pioneer in reincarnation studies. Based on in-depth research and direct observation of very young children, she shows in this groundbreaking book how common it is for beloved relatives to reincarnate into the same family. Typical families share how their children -- some as young as two and still in diapers -- speak spontaneously of intimate details from the lives of a family member they never knew. These true stories shed new light on age-old questions of family relationships: Do we choose our parents? What relationships survive death? What happens to the soul after a miscarriage or abortion? Bowman offers hope for anyone who has lost a beloved relative and longs to be reunited again.

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: *Schnittstelle Tod* Walter van Laack, 2024-03-12 Seit nunmehr 14 Jahren findet im Dreiländereck Aachen regelmäßig eine Tagung zu Nahtoderfahrungen (NTE) und, ganz allgemein, zur Thematik Leben und Tod statt. Natürlich geht es dabei immer um die entscheidende Frage, ist unser Tod tatsächlich unser definitives Ende, wie es nach-wie-vor noch eine zumindest nach außen in die Öffentlichkeit getragene Überzeugung der meisten Naturwissenschaftler zu sein scheint, oder gibt es vielleicht doch ein Danach? Darüber referierten und diskutierten im November 2023 in Aachen erneut Naturwissenschaftler, Theologen, Philosophen und Mediziner, genauso wie NTE-Betroffene (oder besser 'Beschenkte') sowie auch Vertreter esoterischer Gruppen mit erneut vielen Teilnehmern im Auditorium. Entscheidend für die Auswahl der Referenten ist allein die Authentizität, mit der sie ihre Argumente und, wie durchaus natürlich gewünscht, auch polarisierenden Überzeugungen vorbringen. Gerade diese Vielfalt hat die Aachener Seminarreihe von Beginn an und bis heute immer wieder ausgezeichnet. Das diesjährige Symposium trug den Untertitel Ist die Menschheit zu retten ohne Vertrauen auf ein Danach? Der Untertitel ist das Ergebnis wohl manch unglaublicher und für sehr viele oft kaum noch nachvollziehbarer (gesellschafts-) politischer Entwicklungen vor allem in den letzten Jahren. Mittlerweile scheint es deshalb immer dringender, sich den Grundfragen zu Leben und Tod zu widmen; ohnehin betrifft es jeden Einzelnen früher oder später unmittelbar.

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: The Science of Effective Mentorship in STEMM National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Policy and Global Affairs, Board on Higher Education and Workforce, Committee on Effective Mentoring in STEMM, 2020-01-24 Mentorship is a catalyst capable of unleashing one's potential for discovery, curiosity, and participation in STEMM and subsequently improving the training environment in which that STEMM potential is fostered. Mentoring relationships provide developmental spaces in which students' STEMM skills are honed and pathways into STEMM fields can be discovered. Because mentorship can be so influential in shaping the future STEMM workforce, its occurrence should not be left to chance or idiosyncratic implementation. There is a gap between what we know about effective mentoring and how it is practiced in higher education. The Science of Effective Mentorship in STEMM studies mentoring programs and practices at the undergraduate and graduate levels. It explores the importance of mentorship, the science of mentoring relationships, mentorship of underrepresented students in STEMM, mentorship structures and behaviors, and institutional cultures that support mentorship. This report and its complementary interactive guide present insights on effective programs and practices that can be adopted and adapted by institutions, departments, and individual faculty members.

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: Return from Tomorrow George G. Ritchie, Elizabeth Sherrill, 2023-01-31 The True Story of an Uncharted Journey Through the Afterlife As a

world war raged around him, a young soldier named George Ritchie barely comprehended his own death as he left the physical world--only to return minutes later. Yet in the space between death and coming back to life, he experienced eternity. In this riveting true story, Dr. George Ritchie shares some of the most stunning and detailed descriptions of life after death. You'll encounter other non-physical beings, travel through different dimensions of time and space, and discover a series of worlds--some hellish in their separation from life, some glorious in their heavenly brilliance. But most amazingly, you'll witness his transformational meeting with the Light of the world, the Son of God. Hailed as one of the most amazing visions of the afterlife ever recorded, Ritchie's experience forever changed the course of his life and his understanding of the realm beyond our own--and it can do the same for you.

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: *Witchcraft Out of the Shadows* Leo Ruickbie, 2011 This history of witchcraft traces its origins from ancient Greece to the present day and its development into the modern religion of Wicca. The author explores the ideas we have about witchcraft and how today it has been transformed into one of the most radical and fastest growing religions.

