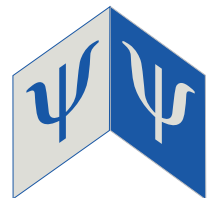


Biennial Report 2022–2023



Institut für Grenzgebiete der Psychologie
und Psychohygiene e.V. (IGPP)
Freiburg im Breisgau

Biennial Report 2022–2023

Institut für Grenzgebiete
der Psychologie
und Psychohygiene
Freiburg i. Br.

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Preface

The Institute for Frontier Areas of Psychology and Mental Health (IGPP) is a private, non-profit research institute, that was founded in 1950 by Prof. Dr. Hans Bender (1907–1991). It is supported by a non-profit association whose members represent various disciplines in the cultural, social and natural sciences, including medicine. The IGPP is concerned with research into previously insufficiently understood phenomena and anomalies that can occur in the interaction of the human mind with the material world and which reveal the limits of our knowledge.

The Institute offers a broad-based, free information, education and advice service for people with exceptional (paranormal) experiences and phenomena (“Psychohygiene” / “Mental Health”). In addition, together with the Freiburg University Library, it maintains an internationally unique research library “Parapsychology and Frontier Areas of Psychology” with currently 69,000 volumes and 150 journals, as well as a research archive with unique written, audio and visual material and numerous bequests.

The IGPP organizes a public colloquium with scientific lectures on topics of its interdisciplinary research program. The lectures are usually streamed online, thus enabling international participation. Numerous video recordings of past lectures are available on the Institute’s YouTube platform (<https://www.youtube.com/@igppfreiburg2985/videos>).

The IGPP is involved in university teaching and the supervision of Bachelor’s, Master’s and doctoral theses. It has also been cooperating with numerous universities and research institutions in Germany and abroad for many years.

Since its foundation, the IGPP has positioned itself and its research topics on a fine line between unwavering belief in the reality of experiences and phenomena experienced as extraordinary on the one hand and stubborn skepticism and even massive rejection or ignorance on the other. The IGPP itself is ideologically neutral and institutionally independent. Nevertheless, the research and advisory work in this controversial field, which is surrounded by prejudices, is only possible because the Institute is financed by private foundations.

This biennial report covers the reporting period of 2022 and 2023. On July 1, 2022, the institute’s management changed from Prof. Dr. Stefan Schmidt to PD Dr. Jürgen Kornmeier. The following report provides an insight into the multidisciplinary research approaches and areas of work pursued at the IGPP and summarizes the most important results and events from the reporting period of 2022 and 2023. In doing so, we hope to

stimulate scientific discourse on how we humans can deal with the frontier cases of our everyday lives and gain insight into the underlying mechanisms.

Freiburg, March 2024

PD Dr. rer. nat. Jürgen Kornmeier

1. History

The scientific exploration of phenomena and experiences at the frontier areas of our knowledge has a long tradition in Freiburg. The Institute for Frontier Areas of Psychology and Mental Health (IGPP) contributed significantly to this. Its founder, Professor Dr. Dr. Hans Bender (1907–1991) was probably the best known and the most popular academic representative of German parapsychology after the Second World War. Shortly after the war, Hans Bender began to establish an Institute in the “Eichhalde 12” building in Freiburg-Herdern (Fig. 1, Fig. 2). There, operations began in 1950 and he was the Institute’s director until his death. Soon, a connection with the university was established; between 1954 and 1975, Bender held a Professorship of Psychology and its Frontier Areas at the Department of Psychology at the University of Freiburg. His successor Prof. Dr. Johannes Mischo (1930–2001) held this chair until 1998 in personal union with the management of the IGPP until 2001. After the death of Prof. Mischo in 2001, the management of the institute was passed to Prof. Dr. Dieter Vaitl, University of Gießen, who steered the fortunes of the institute until the end of 2020. Professor Vaitl was succeeded by endowed professor Dr. Stefan Schmidt as director of the institute for 1.5 years, from 2021 to mid-2022. Since July 2022, PD Dr. Jürgen Kornmeier has been Institute Director and Prof. Bender’s former assistant, Dipl.-Psych. Eberhard Bauer, his deputy. Historically, the “Eichhalde-Era” can be seen as the heroic time of the Institute: Until the mid/end eighties of the last century, it was highly influenced by the charismatic personality of Hans Bender, who was seen as the Parapsychology Professor (“Spook-Professor”) par excellence. Bender’s lectures and seminars at the University of Freiburg gained legendary status with generations of students. Several hundred auditors followed his Tuesday lectures at the university fascinated and amused about his enthralling elab-



Fig. 1. The IGPP around 1955.

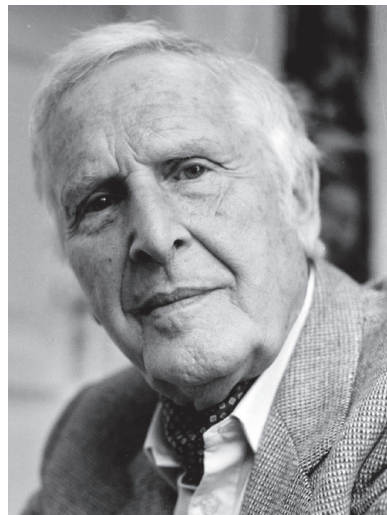


Fig. 2. Hans Bender around 1980.

orations of the future, based on well-documented prophetic dreams, or of haunting research, such as the Rosenheim case. Bender never tired of pointing out that uncommon (paranormal) experiences and occurrences (psi phenomena) are basic human features and that they belong to human life, deserving to be researched in detail. Besides establishing this scientific program in the canon of psychological disciplines, he contributed with his intensive public work to the fact that the frontier areas of psychology became popular and found entrance into the academic discourse. The financial and personnel resources of the institute were very modest at first and were financed mainly by the foundation of the Swiss biologist and parapsychologist Dr. Fanny Moser (1872



Fig. 3. Fanny Moser around 1920.

-1953) (Fig. 3). The team at that time consisted of a maximum of two to three employees, usually with a degree in psychology, who shared all facets of the institute's daily work – research, advice and information – as “generalists”. The financial shortage surrounding the research of the frontier areas, changed in 1992, when the IGPP started to be financially support by the Holler Foundation, leading to an expansion of the previous fields of research. The spouses Holler had already decided in the 60's that their assets should fall to a charitable foundation. Asta Holler (1904–1989) (Fig. 7), who outlived her husband by 20 years, provided with her will assets, which should allow time unlimited benefits. In September 1990, one year after Asta Holler's death, the foundation started work. Heidrun Edelmann wrote an overview worth reading about the Holler-Foundation with the title „Vermögen als Vermächtnis. Leben und Werk der Stifter Christian und Asta Holler“ (München: Oldenburg, 2011). The significantly improved financial situation allowed an expansion and at the same time called for a restructuring of the Institute. With the growing number of research projects including international cooperation and scientific personnel from natural, social, and cultural sciences, the Eichhalde-Institute was left and the Institute moved into the city center.

Between 2002 and 2009, the annual grants from foundations decreased significantly, partly due to the financial crisis, so that current research projects are largely dependent on donations and the successful acquisition of third-party funding. Today, the IGPP and its research is the focal point of very different scientific cultures.

Eberhard Bauer

My fifty – and more – years at the Freiburg IGPP – a personal review

„Wohl kamst du durch; so ging es allenfalls. / Mach's einer nach und breche nicht den Hals.“
J. W. v. Goethe: *Zahme Xenien*, 7

I

It all began on a cold winter evening in 1966. I was 22 years old and studying medicine at the University of Freiburg im Breisgau when I met a “real” parapsychologist for the first time in my life – his name was Hans Bender, and he was a psychology professor at this very university, where he had regularly given an introductory lecture on the development, methods, results and problems of parapsychological research “for students of all faculties” (as it was called at the time) since the mid-1950s as part of his usual academic teaching duties. A group of medical students who – like me – was taking part in “Dissection Course I” in the anatomy department had drawn my attention to Bender’s parapsychology lectures – a “must” – at the dissection table. At that time, I did not yet know that this encounter with Hans Bender would have a decisive influence on my future personal and professional life.



Fig. 4. Illustration from the special issue of the *Zeitschrift für Parapsychologie und Grenzgebiete der Psychologie* on Hans Bender’s 80th birthday (Jg. 29, Nr. 1–4, 1987).

Of course, I soon realized why Bender's lectures and seminars have become legendary for generations of Freiburg students, and why I am still asked about them many years after Bender's death – he died in 1991 at the age of 84. "Bender's Fairy Tale Hour", as the tongue-in-cheek student slogan of the time went, was the name of his Tuesday lecture, which traditionally took place between 6 and 7 pm in the university auditorium (and to which Bender used to arrive with an obligatory delay of around 10-15 minutes – hence the name "1 Bender" among his colleagues). It was always attended by several hundred listeners – not only students of the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and medicine, but also the general public from Freiburg and the surrounding area, including France and Switzerland. For many listeners, Bender evoked an incomparable mixture of amusement and fascination when, as an FAZ journalist once aptly described it, "in the always darkened lecture hall, set in a mysterious light by the desk lamp alone", he reported on experiences, phenomena and occurrences beyond all familiar categories of the everyday world – "parapsychology at its best".

On such occasions, Bender's charisma could unfold an almost suggestive power, and many listeners sensed that this was not just a dry lecture on a standard subject, but that someone was standing behind what he was saying with the full force of his personality. At the end of these lectures, a group of adepts and curious people would always gather around Bender and bombard him with descriptions of personal experiences or detailed questions about the lecture material – Including me. My insistent questions, which revealed a certain amount of background knowledge, seemed to please him, and so he invited me to visit him at his 'Institute for Frontier Areas of Psychology and Mental Health' – today abbreviated to IGPP e.V. – and to consult the library there to quench my thirst for knowledge. And so, in January 1967, I entered the Bender "Eichhalde Institute" (named after the location of the building, "Eichhalde 12") for the first time, which was to become the center of my professional life for decades to come. One of the Bender anecdotes often told later was that he had chosen this elevated site in the Herdern district of Freiburg because of its special view – a wide vista to the west over the Rhine plain – and its "magical" qualities – hence the popular expression "magic hill".

Of course, parapsychological topics and Bender's name were not entirely new to me. Before I switched to medicine, I had studied history, philosophy and literature at the University of Tübingen for three years – until the "Philosophikum" – and I remember studying two parapsychological journals with growing interest at that time, which were on display in the reading room of the Tübingen University Library. One was the *Zeitschrift für Parapsychologie und Grenzgebiete der Psychologie*, founded by Bender in 1957 and edited by him, the other was a more popular journal *Neue Wissenschaft*, edited at the time by Bender's assistant, Johannes Mischo (1930–2001), his later successor as director of the institute. And finally, I had already come across the paperback *Telepathie, Hellsehen, Praekognition* written by the Munich philosopher Anton Neuhäusler (1919–1997), when I was a student in Tübingen. I was impressed when I read it because it described the methodological and epistemological problems of parapsychological or psi research very



Fig. 5. Gerard Croiset, Eberhard Bauer and Hans Bender at the „Eichhalde Institute“.

clearly. Neuhäusler, I learned, was one of the scientists who – together with Hans Bender – had investigated the Dutch “sensitive” and “paragnost” Gerard Croiset (1909–1980) (Fig. 5). His paranormal achievements included the so-called “place experiments”, the basic idea of which consisted of Croiset making predictions in his home town of Utrecht about external characteristics or striking incidents from the life history of people who would, for example, sit on certain randomly drawn chairs at events in Germany 14 days later. Neuhäusler used his own examples to discuss the methodological-empirical problem of whether Croiset’s precognitive statements were specific enough to clearly identify the later target person and thus provide “proof of evidence”.

II

The villa-like institute building on the Eichhalde, inaugurated on June 19, 1950 – five years after the end of the Second World War in the still heavily war-damaged city of Freiburg – was Bender’s very own creation. For decades, under his direction (and with the collaboration of Lotte Böhringer, the institute’s managing director), it became a center for lively research, information and educational activities in Germany (and Europe), to which countless people seeking advice and help turned. A considerable number of those scientists at home and abroad who were actively involved in parapsychological research

up until the 1980s gained their first impressions of this research through a visit to the Bender Institute. A never-ending stream of visitors from all over the world praised the view over the Rhine valley and the hospitality of the institute's director. And I too soon felt the specific "atmosphere" of this place, the unmistakable "Eichhalde feeling", if you will. The visitors I subsequently came into contact with included mediums and magicians, astrologers and ufologists, dowzers and diviners, witches and healers, gurus and charlatans, spiritistic believers and hard-core skeptics, the mentally ill and serious scientists, school classes and student groups, television crews and hardened journalists – they all came to Freiburg to see and talk to the famous professor.

On Bender's advice, I began studying psychology and completed a research internship at the Institute in the summer of 1967. One of my first tasks was to help the "boss", as he was known to the small team at the Institute at the time, answer a never-ending stream of letters from all over the world, covering all facets and shades of the spectrum of spiritism, occultism and parapsychology – from "simple" cases of "crisis telepathy" to barely legible, numerous pages of handwritten SOS calls along the lines of "Professor, please help me, I'm being mentally and physically tortured day and night by hypnotists in the house next door!!!" This was an endurance test that every "newcomer" to the institute had to pass! Early on, Bender gave me the opportunity to be present during his discussions with the numerous visitors or to accompany him as an *adlatus* while he visited haunted cases "on site". And then, of course, there were the inexhaustible treasures of the institute's library, which I could delve into. In fact, it was Bender who gave me the 'homework', so to speak, to write a review essay of Max Dessoir's (1867–1947) well-known book *Vom Jenseits der Seele*, which was published in 1967 as an identical reprint of the sixth edition. This work by the Berlin university professor of philosophy, who was very well known in the Weimar period and who had already coined the word "parapsychology" as a 22-year-old student (!) in 1889, was representative of the skeptical and reserved attitude of academic science at the time with regard to the "secret sciences". Dessoir included "parapsychology" (including dreams and hypnosis, telepathy and clairvoyance as well as psychic automatisms), "paraphysics" (physical mediumship) and finally cabbalism, christian science and anthroposophy. This intensive study of Dessoir's work and thus the early history of parapsychology resulted in my first "parapsychological" publication, published in 1967 in the Institute's in-house journal.

In 1970, when I was still a psychology student, Bender entrusted me with the tasks of managing editor of this very journal, thus showing a considerable leap of faith in my still unproven editorial skills (Fig. 6). And in 1972, after completing my psychology degree, I formally took on the only assistant position at his then still existing Chair of Psychology and Frontier Areas of Psychology at the University of Freiburg. In the early 1970s, Hans Bender was one of the most prominent representatives of academic parapsychology worldwide and was at the height of his popularity in Germany. In 1967, Bender's previous adjunct professorship was converted into a full professorship for Psychology and Frontier Areas of Psychology and a university department of the Institute of Psy-

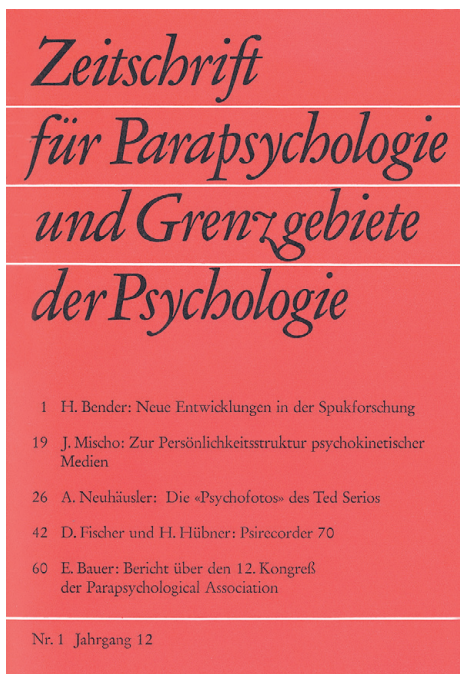


Fig. 6. *Zeitschrift für Parapsychologie und Grenzgebiete der Psychologie*, Jg. 12, Nr. 1, 1970.

generalist”, which covered all the important aspects of the Institute’s work – i.e. research, consultancy and information in frontier areas. This included, for example, investigating paranormal spontaneous cases, participating in field research (e.g. “haunted phenomena”) or conducting qualitative psychokinesis experiments, providing information and advice to people who reported unusual, anomalistic or paranormal experiences and phenomena – which often included difficult people seeking advice who were psychologically conspicuous or belonged to the psychopathological category –, answering countless letters and phone calls (journalists!), editing a specialist journal and finally maintaining and expanding the research library for parapsychology and frontier areas of psychology, which was funded by the DFG (German Research Foundation) for many years and whose holdings now belong to Freiburg University Library.

All these facets of work reflected the founding mission of the IGPP, which had pursued three goals from the outset: (1) Broad-based interdisciplinary research into the spectrum, phenomenology and conditions of origin of paranormal and anomalistic phenomena and experiences; (2) Counseling and educating those seeking information and help about real or supposed “occult”, “psychic” or “paranormal” (psi) phenomena (“Psychohygiene” / “Mental Health”); (3) Establishing, expanding and maintaining a specialist research library that systematically collects national and international literature in the field of

chology was attached to the Eichhalde Institute under the same name. The so-called “Institute for Parapsychology” at the University of Freiburg, which, strictly speaking, never existed under this name, became a household name in the public eye. Bender’s goal of integrating parapsychology as a branch of academic psychology seemed to have been achieved for the time being. The tasks of the chair therefore also included teaching in “normal psychological” subjects such as social, personality or clinical psychology.

III

Looking back, that time at Eichhalde strikes me as the “heroic” years of the Institute, characterized by scarce financial resources and two or three underpaid employees under Bender’s charismatic leadership – with all the light and shade of such a situation. I myself received thorough training ‘from scratch’ as a “ge-



Fig. 7. Asta Holler around 1970.

IGPP board at the time were informed by letter from a philanthropic foundation, the “Holler Foundation” in Munich, that Asta Holler (1904–1989), a very wealthy businesswoman, had bequeathed the IGPP in her will – together with other charitable organizations (Fig. 7). From then on, the Institute could count on annual donations in the millions! In this case, too, it was Hans Bender who was to thank for these funds. He had been advising Mrs. Holler, who had a great personal interest in paranormal phenomena, including possible contact with the afterlife, since the mid-1970s and had also advised her as a psychologist in difficult situations.

In the following years, the IGPP was able to considerably expand its traditional areas of work ‘research – consulting – Information in frontier areas’, develop international contacts and recruit a number of new employees from mainstream areas (psychophysiology, neuropsychology, theoretical physics, social sciences, humanities and cultural studies) and establish various areas of work and research. Since 1998, this new institute structure has comprised the following departments and focal points: (1) Theory and Data Analysis, (2) Empirical and Analytical Psychophysics, (3) Empirical Cultural and Social Research, (4) a Clinical and Physiological Psychology research group, (5) Historical Studies, Archives and Library, and (6) a broad-based information, education and counseling program for people with extraordinary experiences (“Mental Health” / “Psychohygiene”).

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Institute in 2000, a 300-page documentation was published with brief descriptions of the research projects funded by the Institute

parapsychology and frontier sciences in general and makes it accessible to the public. As a non-profit association, the IGPP has been dependent on privately raised funds since its foundation and therefore operated for many decades with extremely limited personnel and financial resources, which mainly came from the foundation of the Swiss biologist and parapsychologist Dr. Fanny Moser (1872–1953) (usually for the financing of half a staff position).

IV

One year after Bender’s death, in the summer of 1992, a kind of “miracle” happened that fundamentally changed the overall structure of the Institute and thus the future of parapsychological research in Germany. The new IGPP director (and – since 1975 – Bender’s successor in the Freiburg university chair) Johannes Mischo and the

since 1993, which also represented a high point of the financial possibilities at the time. Due to a considerable reduction in funding from the Holler Foundation from 2002 on, the Institute gained its current organizational, advisory and research structure, which is also reflected in the table of contents of this biennial report. One question will, of course, remain unanswered: Will there be someone who will or can continue to write this story in fifty years' time? „*Dir kam ein schön und neu gesicht / Doch zeit ward alt · heut lebt kein mann / Ob er je kommt das weisst du nicht / Der dies gesicht noch sehen kann.*“ (Stefan George)

Eberhard Bauer, born on 15 February 1944, was an assistant to the Institute's founder Prof. Hans Bender (1907–1991) and his successor Prof. Johannes Mischo (1930–2001). He has been a member of the Institute's Board for many years and is Deputy Director of the Institute.

2. Research

The IGPP is focused on research into so far insufficiently understood phenomena and anomalies at the frontiers of our knowledge. These include altered states of consciousness, exceptional human experiences, exceptional information processing, exceptional psychophysical relationships, as well as their biological foundations, their psychosocial effects and their social, cultural and historical contexts. One aim of research at the IGPP is to integrate these findings into a broad scientific and epistemological framework and thus to contribute to a better understanding of the mind-matter problem and the still unsolved puzzle of human consciousness.

Research activities at the IGPP are divided into three areas:

Natural Sciences and Experimental Research

Research focuses on aspects of subjective time perception, the physiology and psychology of perception, altered states of consciousness and their neuronal correlates, as well as the search for empirical evidence for quantum-theoretical concepts of the mind-matter problem. For neuropsychological research into structural and functional brain activity, the IGPP has an EEG lab and cooperates with the Bender Institute of Neuroimaging (BION) at the University of Giessen (from 2000 to 2012 an independent research institute of the IGPP), where studies on altered states of consciousness can be carried out using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI).

Social and Cultural Research

Research topics include for example the prevalence and patterns of extraordinary experiences, the social relationships between stigmatization, anomalies, and heterodoxies as well as the problems and history of parapsychology research and its predecessors since the 19th century to the present (“Historical Parapsychology”).

Psychological Counseling Research

In addition to the three research areas, the IGPP maintains a broad-based counselling and information service for people with extraordinary experiences and spiritual crises. This includes, as accompanying research, the conceptual development and empirical testing of specific diagnostic tools and treatment approaches for people with such experiences.

2.1 Natural Sciences and Experimental Research

2.1.1 Perception and Cognition

The information available through our senses about the world around us is incomplete and to varying degrees ambiguous. It must be continuously disambiguated and interpreted in order to be able to construct stable and reliable percepts. Despite this massive limi-

tation, we interact surprisingly successfully with our environment. Yet it is unclear how well the mental representations resulting from this perceptual process reflect ontological reality. In particular, our ability to distinguish between reality and illusion is to a large extent based on the performance of our perceptual system.

In the Perception and Cognition group, we investigate the processes of perceptual construction, stable and unstable perceptual states, the influence of memory on perception, perception without sensory input (e.g., extrasensory perception, imagination), as well as neural correlates of these different perceptual processes and states.

Spontaneous Necker-Cube Reversals are not that Spontaneous

During passive observation of the ambiguous Necker cube, our perception reverses between two about equally probable 3D interpretations. From a first-person perspective these perceptual reversals appear sudden and spontaneous, whereas theoretical explanations postulate that they are the result of a destabilization process of underlying neural representations. In the current study, we focused on possible electroencephalogram (EEG) correlates of perceptual destabilization, that may allow prediction of an upcoming perceptual reversal.

Methods: We presented ambiguous Necker cube stimuli in an onset-paradigm and investigated the neural processes before and during endogenous reversals as compared to perceptual observation periods without a reversal (i.e., stability period). In a separate experimental condition, disambiguated cube variants were alternated randomly, to exogenously induce perceptual reversals. We analyzed the corresponding observation periods related to those exogenously induced reversals. Finally, we compared the EEG signatures before and during endogenous reversals with those identified before and during exogenously induced reversals.

Results: For the ambiguous Necker cube stimuli, we found the earliest differences in the EEG between reversal trials and stability trials already one second before a reversal occurred, at bilateral parietal electrodes. The traces became maximally different at around 890 ms before a perceptual reversal ($p=7.59 \cdot 10^{-6}$, Cohen's $d=1.35$) and remained different until shortly before offset of the stimulus preceding the reversal. No such patterns were found in the case of disambiguated cube variants.

Discussion: The identified EEG effects may reflect destabilized states of neural representations, related to destabilized perceptual states preceding a perceptual reversal. They further indicate that spontaneous Necker cube reversals are most probably not as spontaneous as subjectively experienced and generally thought. Rather, the destabilization may occur over a longer time scale, at least one second before a reversal event.

Mareike Wilson, Lukas Hecker and Jürgen Kornmeier, together with Ellen Joos, Ad Aertsen and Ludger Tebartz van Elst

Publication: Wilson, Hecker, Joos, Aertsen,, Tebartz Van Elst & Kornmeier (2023)

Altered EEG variability on different time scales in participants with Asperger Autism Disorder: An Exploratory Study

Physiological data from EEG, MEG are high-dimensional. Their analysis is typically based on data reduction, most frequently by calculating averages or medians, e.g. across repetitions and/or participants. Standard statistic methods then focus on differences between averages/medians. Data variability is usually treated as source of interference that weakens potential effects. In the current study we purposefully focus on data variability as our measure of interest. We investigated temporal variability in visually evoked EEG activity in a cohort of 16 adult participants with Asperger Syndrome (AS) and 19 neurotypical (NT) controls. Methods: Participants performed a visual oddball task using fine and coarse checkerboard stimuli. We investigated various measures of neural variability and found effects on multiple time scales. (1) As opposed to the previous studies, we found reduced inter-trial variability in the AS group compared to NT. (2) This effect builds up over the entire course of a 5-min experiment and (3) seems to be based on smaller variability of neural background activity in AS compared to NTs.

The here reported variability effects come with considerably large effect sizes, making them promising candidates for potentially reliable biomarkers in psychiatric diagnostics. The observed pattern of universality across different time scales and stimulation conditions indicates trait-like effects. Overall, the present findings indicate that variability in data samples is an important source of information that needs more attention in future studies.

Lukas Hecker, Mareike Wilson and Jürgen Kornmeier, together with Ludger Tebartz van Elst

Publication: Hecker Wilson, Tebartz van Elst & Kornmeier (2022)

Visual imagination can influence visual perception – a new experimental paradigm to measure imagination

During visual imagination a perceptual representation is activated in the absence of sensory input. This perceptual state is sometimes described as “seeing with the mind’s eyes” (Kosslyn et al. 2001). A number of physiological studies indicate that the brain uses more or less the same neural hardware for real visual perception and visual imagery. The intensity of visual imagination in these studies is typically assessed with questionnaires, while more objective measures are missing. In 2018, Zeman (Zeman et al. 2015) coined the term “Aphantasia”, to describe individuals who are congenitally unable to evoke vivid depictive visual imagination, but instead use more symbolic, propositional or phonological imaginations (estimated prevalence: 0.7%). The current results of this very young research area indicate that (1) aphantasics are not the extreme end of a distribution but instead a separate subpopulation, and, (2) that the standard imagination questionnaires are not perfectly suited to assess the characteristics of this phenomenon. More objective measures are thus necessary.