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: *The Believer* Ralph Blumenthal, 2021 The Believer is the weird and chilling true story of Dr. John Mack. This eminent Harvard psychiatrist and Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer risked his career to investigate the phenomenon of human encounters with aliens and to give credibility to the stupefying tales shared by people who were utterly convinced they had happened. Nothing in Mack's four decades of psychiatry had prepared him for the otherworldly accounts of a cross section of humanity including young children who reported being taken against their wills by alien beings. Over the course of his career his interest in alien abduction grew from curiosity to wonder, ultimately developing into a limitless, unwavering passion. Based on exclusive access to Mack's archives, journals, and psychiatric notes and interviews with his family and closest associates, The Believer reveals the life and work of a man who explored the deepest of scientific conundrums and further leads us to the hidden dimensions and alternate realities that captivated Mack until the end of his life.

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: *Supernormal* Dean Radin PhD, 2013-07-16 Can yoga and meditation unleash our inherent supernormal mental powers, such as telepathy, clairvoyance, and precognition? Is it really possible to perceive another person's thoughts and intentions? Influence objects with our minds? Envision future events? And is it possible that some of the superpowers described in ancient legends, science fiction, and comic books are actually real, and patiently waiting for us behind the scenes? Are we now poised for an evolutionary trigger to pull the switch and release our full potentials? Dean Radin, Director of Research at the Institute of Noetic Sciences (IONS) and bestselling author of The Conscious Universe, presents persuasive new experimental evidence for the existence of such phenomena. He takes us on a thrilling scientific journey and challenges outdated assumptions that these abilities are mere superstition. Focusing on Patanjali's mysterious Yoga Sutras -- 2,000 year-old meditation practices believed to release our extraordinary powers -- Radin offers powerful evidence confirming that sometimes fact is much stranger, spookier, and more wonderful than the wildest fiction.

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: *The Feeling of Value* Sharon Rawlette, 2016-06-25 Winner of New York University's Dean's Outstanding Dissertation Award This revolutionary treatise starts from one fundamental premise: that our phenomenal consciousness includes direct experience of value. For too long, ethical theorists have looked for value in external states of affairs or reduced value to a projection of the mind onto these same external states of affairs. The result, unsurprisingly, is widespread antirealism about ethics. In this book, Sharon Hewitt Rawlette turns our metaethical gaze inward and dares us to consider that value, rather than being something out there, is a quality woven into the very fabric of our conscious experience, in a highly objective way. On this view, our experiences of pleasure and pain, joy and sorrow, ecstasy and despair are not signs of value or disvalue. They are instantiations of value and disvalue. When we feel pleasure, we are feeling intrinsic goodness itself. And it is from such feelings, argues Rawlette,

that we derive the basic content of our normative concepts—that we understand what it means for something to be intrinsically good or bad. Rawlette thus defends a version of analytic descriptivism. And argues that this view, unlike previous theories of moral realism, has the resources to explain where our concept of intrinsic value comes from and how we know when it objectively applies, as well as why we sometimes make mistakes in applying it. She defends this view against G. E. Moore's Open Question Argument as well as shows how these basic facts about intrinsic value can ground facts about instrumental value and value all things considered. Ultimately, her view offers us the possibility of a robust metaphysical and epistemological justification for many of our strongest moral convictions.

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: Eyewitness Testimony Elizabeth F. Loftus, 1996 By shedding light on the many factors that can intervene and create inaccurate testimony, Elizabeth Loftus illustrates how memory can be radically altered by the way an eyewitness is questioned, and how new memories can be implanted and old ones changed in subtle ways.

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: Descartes' Error Antonio Damasio, 2005-09-27 An ambitious and meticulous foray into the nature of being. -- The Boston Globe A landmark exploration of the relationship between emotion and reason Since Descartes famously proclaimed, I think, therefore I am, science has often overlooked emotions as the source of a person's true being. Even modern neuroscience has tended, until recently, to concentrate on the cognitive aspects of brain function, disregarding emotions. This attitude began to change with the publication of Descartes' Error in 1995. Antonio Damasio—one of the world's leading neurologists (The New York Times)—challenged traditional ideas about the connection between emotions and rationality. In this wondrously engaging book, Damasio takes the reader on a journey of scientific discovery through a series of case studies, demonstrating what many of us have long suspected: emotions are not a luxury, they are essential to rational thinking and to normal social behavior.