Aim of our study was to test an experimental paradigm to objectively measure the depth

of visual imagination, as a supplement to the mainly used assessment via questionnaires. To this end, we used ambiguous stimuli. During prolonged observation of an ambiguous stimulus, like the Necker cube, our perception alternates spontaneously between two possible 3D interpretations (Fig. 8, Fig. 9). In our paradigm, participants first observed an unambiguous variant (the conditioning stimulus) of the ambiguous stimulus. It is known that this conditioning stimulus influences the way the subsequent ambiguous test stimulus is perceived (“conditioning effect”). We further introduced a second experimental condition, in which we tested whether the previous imagination of an unambiguous conditioning stimulus variant - instead of its observation - can have similar conditioning effects on the subsequent ambiguous test stimulus. With this paradigm we found surprisingly high correlations (Pearson $r > 0.51$; $p < 0.008$) between real and imaginary conditioning. Moreover, as a more qualitative result, three self-defined aphantasics in our sample formed a separate cluster based on low conditioning effects in combination with weak visual imagination abilities (questionnaire result) (Fig. 10).

Azadeh Mozhdelfarabakhsh, Lukas Hecker, Jürgen Kornmeier with Ellen Joos

Behavioral and EEG correlates of forward and backward priming

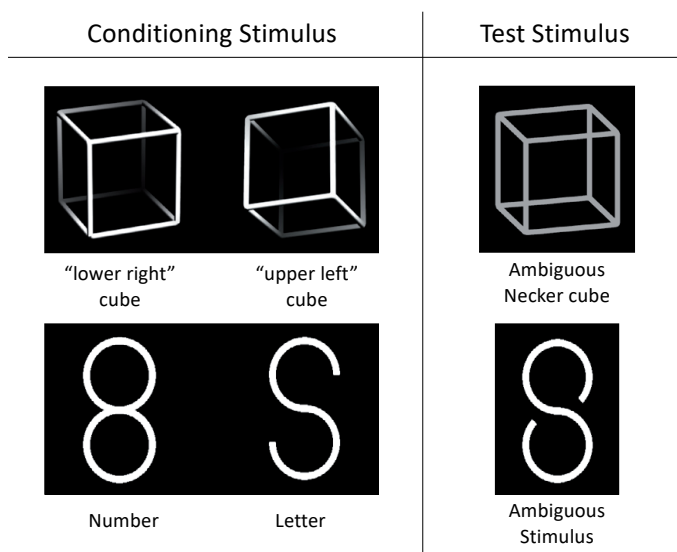


Fig. 8. **Stimuli.** The left column contains the Conditioning Stimuli, together with the text labels to describe them. The right column contains the corresponding ambiguous Test Stimulus variants.

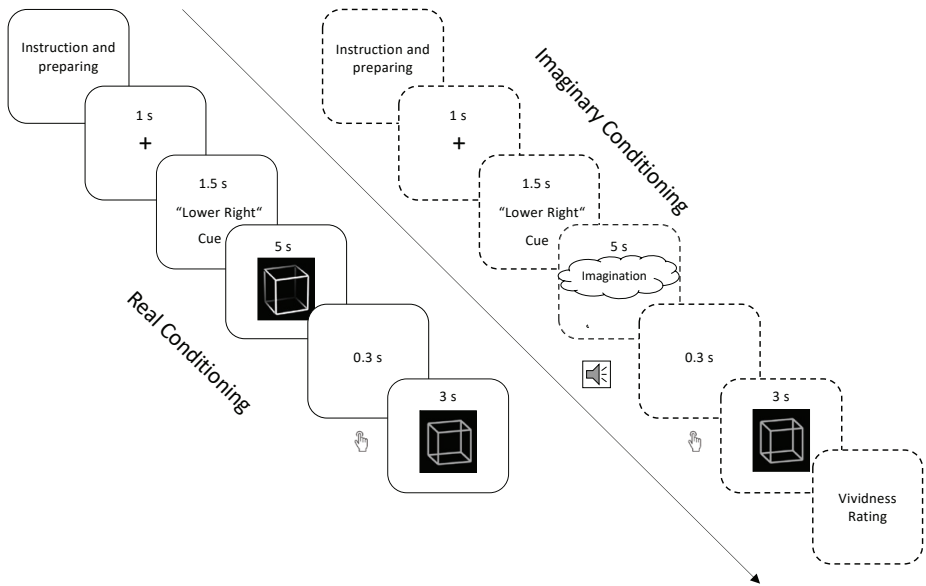


Fig. 9. **Experimental Paradigm.** An experimental condition started with a fixation cross for 1 second followed by a text cue, indicated the unambiguous stimulus variant that is presented next in the Real Conditioning Condition or that had to be imagined in the Imaginary Conditioning Condition. In the Real Conditioning Condition, the announced unambiguous conditioning stimulus was presented for 5 seconds, followed by an inter-stimulus-interval (ISI) of 0.3 seconds. Finally, the ambiguous Test Stimulus was presented for 3 seconds and participants indicated their percept of it by pressing one of two possible keys. In the Imaginary Conditioning Condition, the procedure was the same with two exceptions: instead of showing the unambiguous conditioning stimulus, participants were instructed to close their eyes and imagine it. After 1.5 seconds, a tone indicated the end of the imagination time window. Further, after offset of the subsequent Test Stimulus participants had to rate the vividness of their imagination.

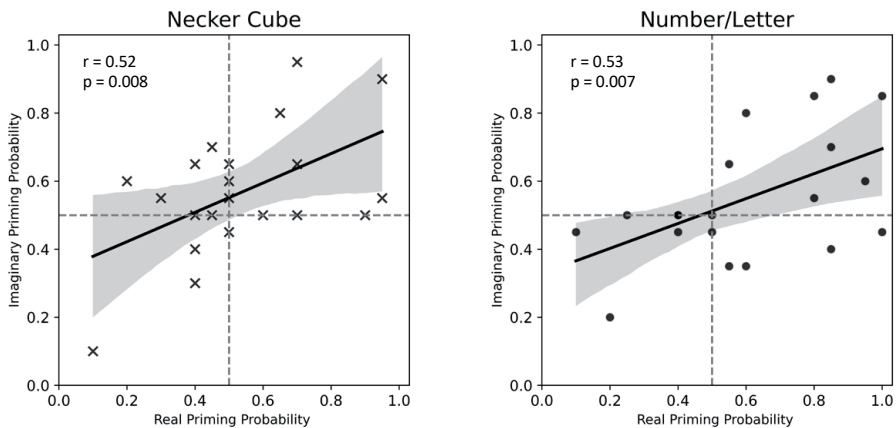


Fig. 10. **Correlations.** Scatter plots indicating the relation between real and imaginary conditioning separately for the Necker Cube Experiment (left, crosses) and the Number/Letter Experiment

(right, circles). The ordinates indicate the priming probabilities (i.e. the probabilities to perceive the Test Stimulus in the same way as the preceding Conditioning Stimulus). The dashed lines show linear fits on the data. Our clear findings introduce a promising novel method to objectively measure the intensity of visual imagination. Our qualitative findings indicate that this method may also allow to differ between the normal population and the separate population of aphantasics.

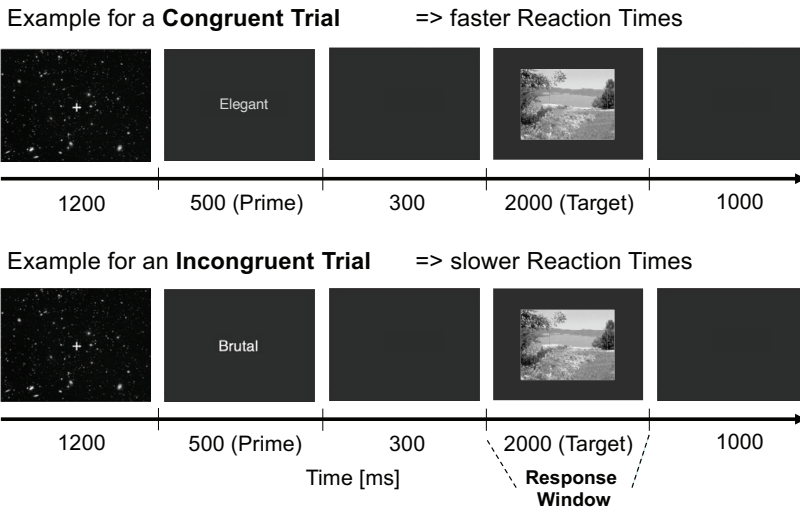
Background: During affective priming, perception of an emotional “prime stimulus” influences the reaction time of the subsequent emotional “target stimulus”. If prime and target have the same valence (congruent trials), reactions to the target are faster than if prime and target have different valences (incongruent trials). Bem introduced a backward priming paradigm in 2011, where first the target was presented and then the prime after the response. Similar to the classical affective forward priming effects, he found faster reaction times in congruent compared to incongruent trials, and interpreted these results as evidence supporting precognition. In the present study, while measuring EEG, we combined a forward priming paradigm (hypothesis-driven analysis) with a related backward priming paradigm (exploratory analysis), following Bem’s study. We analysed the EEG data on a group level (ERPs) and on an individual level (single participants, applying artificial neural networks, “ANNs”) (Fig. 11).

We found significantly faster reaction times for congruent compared to incongruent trials in the forward priming experiment ($p=0.0004$) but no statistically significant differences in the backward priming experiment ($p=0.1237$) (Fig. 12). We also found significant differences in ERP amplitude in the forward priming congruent vs incongruent conditions (P8 electrode: $p = 0.003$). Backward priming results show weaker, shorter, and less significant differences between congruent and incongruent trials, with maxima at left hemispheric centro-parietal electrode positions. The ANN results were very variable across participants in both the backward and forward priming and on average, the accuracy results were at chance level for both the forward priming as well as the backward priming (Fig. 13).

Our results replicate behavioral findings and extend the EEG findings for forward priming from the literature. We did not replicate Bem’s backward priming results. The exploratory backward priming EEG results are weak, however, they give a good starting point for a currently running follow-up study supported by a Bial Grant.

Mareike Wilson, Marc Wittmann and Jürgen Kornmeier

Forward Priming



Backward Priming

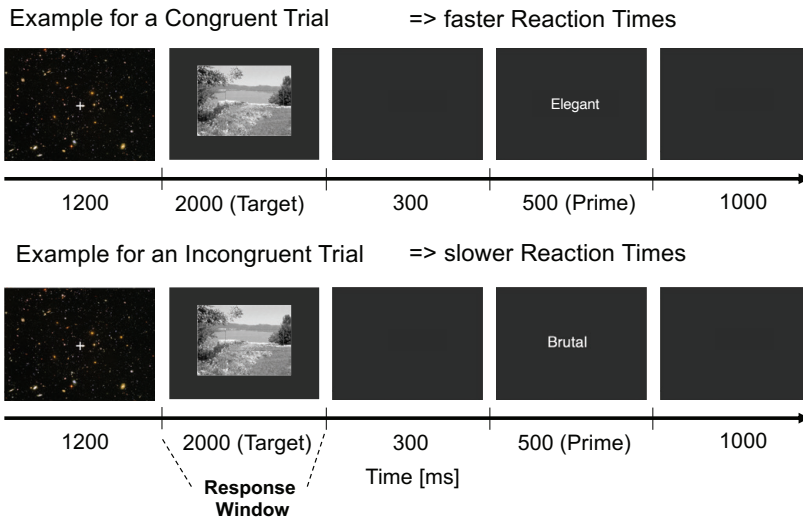


Fig. 11. **Experimental paradigm.** (a) Forward priming: First, an image from the Hubble Telescope appeared for 1200 ms, followed by the prime word for 500 ms, an inter-stimulus interval (ISI) with a blank screen for 300 ms, and finally by the target image. Participants had to respond whether the target was of positive or negative valence. Then the target stimulus was replaced by a blank screen for 1000 ms. The backward priming trial sequences (b) had the same structure, with the exception that the prime followed the target instead of preceding it.

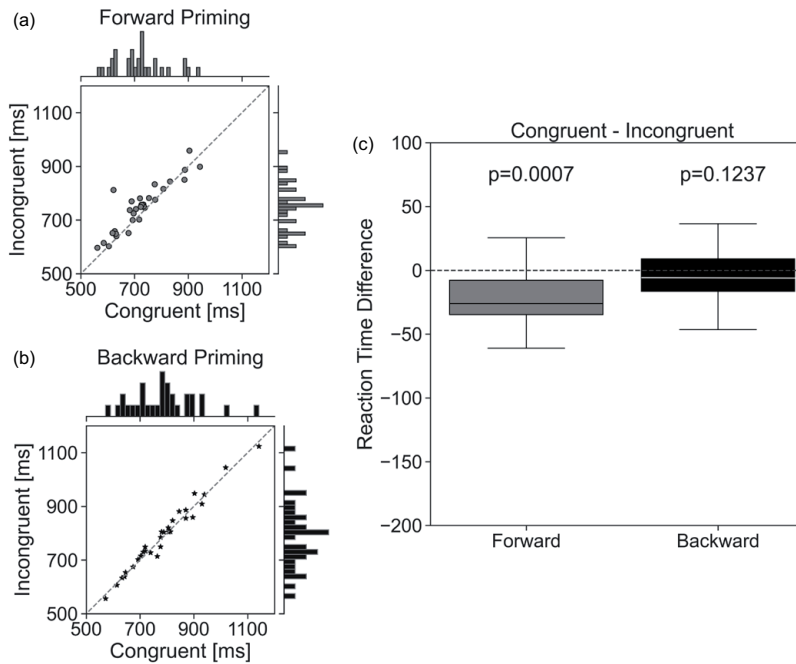


Fig. 12. **Reaction time results.** Scatter Plot showing median reaction times for every participant in milliseconds for the forward priming (a) and backward priming (b). The x-axes depict the congruent trial reaction times and the y-axes the incongruent trial reaction times. The majority of data points in the forward priming condition are above the diagonal indicating overall shorter reaction times for congruent compared to incongruent trials. For backward priming, the data points are about equally distributed among the diagonal line, indicating no effect. (c) Box plots with difference reaction times (congruent-incongruent) for the forward and backward priming experiments. Grey and black rectangles indicate median reaction times (central horizontal line) across participants together with upper and lower quartiles. The p-values are the result of a paired Wilcoxon test corrected for multiple testing, comparing congruent and incongruent conditions. The forward priming box plot shows a clear negative shift, while the backward priming boxplot is close to the zero line.

dERP Traces at Electrodes P8 & CP5 (Congruent - Incongruent)

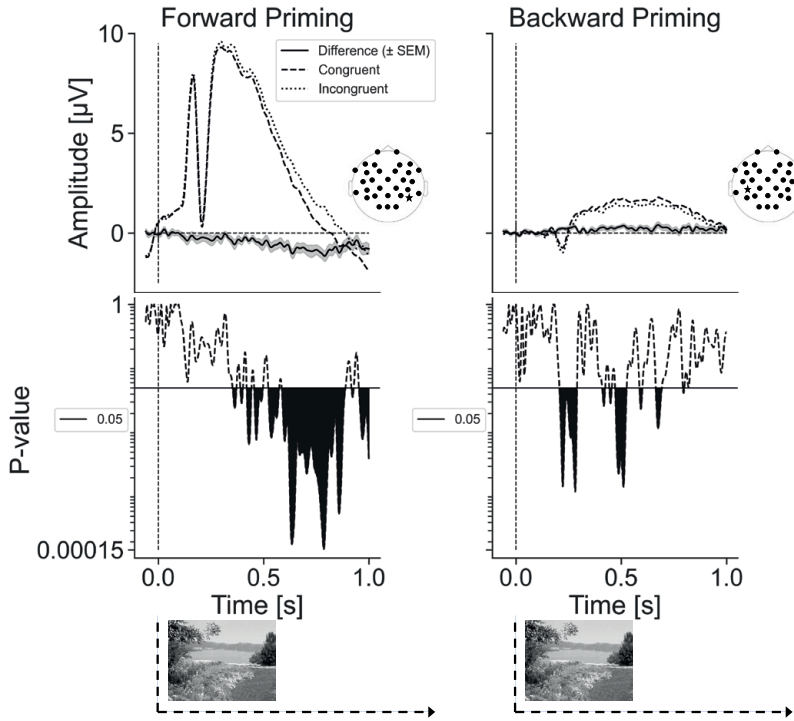


Abb. 13. ERP Results. Difference ERP traces (event-related potential; congruent minus incongruent) at specific electrodes P8 (forward priming, left) and CP5 (backward priming, right). The top graphs show the ERP difference traces and the middle graphs show the uncorrected paired t-test results for every ERP data point. The x-axes of all plots are time with zero indicating target stimulus onset in seconds (as indicated by the example images on the bottom). The y-axes of the differences traces show the amplitude in μV while the y-axis of the t-test results shows the p-value logarithmically scaled. The black filled area of the t-test plot shows all p-values smaller than a threshold of $=0.05$.

2.1.2 Time Perception and Time Consciousness

How do we perceive time? How is the subjective experience of time related to cognition, emotion, and body states? Findings on the relationship between affect and time, together with recent conceptualizations on self- and body processes have connected time perception with emotional and bodily states. Next to fundamental research on the relationship between the experience of time with cognition and affect, we study how the sense of time is modulated in altered states of consciousness such as in meditation, Floatation-REST, the *Ganzfeld*, when playing video games, in psychedelic-induced states as well as in cer-



Fig. 14. A photo depicting the Floatation-REST cabin.



Fig. 15. A photo depicting the waterbed in the Bed-REST environment.

tain neurological and psychiatric conditions. In addition, we explore frontier areas of exceptional experience and cognition as undertaken with experiments on precognition and remote viewing, when phenomena happen where the usual concepts of time and space do not seem to play a role. Starting in February 2022, we have the installed Floatation-REST cabin for research at the IGPP, designed by floataway.com, our new procedure to induce altered states of consciousness, located at the health practice Prana, Freiburg (Fig. 14, Fig. 15).

Study realized as part of the *EU Call Horizon 2020 Topic FETPROACT-01-2018 grant VIRTUALTIMES: Exploring and modifying the sense of time in virtual environments: "When the heart meets the mind": exploring brain-heart interaction in time perception.*

We have hypothesized that time estimation relies on bodily rhythms and interoceptive signals, such as heartbeats. Extending previous research demonstrating this connection, we provided further electrophysiological evidence that the brain registers heartbeats while tracking time intervals. We evaluated the heartbeat-evoked EEG potential (HEP) and the contingent negative variation (CNV, also EEG) during an auditory duration-reproduction task with intervals lasting 4, 8, and 12 seconds and a control reaction-time task employing the exact durations. The (interoceptive) Self-Awareness Questionnaire (SAQ) and the Heartbeat-Counting Task (HCT) were administered. The SAQ, but not the HCT scores, correlated with the mean reproduced durations for 4s, 8s, and 12s intervals: the higher the SAQ score (a stronger awareness of bodily signals), the longer the duration reproductions and the more accurate the timing behavior. The HEP amplitude within 130-270 ms (HEP1) and 470-520 ms (HEP2) after the heartbeat was smaller for the 4s interval than for the 8s and 12s intervals. This is a timing-specific effect, as the HEP amplitude did not differ for intervals in the reaction-time task. A ramp-like increase in HEP2 amplitudes was significant for the duration-encoding phase of the timing task, but not for the control reaction-time task. The HEP2 increase within the reproduction phase of the timing task correlated significantly with the reproduced durations for the 8s and the 12s intervals. The larger the registered increase in the HEP2, the greater the under-reproduction of the estimated duration. The initial and late CNV components were significantly more negative during the encoding phase than during the reaction-time task. Given the link between these components with attention modulation and temporal memory, we interpret the CNV findings as indicating greater executive resources oriented towards time. We conclude that interoceptive awareness (SAQ) and state-like cortical responses to the heartbeat (HEP) predict duration reproductions, emphasizing the notion of the embodiment of time.

Marc Wittmann, Shiva Khoshnoud and Federico Alvarez Igarzábal
Publication: Khoshnoud, Leitritz, Cinar Bozdog, Alvarez Igarzabal, Noreika & Wittmann (2023)

Study realized in the context of the *FUNDAÇÃO Bial 50/18 grant Changes in the temporal width of the present moment after meditation:*

Changes in subjective time and self during meditation.

This study examined the effects of meditative states in experienced meditators on present-moment awareness, subjective time, and self-awareness while assessing meditation-induced changes in heart-rate variability and breathing rate. A sample of 22 experienced meditators who practiced meditation techniques focusing on awareness of the present moment (average 20 years of practice) filled out subjective scales pertaining to sense of time and the bodily self and accomplished a metronome task as an operationalization of present-moment awareness before and after a 20 min meditation session (experimental condition) and a 20 min reading session (control condition) according to a within-subject design. A mixed pattern of increased sympathetic and parasympathetic activity was found during meditation regarding heart-rate measures. Breathing intervals were prolonged during meditation. Participants perceived their body boundaries as less salient during meditation than while reading the story; they also felt time passed more quickly and they paid less attention to time during meditation. No significant differences between conditions became apparent for the metronome task. This is probably the first quantitative study to show how the experience of time during a meditation session is altered together with the sense of the bodily self.

*Marc Wittmann, Damisela Linares Gutiérrez, Karin Meissner and Stefan Schmidt
Publication: Linares Gutiérrez, Schmidt, Meissner & Wittmann (2022)*

Study realized in the context of the *Hanns Seidel Foundation scholarship for Helena Hruby, MSc., from funds of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) Assessment of health-psychological stress reduction through floating tanks:*

Induction of altered states of consciousness during Floatation-REST is associated with the dissolution of body boundaries and the distortion of subjective time.

Floatation-REST (Reduced Environmental Stimulation Therapy) is a sensory isolation technique where subjects are immersed in an environment without sound or light while they float in thermoneutral water that is supersaturated with Epsom salt. Here we investigated the relationship between altered states of consciousness (ASC) and their association with the affective changes induced by Floatation-REST. Using a within-subject crossover design, 50 subjects were randomized to 60 minutes of Floatation-REST (see Fig. 14) and 60 minutes of Bed-REST (see Fig. 15), both experienced in complete darkness. ASC was assessed using the Phenomenology of Consciousness Inventory (PCI), the Perceived Body Boundaries Scale (PBBS), and visual analogue scales targeting time perception. Emotional changes were assessed both before and after each REST session. Compared to Bed-REST, Floatation-REST significantly reduced perceived body boundaries and distorted time perception. Two subscales of the PCI showed stronger ASC during Floatation-REST versus Bed-REST. Subjects felt more relaxed, less anxious, and

less tired after Floatation-REST. The dissolution of body boundaries mediates anxiety reduction, revealing a novel anxiolytic mechanism.

Helena Hruby, Stefan Schmidt and Marc Wittmann

Publication: Hruby, Schmidt, Feinstein & Wittmann (2023)

2.1.3 Bender Institute of Neuroimaging (BION)

The BION was opened in 2000 as an external department of the IGPP. Since the commencement of a new statute at November 23th 2012 it is an institution of the Department of Psychology and Sports Science at the Justus Liebig University Giessen, cooperating closely with the IGPP. The core of the BION is a magnetic resonance tomograph (MRT), which is exclusively available for psychological investigations of brain functions. The MRT generates a homogeneous magnetic field of 3 Tesla and provides cross sections of any requested orientation, representing the interior head structure and indirectly the brain function during particular tasks.

Research groups of different divisions of the department work at the BION. In addition, research groups from all over Germany can apply to use the MRI for their own studies in accordance with the usage regulations of August 31, 2021. The following report focuses exclusively on the work of the research group “Altered States of Consciousness – Meditation Research”, led by Dr. Ulrich Ott, an employee of the IGPP, in coordination with Prof. em. Dr. Dieter Vaitl and PD Dr. Jürgen Kornmeier.

Varieties of contemplative experience

This project is being conducted in close cooperation with Willoughby Britton and Jared Lindahl and intends (1) to develop a detailed description and classification of phenomena induced by meditation, (2) to determine factors that have an influence on the occurrence of these phenomena – for instance personality traits or duration and type of practice –, and finally (3) to identify successful strategies for prevention and treatment. These questions were explored in 102 semi-structured interviews that were transcribed, coded, and further analyzed. Based on the analysis of the interview data, a questionnaire about unexpected and difficult meditation experiences was developed, which has already been used in three studies with Buddhist meditators as well as teachers and participants in MBSR (Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction) courses. The insights gained flow into the consulting focus “Spiritual and meditation-induced crises” at the IGPP.

Ulrich Ott, Liane Hofmann, Michael Tremmel, Freya von Hohnhorst, together with Willoughby Britton and Jared Lindahl

Effects of different yoga breathing techniques for self-regulation

As part of Janika Epe’s doctoral project, healthy participants learned four different yoga breathing techniques in an eight-week training course (two weeks per module). The training was supported with video instructions. After each module, the subjects filled out

questionnaires on well-being and stress experience, performed an attention test on the computer and physiological measurements were carried out in a baseline condition and while performing the breathing technique (64-channel EEG, respiration, skin conductance, electrocardiogram). The scientific basis of the program and its technical implementation were published in a book. The questionnaire data has now been published. A publication on the effects of different breathing techniques on heart rate variability is currently being prepared.

Ulrich Ott and Jana Epe

Motivations to meditate

The goals with which people practice meditation range from relaxation to enlightenment. Based on an extensive collection of possible motifs, Peter Sedlmeier asked beginners and experienced meditators why they started meditating and why they continued their practice. Factor analyzes of the extensive item pool revealed a differentiated picture with a dozen factors in both groups. To simplify and make it easier to use, a short version of the questionnaire was developed, which assesses six main motivations with five items each. In addition, an international study on the virtues and personality traits that meditators strive for through their practice is currently being carried out by Karin Matko in cooperation with Ulrich Ott.

Ulrich Ott, together with Peter Sedlmeier and Karin Matko

2.2 Social and Cultural Research

2.2.1 Cultural Studies and Social Research

The End of Dominion. Human life after contact with extraterrestrial civilisations

The project started in 2023 and is being carried out in cooperation with Prof. Michael Bohlander from Durham University in the UK. The core question of the project is: What social impact would a real first contact with an extraterrestrial civilization have? The project is divided into two main phases: First, an exploratory questionnaire survey will be used to study attitudes towards the issues of extraterrestrial intelligence/consequences of first contact in different countries. Based on the work of Michael Schetsche and Andreas Anton on exosociology, an (English-language) questionnaire was developed for this purpose, which will be used to collect data online via a questionnaire tool at Durham University for around three months from the beginning of 2024. The aim here is to obtain data from as many different countries as possible. In the second phase of the project, experts from various disciplines (such as psychology, sociology, religious studies and law) will be asked to write articles on the possible consequences of first contact with an extraterrestrial civilization based on specific key questions. In a final step, the results

of the questionnaire study are compared with the experts' assessments in order to arrive at a well-founded overall reflection on the topic. The expert contributions and the results of the questionnaire study will then be published in an anthology.