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: Near-death Experiences John Martin Fischer, Benjamin Mitchell-Yellin, 2016 Near-Death Experiences gives an account of the profound meaning and striking transformative effects that near-death experiences engender. They argue that the integrity of scientific inquiry is compatible with genuine understanding of the significance of human spirituality.

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: Nahtoderfahrungen – Blick in eine andere Welt Wolfgang Knüll, 2023-06-23 Der Begriff »Nahtoderfahrung« ist inzwischen vielen Menschen geläufig und dennoch haben die meisten nur eine diffuse Vorstellung, um was es dabei geht. Das vorliegende Buch versteht sich daher als eine Art Nachschlagewerk zum Thema: eine kurze und knappe, dennoch ausreichend ausführliche, wissenschaftlich begründete Zusammenfassung zum Stand der Forschung und den Möglichkeiten, diese Erfahrungen zu interpretieren. Somit kann es nicht nur Menschen, die eine Nahtoderfahrung gemacht haben, helfen, diese einzuordnen und zu verarbeiten, sondern auch Ärzt:innen und den Mitarbeitenden im Gesundheitswesen und Hospizen sowie all jenen, die kürzlich einen nahen Angehörigen verloren haben, oder unheilbar kranken Patienten und ihren Familien.

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: Reinkarnation Grundwissen Nils Horn, 2022-03-10 Eine einfache Einführung in das Wissen von der Reinkarnation. Ist eine Wiedergeburt möglich? Was sagen die Reinkarnationsforschung, die Nahtodberichte und die Menschen mit übersinnlichen Fähigkeiten dazu? Als Yogi kenne ich meine früheren Leben. Sie tauchten im Laufe meines spirituellen Reinigungsprozesses in Form von Träumen und Visionen auf. Daraus kann ich viele Erkenntnisse über den Weg der Reinkarnation ableiten.

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: The Full Extent Richard Botelho, 2022

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: Rethinking Ethnic Studies R. Tolteka Cuauhtin, Miguel Zavala, Christine E. Sleeter, Wayne Au, 2019 As part of a growing nationwide movement to bring Ethnic Studies into K-12 classrooms, Rethinking Ethnic Studies brings together many of the leading teachers, activists, and scholars in this movement to offer examples of Ethnic Studies frameworks, classroom practices, and organizing at the school, district, and statewide levels. Built

around core themes of indigeneity, colonization, anti-racism, and activism, Rethinking Ethnic Studies offers vital resources for educators committed to the ongoing struggle for racial justice in our schools.

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: De bedst tilgængelige beviser for at menneskets bevidsthed overlever døden Else Byskov, 2021-11-27 Denne bog præsenterer beviserne for den menneskelige bevidstheds overlevelse af døden på den kortest mulige måde. Det er en hurtig genvej til at forstå, hvad bevidstheden er, hvordan den overlever den fysiske krops død, hvor den kommer hen, og hvordan den kommer tilbage via reinkarnationsprocessen. Bogen forklarer, hvordan reinkarnation finder sted via den helt afgørende rolle, som den indkommende sjæls bevidsthed spiller under fosterdannelsen. Den afslører, hvordan vores talenter er et uigendriveligt bevis på, at vi har levet før, og den forklarer vores evolutionære rejse gennem evigheden.

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: Inspiration, Konspiration, Evolution Mathias Bröckers, 2024-06-10 Hat die Natur ein Gedächtnis? Können Tomaten träumen? Ist die Erde intelligent? Und wie konspirativ ging es beim Beginn des Lebens auf der Erde zu? Das sind nur einige der Fragen, denen die Berichte aus dem Überall nachgehen. Mit diesem Best of Bröckers von Gaia über Eleusis bis Goethe, über das Wunder des Bewusstseins und den Weltraum der Seele, Rupert Sheldrakes morphische Felder und Terrence McKennas sprechende Pilze, über Schach, Paranoia, Bobby Fischer, Bob Dylan, LSD und, und, und, schickt der Autor unseren Geist auf eine faszinierende Reise. Bitte einsteigen und abfahren.

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: *The Source and Significance of Coincidences* Sharon Hewitt Rawlette, 2019-05-15 An evidence-based investigation of coincidence and synchronicity that will leave skeptics and believers alike ruminating for years to come.

bigelow institute for consciousness studies: Steps to an Ecology of Mind Gregory Bateson, 2000 Gregory Bateson was a philosopher, anthropologist, photographer, naturalist, and poet, as well as the husband and collaborator of Margaret Mead. This classic anthology of his major work includes a new Foreword by his daughter, Mary Katherine Bateson. 5 line drawings.

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