Andreas Anton

Special Issue of the Journal of Anomalistics: Extraterrestrial Intelligence and UAP. Questions, Discussions, Perspectives

In June 2022, the Society for Anomalistics organized a conference in Marburg entitled *Da draußen. Neue Entwicklungen in der SETI-, SETA- und UFO-Forschung* [Out there. New developments in SETI, SETA and UFO research]. The aim of the conference was to reflect on the significance of the discursive dynamics surrounding the topics of extraterrestrial intelligence and UAP in recent years and to ask what possible scientific perspectives arise from this. From the outset, the idea was to publish the contributions to the conference in a special issue of the Journal of Anomalistics, which was realized in 2023. The special issue, edited by Andreas Anton, was published at the end of the year with the title *Extraterrestrial Intelligence and UAP. Questions Disussions, Perspectives*, and contains seven main articles dedicated to the topics of extraterrestrial intelligence and UAP from different disciplinary perspectives. In addition to the speakers at the conference, other authors have been won over to contribute to the project.

Andreas Anton

Publication: Anton (2023d)

Conspiracy. Sociology of conspiracy thinking. Second, expanded edition

Since the coronavirus pandemic at the latest, conspiracy theories have become a political issue. Never before has there been such a high level of sensitivity to the topic in public discourse. Fears of conspiracies on the one hand and fears of conspiracy theories on the other are fueling each other. This is leading to growing social polarization and a climate of mistrust, outrage and irritation. Against the backdrop of the current public debate on conspiracy theories, in 2023 Springer-Verlag offered to publish an expanded new edition of the 2014 anthology *Konspiration. Soziologie des Verschwörungdenkens* [*Conspiracy. Sociology of Conspiracy Thinking*] (edited by Andreas Anton, Michael Schetsche and

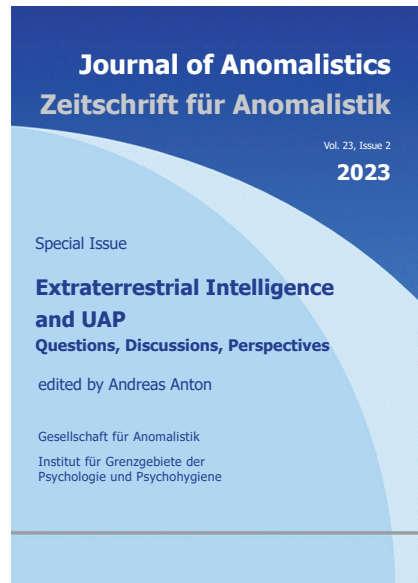


Fig. 16. Cover "Journal of Anomalistics".

Michael Walter). With six new contributions, the expanded new edition focuses on current developments. In combination with the original essays, the aim is to contribute to a comprehensive and differentiated picture of the social phenomenon of conspiracy theories. Work on the volume has been completed and it will be published in mid-2024 (Fig. 17).

Meeting the Alien: An Introduction to Exosociology

In 2019, the German book *Die Gesellschaft der Außerirdischen. Einführung in die Exosozologie [The society of extraterrestrials. Introduction to exosociology]* was published, which generated a great response both in the form of media coverage and in academic context. In 2022, Springer-Verlag offered the authors the opportunity to publish an English translation of the volume. The publisher produced a rough translation, which was checked and revised by the authors. Fortunately, the well-known British SETI scientist John Elliott was won over for the final editing, and he also wrote a foreword for the English edition of the book, which was published in mid-2023 with the title *Meeting the Alien. An Introduction to Exosociology* (Fig. 18).

Andreas Anton

Publication: Anton & Schetsche (2023)

Women and Parapsychology Revisited

In 1991, the *Parapsychology Foundation* organized an international conference on “Women and Parapsychology” in Dublin, Ireland. 30 years after this conference, we wanted to ask women researchers about their current experiences as women in the research field of parapsychology and anomalistics and obtain an assessment of the situation. To this end, we designed an online survey that collected data on scientific careers, article publications, contributions to the



Fig. 17. New edition of the Anthology “Konspiration”.

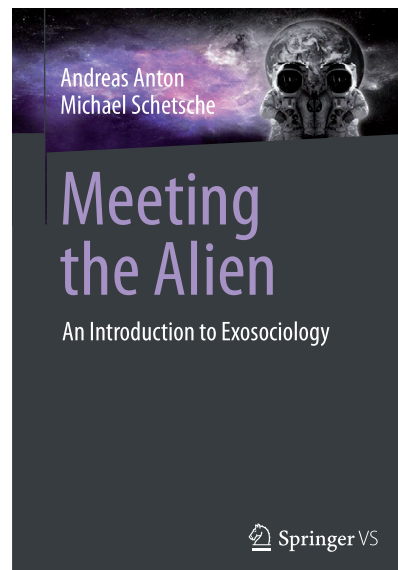


Fig. 18. Cover “Meeting the Alien”.

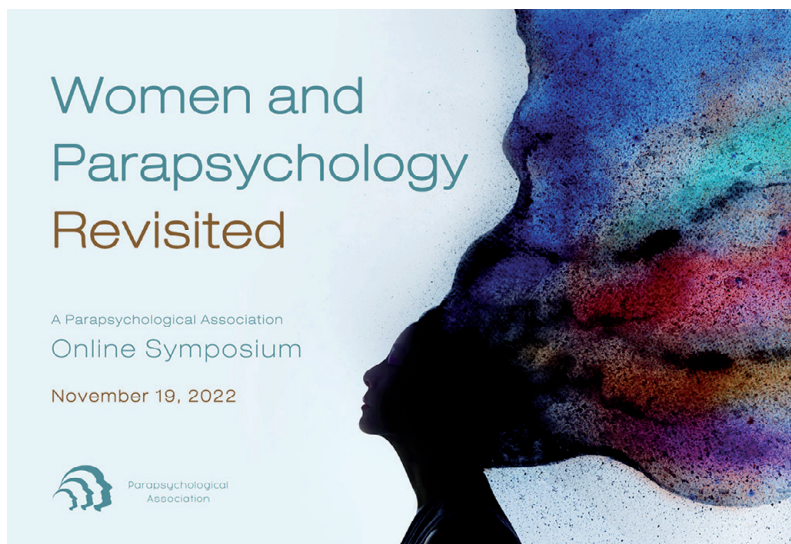


Abb. 19. “Women and Parapsychology Revisited. A Parapsychology Association Online Symposium”.

field of parapsychology and anomalistics and gender-specific experiences. 30 women completed the questionnaire. As we collected both quantitative and qualitative data, we were able to obtain an informative picture despite the lack of comparative data from previous years or from other disciplines.

Our non-representative sample had a high average age (58.5 years, SD 15.5 years) and level of education (73% with a Ph.D.). 53.3% of the women surveyed said that they experience obstacles in their field because of their gender, while only 23.3% said they did not. As is generally the case in science, our results indicate that women in parapsychology are paid less, they have to work harder to be taken seriously by male colleagues, which can slow down their careers. In addition, there are career interruptions due to raising children, greater difficulties in balancing work and family life, etc.

In addition to this online survey, a special issue of the *Journal of Anomalistics*, supervised by guest editors Cedar S. Leverett and Nancy L. Zingrone, was dedicated to this topic and published in December 2022. Furthermore, an online symposium *Women and Parapsychology Revisited* hosted by the Parapsychological Association was organized and moderated.

Gerhard Mayer

Publication: Mayer, Leverett & Zingrone (2022)

Magical Practices and Their Evaluation

Information on magical practices obtained during my field study in 2004–2005 in interviews with 11 practitioners of magic was supplemented by data from four additional interviews with experienced magicians in 2023 to explore the topics of (1) paranormal

experiences of magicians, (2) assessment of magical practice, and (3) magic in the laboratory with a focused approach. The reported phenomena can be categorized as ‘situational influence’, ‘weather influence’, ‘psychokinesis and poltergeist phenomena (RSPK)’, ‘extrasensory perception (ESP)’ and ‘synchronistic events’. Our results indicate that the evaluation of magical practices and rituals is problematic. Similar to parapsychology, displacement or trickster effects are observed. Furthermore, the possibilities of evaluation are largely dependent on the magician’s objectives, for example whether they are long-term, less concrete objectives such as developing a better self-confidence within a year or short-term and concrete ones such as recovering a lost jacket within a week. This makes it difficult to assess the success of magical operations. The following points are mentioned as necessary prerequisites for the successful practice of magic: (1) motivation, (2) an empathetic relationship to the desired goal of the magic practitioner, (3) absence of doubt about the effectiveness of the rituals and magic as such, (4) “reasonable”, i.e. not exaggerated, goals and (5) low levels of suffering. Even if magicians are not necessarily suitable as “gifted” participants for parapsychological laboratory experiments due to a lack of motivation, they can provide valuable advice on the conditions for generating paranormal effects, on working with altered states of consciousness and on the “right mindset” for successfully conducting parapsychological experiments.

Gerhard Mayer

Journal of Anomalistics / Zeitschrift für Anomalistik - a Cooperation Project of the Gesellschaft für Anomalistik [Society for Anomalistics] and the Institut für Grenzgebiete der Psychologie und Psychohygiene [Institute for Frontier Areas of Psychology and Psychohygiene]

The *Journal of Anomalistics / Zeitschrift für Anomalistik*, which has been a cooperation project between the IGPP and the Gesellschaft für Anomalistik since Volume 21 (2021), has published four issues with a total volume of over 1,000 pages in the past two years. The topic range of the articles was considerable and encompassed historical case reconstructions in the field of cryptozoology or criminal telepathy to analyzes of poltergeist cases, a survey on after-death contacts and an anthropological field report, to the current hot topic of UFOs and UAP. A special issue on the latter research topic was published by guest editor Andreas Anton (issue 2/2023). Another special issue entitled *Women and Parapsychology. Observations – Reflections* was supervised by guest editors Cedar S. Leverett and Nancy L. Zingrone and published as issue 2/2022.

Gerhard Mayer

2.2.2 Cultural and Historical Studies, Archives and Library

The scope of this research area includes the cultural and social history and the history of science of parapsychological research and other unorthodox fields (“Historical Parapsychology”). The focus is on the historical reception of spiritism, occultism, psychical

research and parapsychology in Germany from the 19th century until today. Of particular interest is the reception of paranormal and “anomalous” phenomena with regard to established scientific disciplines such as psychology, medicine, literary studies or history of art. Special topics of interest are: (1) biographies of psychological researchers and psychics or mediums; (2) the history of organizations and societies in the field; (3) the role of photography in the history of parapsychological research; (4) the connection between occultism and visual arts; (5) the history of the IGPP and the biography of its founder Hans Bender. An integral part of these studies are the IGPP research library and the IGPP archive.

Historical and Biographical Studies

DFG research project “Parapsychology at the intersection of scientific discipline formation, social demand and media publicity” – a retrospect

In an article for a “FestHeft” (commemorative publication) on the 65th birthday of the historian Sylvia Paletschek, Chair of Modern and Contemporary History at the University of Freiburg, a summarised review of the various stages of her many years of collaboration with the Freiburg Institute is given. In 2008, I prepared a documentation for the then Scientific Advisory Board of the IGPP on the ‘Cultural Studies and History of Science Studies, Archive and Library’ department, which I set up and headed at the IGPP in 1998, and submitted it to Sylvia Paletschek and Helmut Zander as a basis for discussion for further collaboration on the topic ‘Historical Parapsychology’. This culminated in the conception of an interdisciplinary research network at the universities of Basel, Freiburg i. Br., Siegen and Strasbourg, which successfully applied for a DFG grant in 2009 on the topic of “Social innovation through non-hegemonic knowledge production. ‘Occult’ phenomena between media history, cultural transfer and science, 1770 to 1970”. The historiographical project “Parapsychology at the intersection of scientific discipline formation, social demand and media publicity” led by Sylvia Paletschek within this framework focused on the life, work and academic career of IGPP founder Hans Bender. The staff position approved as part of the Freiburg project application was filled between 2011 and 2017 by the Leipzig historian and German scholar Dr Anna Lux and was closely linked to the teaching and research of the Department of History at the University of Freiburg. In particular, two research-oriented advanced seminars were held on site in two consecutive semesters in 2013/2014, which found their literary expression in the volume *Okkultes Freiburg* with 27 student contributions. Anna Lux’s multi-year research work on defining Hans Bender’s place in the history of science in the context of discipline formation, social demand and media publicity was completed at the end of 2020 in the form of an impressive monograph (see Anna Lux: *Wissenschaft als Grenzwissenschaft*, 2021): The work, written from the perspective of ‘the margins’, traces the personal and socio-cultural ‘discourses’ of the ‘actors in the field’ with great meticulousness and sensitivity (sociological contextualisation of knowledge), allows contemporary witnesses to have their say and strives for a balanced and factual presentation of a controversial ‘frontier science’ that has not yet found its epistemic place. From a conventional cultural studies and humanities

perspective, this monograph will undoubtedly remain the definitive historiographical reference work on the subject of ‘Hans Bender and the University of Freiburg’, which would not have come about without Sylvia Paletschek’s foresight and commitment.

Bauer

Publication: Bauer (2022c)

Mrs. Lotte Böhringer (1917–2014) – the “Anima of the Freiburg Institute”: A Personal Appreciation

The dominant and most popular figure in German parapsychology after the Second World War was Professor Hans Bender, who founded in 1950 the “Institut für Grenzgebiete der Psychologie und Psychohygiene e. V.” (IGPP for short) [Institute for Frontier Areas of Psychology and Mental Health] in his birthplace and hometown of Freiburg im Breisgau, directed it until his death on 7 May 1991 and represented the field of scientific parapsychology in research and academic teaching at the University of Freiburg for decades between 1954 and 1975 as an internationally renowned professor of frontier areas of psychology. In his attempts to build up the IGPP and to realize a central legacy of his scientific life, Bender received decisive help and support by Mrs Lotte Böhringer (1917–1994) who became his close collaborator quite early in 1946, when he developed his first plans to build an institute devoted to parapsychological research and its social



Fig. 20. Lotte Böhringer demonstrates an occult practice: to divine over a photography (Photo: Leif Geiges, Archives of the IGPP).

implications under the label “Grenzgebiete der Psychologie”. Mrs. Böhringer was educated as a commercial employee and she left no trace in the formal parapsychological literature, except figuring in some pictures documenting the early history of the IGPP, mostly taken by the professional photographer Leif Geiges (1915–1990), who helped to popularize the Institute and the work of its founder (Fig. 20). It was decisively thanks to her initiative, her ingenuity and her sense of reality that the Institute could be built during the early post war years on a plot of land in the city of Freiburg in a most beautiful location. After the IGPP building was completed in 1950, Mrs. Böhringer moved into a flat inside that building where she stayed all her life. The Institute and its social life became the center of her life, comparable to an ‘apple of her eye’ (Augapfel). In summary, one could describe her role as “Geschäftsführerin” (manager) responsible for all possible aspects of the daily life of the Institute. So, understandably, Professor Bender used to characterize Lotte Böhringer as “Seele des Instituts” (Anima of the Institute).

Bauer

Publication: Bauer (2022b)

Contributions to Historical Poltergeist Research

Reports on ghosts, apparitions and haunting phenomena have been reported since antiquity; they are widespread across cultures, and their interpretations through the centuries are also a reflection of prevailing social, religious and cultural world views and collective attitudes. Detailed descriptions of events, which today we would most likely classify as ‘hauntings’ or ‘poltergeists’ due to their typical forms of reporting and sequence of events, come from 17th and 18th century Europe, especially from England, France and Germany. They were (and still are) the subject of studies on the history of reception and mentalities, especially from the perspective of historical, religious or literary studies. Reports of hauntings and ghosts occupy a special place in discourses on the social role of superstition (superstitio) in the historical context of sorcery, demonology and witchcraft at the beginning of the early modern period and the emerging conflicts with the Enlightenment’s claim to rationality. Early and in part extensively documented haunting reports, which are presented in relevant overviews, are situated in this field of tension. The authors of such reports were primarily those directly affected, who defended themselves against the social stigmatisation that has always accompanied ‘spooky’ occurrences, or scholarly treatises that attempted to grasp and ‘contain’ the ‘occult’ or ‘supernatural’ occurrences with theological, legal and medical terminology and cognitive possibilities of the time. It is not least to the credit of IGPP founder Hans Bender that those phenomena are now part of the agenda of the international parapsychological community – mostly under the designation “Recurrent Spontaneous Psychokinesis” (RSPK). Historical, sociological, clinical-psychological, experimental and methodological aspects of RSPK phenomena are an integral part of the relevant research agenda and are regularly discussed at conferences such as the Parapsychological Conference or the “Society for Psychical Research”. The aim of counselling “haunted” people is to help them to find a solution to their prob-

lems. The aim of such a counselling is to decipher the meaning or significance of such occurrences against the background of the current biographical or family situation. It can be shown that RSPK phenomena disappear when the “real” problem – its “meaning” – has been understood: poltergeist phenomena lose their importance and one does not like to remember them even later – they change into literature and find their deserved place in the IGPP library for example.

Bauer

Publication: Bauer (2023b)

Hans Bender and the review article “Wanted: The Poltergeist”

In a remarkable conversation that Prof. Hans Bender had with his successor Prof. Johannes Mischo (1930-2001) in 1982 on the occasion of his 75th birthday, later published in his ‘Festschrift’ (commemorative publication) *Spektrum der Parapsychologie* (1983), Bender mentions the number of RSPK cases that he had investigated over the decades together with the Institute team – “exactly 60 - without the deceptions and hysterical events” – and continues: “A presentation evaluating the entire material is indeed overdue.” An important step in this direction was the review article by Monika Huesmann and Friederike Schriever, which was written at the IGPP and published in 1989 under the title “Steckbrief des Spuks” in a special issue of the *Zeitschrift für Parapsychologie und Grenzgebiete der Psychologie*, which was dedicated to the description, documentation and interpretation of poltergeists qua RSPK phenomena (cf. Bauer & Lucadou, 1989). More than thirty years later, this important research work was published in the English translation “Wanted: The Poltergeist” in the *Journal of Anomalistics / Zeitschrift für Anomalistik* (2022) and embedded in the context of the Institute’s history. An attempt was made – following Bender – to analyse quantitatively and statistically 54 RSPK reports from the Freiburg Institute from the years 1947 to 1986. A specially developed questionnaire was used to collect as much detailed information as possible on the reported phenomena, the poltergeist persons, the focus person (F.P.), the witnesses and the investigation and documentation. The phenomenology of these cases was also compared with the case collections presented in the literature, which revealed clear similarities but also striking differences, e.g. in the duration of the incidents. Two factors were extracted by means of a statistical analysis: (1) a “novelty” or “structural factor”, as it only includes items that indicate something new, something added, something structurally changing (e. g. “retrievals”, “penetrations”, “graffiti”); (2) a “change” or “behavior factor”, as it is defined by items that describe the fact that something existing undergoes a change (e. g. “objects suddenly disappear”, “cupboards, doors, windows open by themselves”). The data on poltergeist persons and poltergeist focus persons (F.P.), also from the IGPP sample, revealed the following picture: poltergeist persons come from all levels of the society. Subjectively, they feel heavily burdened by the poltergeist events and are often socially isolated. After the phenomena have stopped, they repress their memories of them to a large extent. A large proportion of F.P. are in puberty when the phenomena begin, and a third of them

report physical or psychological problems during or immediately before poltergeist phenomena, whereby they feel exposed to many social and psychological stressors. Relatively often they live with only one parent or with grandparents. The consistency of the data on F.P. with the results of other relevant studies is high.

Bauer

Publications: Bauer (2022a, 2023b)

Fanny Moser, Hans Bender and the Poltergeist

The founder of the IGPP, Prof Hans Bender, certainly corresponded to the ideal that Dr Fanny Moser, the first patron of the Freiburg Institute, might have had in mind as an example of an unprejudiced parapsychological researcher embedded in the academic milieu, especially as Bender had already placed the taboo subject of “poltergeists and hauntings” on his research agenda at an early stage of his academic career. The contribution to the anthology *Science und Séance: Die Biologin und Parapsychologin Fanny Moser (1872–1953)*, edited by Ina Schmied-Knittel, describes the individual stages that Bender travelled along this path. Fanny Moser’s idealistic legacy at the IGPP was also the inspiration for the history of reception of three classic case reports, which are already described in her book *Spuk. Irrglaube oder Wahrglaube: Ein Frage der Menschheit* (1950, Reprint 1977) and which have repeatedly become the subject of historical reconstruction attempts and public interest. They have both a special historical patina and a ‘material-bound’ literary quality and repeatedly challenge the reader to make new attempts at interpretation in order to come a step closer to this “question of mankind” – perhaps by opening up and taking into account new materials and biographical documents that may emerge in the course of archival discoveries and associated historical reconstructions. These are the following cases: (1) Melchior Joller: *Darstellung selbsterlebter mystischer Erscheinungen* (1863); (2) Justinus Kerner: *Eine Erscheinung aus dem Nachtgebiete der Natur* (1836); (3) Fanny Moser: *Fall der Chemikerin Frau Dr A. Kornitzky in Berlin* (1950). Thanks to the research of the cultural historian Heino Gehrts (1913–1998), a wealth of biographical source material has been preserved, particularly on the ‘Kornitzky case’, which allows a meaningful bridge to be built between the life story of the witness and the symbolic ‘language of phenomena’.

Bauer

Publications: Bauer (2022a, 2023b)

Empirical and theoretical aspects of research in anomalistics

Terminal and paradoxical terminal lucidity: An explanation of terms

Scientific parapsychology covers a heterogeneous spectrum of unusual or anomalistic phenomena. This project dealt with various topics in anomalistics, with the focus being on unusual phenomena close to death. This particularly concerns the phenomena of terminal lucidity and paradoxical lucidity. Because these two closely related phenomena or concepts have often been confused or mixed together in the existing literature, clarifying

definitions have been presented in various publications. The term terminal lucidity was introduced into the literature by Michael Nahm in 2009 and describes the occurrence of unexpected mental clarity shortly before death in people who were previously confused, demented, or even comatose. The criterion for terminal lucidity is proximity to death and it can occur in people with or without brain damage. The term paradoxical lucidity was introduced into the literature in 2019 by a team of authors including Michael Nahm. The criterion for paradoxical lucidity is an episode of mental clarity despite significant brain damage (e.g. late-stage Alzheimer’s disease, tumors, strokes), hence the attribute “paradoxical.” It is not dependent on the proximity of death and can occur months before. However, both concepts overlap in case people with significant brain damage become mentally lucid shortly before dying. In such cases, one can also speak of paradoxical terminal lucidity (Nahm, 2022a, b, c, d).

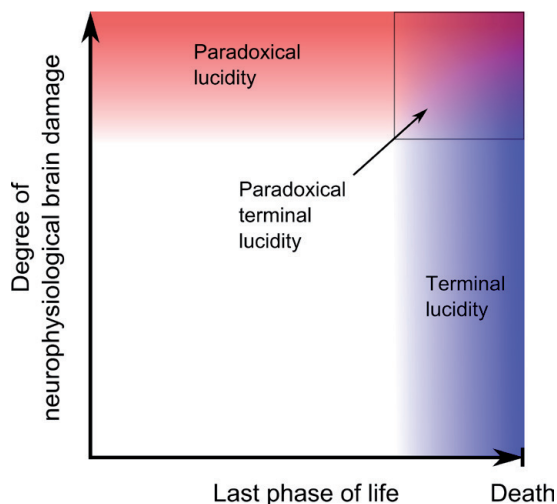


Fig. 21. Illustration of the concepts of terminal lucidity and paradoxical lucidity (from Nahm, 2022a).

Furthermore, a first study on terminal lucidity specifically in children was published. To date, reports and studies on terminal and paradoxical lucidity concern almost exclusively adults and people of advanced age. However, the occurrence of terminal lucidity in children has specific implications that necessitate the dissemination of knowledge about these occurrences (Roehrs et al., 2023).

Similarly, a first systematic publication on remarkable near-death phenomena in animals was published together with Rupert Sheldrake and Pamela Smart. To date, there have only been scattered reports on these phenomena in the literature and the internet, so an initial systematic analysis of such reports seemed desirable to highlight the significance of this possible field of research. To this end, the already existing case collection in Rupert Sheldrake’s database was used, and new case reports were collected through appeals in public media. They were then assigned to different categories of unusual beha-

viator. Of the 114 case reports used, 43 were presented in this publication. They primarily concerned common pets such as dogs and cats, but also birds, horses, and other animals. They showed a marked similarity to near-death phenomena reported from humans, including terminal lucidity (Sheldrake, Smart & Nahm, 2023). In addition, the first systematic publication on reported after-death contacts with deceased animals has been written together with Rupert Sheldrake and Jams Matlock. It will be published next year. In general, the term “terminal lucidity” has become increasingly established in the public, often in connection with the research of Michael Nahm at the IGPP. A Google search for the term “terminal lucidity” in quotation marks currently results in 40,000 to 70,000 hits. Moreover, at least one band, three music albums, ten songs, and one climbing route have been given the name “Terminal Lucidity.”

Parapsychology und UAP Research

Regarding theoretical work, a contribution to theory building in parapsychology has been published that followed an integrative and synthetic approach (Nahm, 2022e). It takes macroscopic physical anomalies such as psychokinesis, levitation, or retrieval into account. Comparable anomalies are regularly reported also in the context of “Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena” (UAP), also known as UFOs. In a further synthetic treatise, similarities between parapsychological phenomena and UAP as well as appropriate research strategies for these phenomena were addressed. Moreover, the implications were discussed that result from the relationship of these phenomena for theory building, as



Fig. 22. Body parts of the jellyfish species *Pyrostephos vanhoeffeni*, first described by Fanny Moser (excerpt of Fig. 3 in Nahm, 2023b).

well as the question in how far parapsychology could benefit from the increased reputation of scientific research into UAP (Nahm, 2023a).

Fanny Moser's biological work

As a treatise on historical matters, Michael Nahm contributed a book chapter for the monograph on Swiss biologist and parapsychologist Fanny Moser (1872–1953), the first patron of the IGPP. This chapter concerned Moser's zoological work, which is barely known outside of marine biology. Moser's zoological research was chiefly dedicated to two subgroups of jellyfish, of which she described numerous species for the first time. Of her original species descriptions, 25 are still valid. Consequently, Moser's work is regularly cited in the relevant specialist literature to this day. However, in contrast to other biologists of her time who had also dealt with parapsychological topics, Moser never related her biological to her parapsychological work, although possible points of reference did exist (Nahm 2023b).

Norbert Okołowicz: Reminiscences of Séances with the Medium Franek Kluski – A translation of a Polish book

Another historical work consists in the detailed introduction to a translation of a Polish book published in 1926 about the renowned physical medium Franek Kluski (1873–1943). The translation of this book made some facets of Kluski's mediumship, which had hardly been known in the Western world, available to a wide range of people and helped

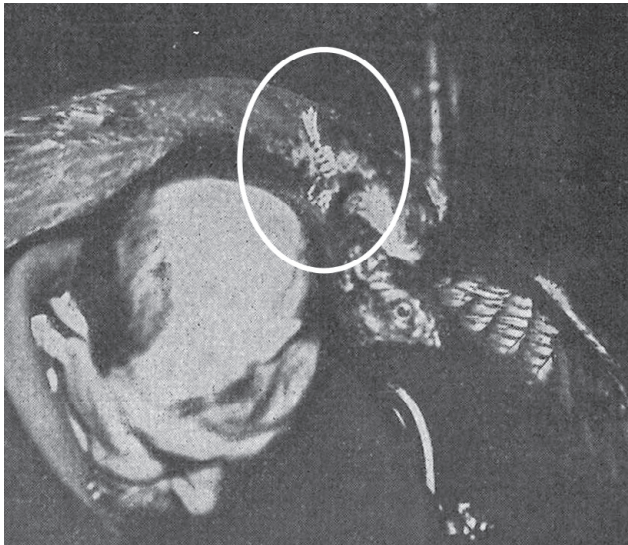


Fig. 23. A live Northern goshawk that is said to have materialised in the dark during a séance with medium Franek Kluski. On closer inspection, a structure is visible in the white ellipse that resembles an upward-pointing tassel, indicating that the bird was on a leash (from Nahm, 2023c).

to overcome language barriers regarding parapsychological research in Eastern European countries. In the above-mentioned introduction, the most important phenomena of this medium, who was very prominent at his time, were summarized. An essential element of his séances consisted in alleged materializations of deceased people, but also of animals. The theoretical significance of such materializations for survival research and biology was discussed, but also the possibilities for fraud (Nahm, 2023c).

Fraud in physical mediumship and incorrect content in publications

The fact that fraudulent techniques to produce phenomena are often used in physical mediumship must always be taken into account when documenting or investigating such phenomena – especially if they take place in dark séance rooms. This was emphasized in various presentations and an online publication about the alleged physical medium Kai Mügge. This online publication contains ample image material that shows Mügge in action. These stills from a video recording demonstrate visibly how Mügge creates supposed table levitations in a fraudulent manner by simply lifting the table with his hands, thereby successfully misleading the researchers who investigated him. This resulted in one more spread of blatant misinformation regarding the phenomena of alleged physical mediums and underscores the necessity for the application of appropriate control conditions during such sittings in dark séance rooms (Nahm, 2023d). In theoretical discussions, however, incorrect information is sometimes disseminated as well. Regarding a grossly inadequate review of a recent major output of the IGPP, the book “An den Grenzen unseres Wissens” (edited by D. Vaitl, 2020), several errors and other deficiencies contained in this review were highlighted and corrected (Mayer & Nahm, 2022). Corrections were likewise called for in response to a critique of an award-winning essay by Michael Nahm from 2021. With an obvious pejorative intent, the author of this critique attributed various statements to Nahm that are in reality not contained in this essay. This was demonstrated in a detailed reply (Nahm, 2022f). The essay concerns the question of survival of consciousness after death and was previously available only as an online document. In the meantime, a slightly revised version has been published in print (Nahm 2023e).

Michael Nahm

Publications: Mayer & Nahm (2022); Nahm (2022a, b, c, d, e, f; 2023a, b, c, d, e); Roehrs et al. (2023); Sheldrake, Smart & Nahm (2023)

Online Symposium: Shared Deviance. The Interrelations of Psi and UAP (25.02.2023, Parapsychological Association)

In February 2023, Michael Nahm organized a symposium on the interrelations of “unidentified anomalous phenomena” (UAP) and psi-phenomena in the frame of regular online symposia of the *Parapsychological Association*. In addition to Nahm, four other speakers presented their experiences and considerations on this topic: Andreas Anton (IGPP), Colm Kelleher (currently Bigelow Institute for Consciousness Studies, Las

Vegas, USA), Jeffrey Kripal (Rice University, Houston, USA), and Eric Ouellet (Royal Military College, Canada).

Michael Nahm

Fanny Moser Anniversary 2022/2023

The processing period was dominated by the Fanny Moser anniversary. Fanny Moser was one of the IGPP's earliest female patrons and would have been 150 years old in 2022. (It was also the 70th anniversary of her death in 2023).

Moser's biography is remarkable in many aspects, especially in terms of her pioneering efforts: whether as one of the first female students at the end of the 19th century (by the way, she began her studies at the local Albert Ludwigs University in 1896), or as one of the few female academics with a doctorate and as a respected zoologist at the beginning of the 20th century, or as a researcher of hauntings and supporter of academic parapsychology in Freiburg. A comprehensive appreciation of Fanny Moser's scientific achievements was therefore long overdue, especially as Moser had decided before her death to hand over her scientific legacy to the Freiburg IGPP. Since then, Moser's diaries and calendars, her university certificates, photographs and drawings, publications and offprints, her collection of scientific cases and unpublished manuscripts, correspondence with relatives, university friends and scientific colleagues, including such famous names as Sigmund Freud, Carl Gustav Jung, Eugen Bleuler, Ricarda Huch, Franz Kafka, Oswald Spengler, Marie Baum and Oda Schottmüller, have been kept in the IGPP-archive. She also left the IGPP a valuable research library about occultism, which is now available as a unique and special collection on "parapsychology and frontier areas" of the Freiburg University Library. In view of this, Moser's 150th birthday led to the idea of making a comprehensive and systematic compilation of her legacy and paying tribute to her scientific work. This initial situation has already led to a whole series of specific and collaborative projects at the IGPP and has resulted in several events, publications, and celebrations in 2022 and 2023, including a symposium, an anthology, several lectures, a special Fanny Moser Prize announcement and, finally, a visit of the IGPP-staff to Moser's Swiss hometown Schaffhausen.



Fig. 24. Anthology "Science und Séance".

Anthology “Science and Séance”

Published in spring 2023, the anthology (edited by Schmied-Knittel) brings together various projects in the context of the Moser anniversary, which had given rise to a small research network in advance. In particular, the close collaboration with the Moser Family Museum Schloss Charlottenfels in Neuhausen, the former Swiss residence of the Moser family on her father’s side, should be mentioned here, as well as collaborations within the IGPP. Conceptualized as a collection of essays, the several contributions represent a whole conglomerate of topics relevant to social, cultural, scientific, university and women’s history, which shine through Moser’s biography, as well as her family and professional circumstances and the corresponding social and historical backgrounds. The anthology is the first attempt to take a closer look at the exciting but also sometimes ambivalent biography of Fanny Moser, a scientist whose somewhat forgotten life is worth bringing to light – not least because it can contribute to the awareness, historicization and dissolution of boundaries of heterodox lives and fields of discourse.

Symposium to commemorate the 150th Birthday of Fanny Moser

After an initial celebration in 2022 to mark the 150th anniversary of Fanny Moser with focus on the local history of the Moser family in Schaffhausen, the IGPP organized a scientific symposium in Freiburg the following year. It took place on June 3, 2023 in the prestigious conference venue of the Freiburg University Library, which supported the event from the very beginning. The conference program referred to the anthology “Science and Séance” (see below), which was released at the same time. The conference offered lectures on Fanny Moser’s remarkable biography and family history, on university history (after all, Moser was one of the first female academics in the early 20th century) and on the history of science, both in terms of Moser’s role as a zoologist and as a parapsychologist. The symposium was a full success and ended with the ceremonial awarding of the Fanny Moser Prize 2023 (see below). The feedback from the approximately 80 participants from all over Germany and Switzerland was consistently positive, and the local press reported on it several times.



Fig. 25. Flyer for the Moser Symposium in June 2023.



Fig. 26. Winner of the Fanny-Moser-Prize 2023 Eveline Szarka.

Fanny Moser Prize 2023

In her testament, Fanny Moser had instructed that the IGPP should regularly award a prize for the best work in the field of parapsychology. The anniversary of her 150th birthday was taken as an inspiration to place the 2023 announcement under Moser’s “favorite topic” of hauntings. The jury voted in favor of the book by PhD historian Eveline Szarka (Department of History at the University of Zurich, and Heidelberg University) “Sinn für Gespenster. Spukphänomene in der reformierten Schweiz” (Böhlau, 2022). Szarka reconstructs the debate about ghosts and haunting rituals in Protestant Switzerland, specifically in Basel, Bern, and Zurich after the Reformation between 1530 and 1730. Using numerous archive sources, she looks not only at the theological interpretation of hauntings, but also at the everyday lifeworld: How did people behave when their houses seemed to be haunted? Which everyday life interpretations of supposed hauntings dominated and what practical ways of dealing with them did the clerical and secular authorities allow? Szarka draws the answers to these questions from theological sources, sermons, administration records and medicine and recipe books that contained relevant statements. The jury was impressed by the historical context, the depth of the source investigation and the convincing presentation of the results. The award ceremony with a laudatory speech by Eberhard Bauer (by the way, the first Fanny Moser Prize winner) took place at the Fanny Moser Symposium in June 2023.



Fig. 27. The IGPP-team in Schaffhausen, Switzerland, September 2022.

IGPP Excursion Schaffhausen September 2022

Finally, the Moser anniversary also led to the idea of visiting Moser's Swiss homeland. The cooperation with the Moser Family Museum and Moser's great-nephew and family chronicler R.N. Balsiger made it possible to visit Charlottenfels Castle, the former residence of the Moser family (on her father's side), take a guided tour of the family grave in Schaffhausen (where Fanny Moser's urn is also buried) (Fig. 27) and visit the Moser watch factory, founded by father Heinrich Moser. The hosts gave us a warm welcome and provided an informative and entertaining insight into the family history of one of the earliest patrons of the IGPP.

Ina Schmied-Knittel

Publications (2022a, 2023a, 2023b, 2023c)

The occult in fine art and photography

This field of work entails (a) archival and documentary work, (b) the handling of research re-quests, and (c) service, organizational and research tasks related to exhibitions and publications.

Art and Mediumship

During the period being reviewed, the primary focus was directed towards the explo-



Fig. 28. The „dream painter“ Wilhelmine Aßmann around 1912.

ration of art and mediumism, a topic already connected with the early history of the Institute. In recent years, this theme has been actively addressed and highlighted through a series of exhibition projects, developed in partnership with the IGPP. Presently, our objective is to thoroughly document and bibliographically record the evolution of mediumistic drawing and painting practices, which have appeared since approximately 1850, primarily within the realm of Spiritism. Notably, the subject has received significant attention in both academic discourse and the public sphere, mostly due to the profound interest in the works of the artist and “painting medium” Hilma af Klint (1862–1944). The rich history is thoroughly explored, encompassing diverse viewpoints from spiritualism, parapsychology, and Art Brut to Outsider Art. Moreover, attention is given to the circulation and exhibition of these images, whether within museum projects, the art market, or various institutions associated with spiritualism and occultisms. Particular emphasis is placed on the importance of this subject within Germany such as through the case of the “dream painter” Wilhelmine Aßmann (1862–1936) (Fig. 28).

“Spuk” in the Bottle: Fanny Moser and the Sample of “Teleplasma” by Oskar Schlag

In the context of the activities at the Institute on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Fanny Moser [Fanny Hoppe-Moser] in 2023, a study was carried out on what she considered to be the “most valuable” object in her scientific collection donated to the Institute and which had been repeatedly presented in exhibition projects in recent years. It is the small glass bottle which, as can be read on an accompanying inscription, is

said to contain “Teleplasma” produced by the medium Oskar Schlag (1907–1990), which she had received as a legacy from the electrotherapist Eugen Konrad Müller (1861–1948) in June 1949. When Moser first examined it in 1935, she could still make out an “irregular coating of larger and smaller, whitish and dark spots, thread-like rays, star-shaped formations, crystal-like bodies”, but to today’s eye it appears empty (Moser 1935/1974, p. 893) (Fig. 29).

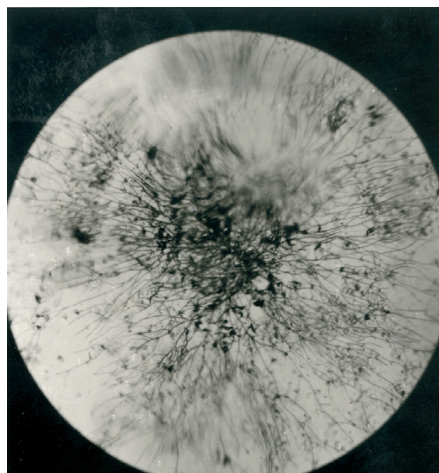


Fig. 29. Photography through the bottom of the bottle from 1931.

The study traces the provenance of the object, its creation in Zurich in February 1931, and the biographical background of Schlag and Müller as well as the art historian Robert Bernouilli (1880–1948), in whose house it was created in the course of

a series of séances. It also shows the context and extent of Moser’s interest in it and in the paranormal phenomena allegedly produced by Schlag in general, right up to the writing of the manuscript for the second volume of “Spuk”, which could not be completed and remained unpublished. The collection of several hundred manuscript pages was revised in this context. In addition, the history of the object since Moser’s death, i.e. the handover to Hans Bender in June 1953 and its further whereabouts at the Institute are outlined.

Andreas Fischer

Archives

Overview

The task of the IGPP archive is the long-term preservation, indexing, communication and utilization of documents and materials that are important for the cultural and scientific history of parapsychology and the frontier areas of psychology in general, and for the history of the Institute in particular. Since the foundation of the IGPP, the documentation and collection of relevant material belong to its central tasks.

A separate “Institute Archive” work area with its own structure was established after the Institute had moved from “Eichhalde” to the “Wilhelmstraße” in Freiburg in 1996. Due to its specific and unique profile, the IGPP archive is of particular significance within German and European scientific culture. As a special and scientific collection, the IGPP archive is corporate member of the “Association of German Archivists”, where it belongs to the subgroup “University Archives and Archives of Scientific Institutions”.

Record Groups and collections

The IGPP archive consists of several major groups of records and collections: photo-

graphs; audio material; video material and objects. The main body consists of written working documents and research files of the Institute when it was located at the “Eichhalde” (Freiburg) from 1950 to 1995. Among them are collections of reports of spontaneous phenomena or collections of RSPK case studies, as well as the working documents and research files of the Institute in the “Wilhelmstraße” (Freiburg) since 1996 and in a new organisational structure since 2014. Next in line are partial or complete collections of personal papers (currently: 42 holdings). Finally, there are collections of relevant items, e.g. of academic theses, reports and publications as well as individual and thematic collections, posters and comprehensive press collections (currently: 57 holdings). A more detailed overview regarding the archival holdings and general information on the archive can be found on the website of the IGPP at <https://www.igpp.de/archiv>.

Current information on the archival work may be found on the website: <https://www.facebook.com/igpp.archiv> provides up-to-date information on the archive’s work.

Special or major additions to the archives during the reporting period include: parts of personal papers of the writer, painter and influential astrologer Thomas Ring (1892–1983); fragments of the personal paper of the philosopher Traugott Konstantin Oesterreich (1880–1949); personal papers of the philosopher and psychologist Harald Walach; numerous documents of the former IGPP Institute Director Dieter Vaitl; a large collection of the sociologist René Gründer on the research field of the so-called neo-paganism. Two rare 16mm film documents by Angelos Tanagras (1875–1971) from the 1930s, donated by Fotini Pallikari (Athens), represent a particularly valuable addition.

Archival communication

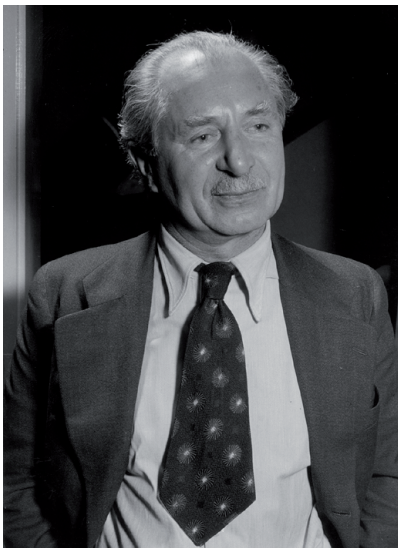


Fig. 30. Thomas Ring around 1952 (Photo: Leif Geiges, Archives of the IGPP).

The collection of university theses (collection 40/1) has been further expanded. The collection now includes 416 theses (habilitation, dissertation, master, diploma, bachelor) on diverse topics. A small collection donated to the IGPP archives in 2010 (period: 1986–2007) contains journals, books and brochures from the context and associations of so-called neo-paganism compiled by the sociologist René Gründer during his research on “Staging the ‘Germanic’ in contemporary neopaganism” (2006–2009). The DFG project, a co-operation between the IGPP and the University of Freiburg, resulted in Gründer’s dissertation “Blótgemeinschaften. A religious ethnography of ‘Germanic neo-paganism’” (2010). In addition to esoteric, “Germanic” and eco-spiritual content, there is evidence of overlaps with neo-right-wing or explicitly nationalist ideologies.

The small collection of printed material provides a fragmentary insight into subcultures and societies whose positioning can be considered problematic in significant parts. A further collection on neo-paganism (20/41), which was also donated by the sociologist in 2023, was also pre-organised and prepared for for cataloguing.

Also listed is a collection of publications and publishing activities of the Ebertin family. This family is of prominent significance for the history of modern astrology in Germany. The collection (20/40) was given to the IGPP by Dr Baldur R. Ebertin (1933–2020). It comprises 351 printed publications from the years 1911 to 1984 on astrological or cosmobiological topics. These books, brochures, calendars and magazines were published in particular by the Ebertin-Verlag, but some other publishers are also represented, such as the Freiburg-based Paul-Lorenz-Verlag and the Freiburg-based Zodiakus-Verlag. Many publications were written by Baldur Ebertin's father Reinhold Ebertin (1901–1988) and his grandmother Elsbeth Ebertin (1880–1944). Systematically pre-sorted for the use in a project on the life and work of the famous researcher on RSPK and occultism, Fanny Hoppe-Moser (1872–1953), are the personal papers of Hoppe-Moser (10/3). This extensive collection has survived in a very complicated form. Probably, it is one of the most important collections for the history of parapsychology in German-speaking countries in the first half of the 20th century.

Extensive sorting and cataloguing work was also carried out in the various collections of photographs in the archive - in particular photographs before 1950 (2/1), photographs 1950-1995 (2/2), the Leif Geiges collection (2/4) - as well as the collections of film material (6/1, 6/2, 6/3) and sound recordings (4/1, 4/2, 4/3, 4/4, see below).

Digitization of archive holdings

The audiovisual collections mentioned above hold undeniable significance and are deserving of utmost protection within the IGPP archive. However, they face significant challenges regarding preservation and accessibility. Of particular concern are the analog audio recordings, which are highly susceptible to deterioration. These include 29 Astromag records dating from 1949 to 1951, 757 magnetic tapes spanning from 1952 to 1977, and 1260 compact audio cassettes from 1969 to 1991 (as of the end of 2023). Additionally, there are challenges associated with preserving existing digital audio carriers, such as 71 digital audio tapes (DAT) from 1998 and a collection of CD-Roms containing audio recordings, as well as microcassettes numbering approx. 100 since 2000.

During the reporting period, the collection was therefore subjected to another revision, which confirmed that large parts would have to be transferred or digitized in a relatively short period of time in order to achieve a sustainable preservation. Given the considerable financial investment required, it was suggested to prioritize materials related to the "Spuk" topic (poltergeist phenomena), which constitute a main collection within the archive. This involves a total of 759 objects. A start was made on digitizing a selection of audio cassettes in order to determine the extent to which backup measures are possible without recourse to external service providers. In this context, the project "Digitalisierung der Institutssammlungen zum Themenfeld Spuk" (DIS) [Digitization of the

Institute's collections on the subject of poltergeist phenomena] was proposed, which, in addition to the audio records, is to include the digital preservation of 1,600 photographs and 117 films as well as other collections on the topic in the Institute's archive such as case files, collection and press folders and correspondence up to 1950 (e.g. from the estates of Albert von Schrenck-Notzing and Fanny Moser) and library holdings. In this context, high-resolution digital backup copies have already been made of a number of photographic holdings.

Use of the archives

Apart from the acquisition and securing of relevant material, the analysis and utilization for scientific projects is one of the major foci of archival work. Archival holdings are utilized by staff of the Institute as well as by external researchers with a research interest that is seen as justified by the IGPP.

During the reporting period several publications utilizing archival material of the IGPP archives were produced. The following contributions on the biologist and parapsychologist Fanny Hoppe-Moser should be mentioned: Schmied-Knittel, 2023, see p. 39–40, in it: Nahm 2023b, see p. 36–37, Schellinger 2023, Schmied-Knittel 2023b and c, M. Ranneberg: Fanny Hoppe-Mosers "Cassandra." Annäherung an ein Fragment gebliebene Selbstvorstellung; Schmied-Knittel 2022a and M. Ranneberg: Fanny Hoppe-Moser (1872–1953) und ihre „Vaterstadt“. Further topics and titles of scientific papers are e.g.: Lotte Böhringer (1917–1994), the "Anima" of the Freiburg Institute (Bauer 2022b, see p. 31–32); Dr Albert Hellwig (1880–1950) (J. Leicht); Proponents and opponents of criminal mediumism around 1900 in Germany (U. Schellinger).

Showcase into the Archives

Insights into the IGPP archive are provided by changing, small-scale exhibitions under the title "Showcase into the IGPP Archive". Selected archival documents of (scientific) historical interest are shown and supplemented by online-presentations. During the reporting period, the topics have been the biography of the physician and godmother of Hans Bender, Else Liefmann (1881–1970); the research project "Staging the 'Germanic' in contemporary neo-paganism" 2006-2009); the life and work of Bernhard Bischler (1884–1965), the so-called "Clairvoyant of the Kinzig Valley"; the acquaintance between the parapsychologist Gerda Walther (1897–1977) and the well-known writer Karl Wolfskehl (1869–1948); a spectacular RSPK



Fig. 31. Jaroslav Hoppe around 1900.

case in Italy in the early 1980s involving the young Scottish woman Carole Compton; the composer Jaroslav Hoppe (1878–1926), the almost forgotten husband of the famous RSPK researcher Fanny Hoppe-Moser (Fig. 31).

Eberhard Bauer, Andreas Fischer und Uwe Schellinger

Library

History

The historical basis of the Institute's library comprises the collection of the Swiss biologist and parapsychologist Dr. Fanny Moser (1872–1953). The 2,000 volumes contain rare original editions from the early history of mesmerism, magnetism, occultism and psychical research. Another important collection of 2500 volumes belonged to Albert von Schrenck-Notzing. M. D. (1862–1929), a Munich physician and psychotherapist and a well-known pioneer of research into “physical mediumship”, including telekinesis and materialization phenomena. Starting in 1970, with financial support from the Stiftung Volkswagenwerk, it became possible to build up systematically a comprehensive collection of literature dealing with parapsychology and other anomalistic research topics. Since 1973, the IGPP library has been supported by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) (German Research Society) as a specialized Research Library for Parapsychology and Frontier Areas of Psychology. From 2011 to 2014, the DFG was supporting the IGPP library as a special collection (Sondersammelgebiet) as part of the university library of Freiburg. The IGPP is responsible for the scientific supervision and selection of the library and collaborates closely with the university library of Freiburg which is the owner of the library holdings and responsible for its technical administration. For details see <https://www.ub.uni-freiburg.de/ihre-ub/kooperationen-und-projekte/grenzgebiete-der-psychologie/>

Profile of the Library

The task of the library is a systematic and comprehensive collection of the whole spectrum of the domestic and international scientific literature dealing with parapsychology, psi research and anomalistics (including so called “grey” literature). This includes (1) spontaneous paranormal experiences like telepathy, clairvoyance, precognition, psychokinesis, apparitions, paranormal impressions and RSPK or poltergeist phenomena, together with relevant case collections, field studies, laboratory experiments and theoretical models comprising their historical development, methods, results, problems, controversies and interdisciplinary aspects of research into scientific frontier areas; (2) psychological fringe experiences like out-of-body and near-death experiences, lucid dreams or multiple personalities; (3) collecting the whole spectrum of “fringe sciences”, like occultism, spiritism, e. g. “occult techniques” such as pendulum, after life contacts, mediumistic communications, channelling, memories of previous lives, voices on tape; (4) esoteric and New Age literature; (5) dowsing and radiesthesia (“earth rays”); (6) mental and spiritual

healing and complementary medicine; (7) magic, possession, witches and demons; (8) secret societies, sects, lodges; (9) cabbala, numerology, symbolistics; (10) divination and



Fig. 32. Some acquisition to the Institute's library: Alan Gauld: *The Heyday of mental mediumship: 1880s-1930s : investigators, mediums and communicators*, Hove, White Crow, 2022; Thomas Rabeyron: *Codex Anomalia : de l'énigme du psi à la relation psyché-matière*, Malakoff, interéditions, 2023; Carlos Eire: *They flew: a history of the impossible*, New Haven, London, Yale University Press, 2023; Owen Davies: *Troubled by faith: insanity and the supernatural in the age of the asylum*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2023.

oracle techniques (Tarot, I Ging); (11) UAP research; (12) conjuring magic and trickery; (13) the whole field of “anomalistics”, including phenomena in the sense of Charles Fort (“Fortean”), e. g. cryptozoology (Loch Ness, Bigfoot), Atlantis, Bermuda Triangle, Ancient Astronauts etc.; (15) literary descriptions of ‘esoteric’, ‘occult’ and paranormal phenomena.

Holdings

With currently about 61,000 volumes, the Freiburg library is one of the largest of its kind in Europe. Every year it grows by about 300 to 400 volumes. It currently subscribes to 135 journals and newsletters from all over the world. All international journals for parapsychological and anomalistic research are fully available. Its current stock of journals comprises about 2,338 references, more than half of which are unique, i.e. only available in the special library in Freiburg. This makes this library a unique source of information in Germany and Europe for all questions related to parapsychology and frontier areas of psychology. All holdings of the institute’s library are listed in the online catalogue of Freiburg University Library and can be borrowed there directly (<https://www.ub.uni-freiburg.de/olix>). In the years 2022 and 2023 about 5,800 loans (local and interlibrary loan) were received. In 2005 the IGPP started in cooperation with the University Library of Freiburg to digitize selected parts of the IGPP journal collection and to make them available on the Internet. Aspects of preservation (disintegration of paper) and their historical source value for the cultural, social and scientific history of spiritualism, occultism, psychical research and parapsychology play a decisive role in their selection. Until 2015, nine journals were published online (<https://www.ub.uni-freiburg.de/dipro/igpp/>), among them: (1) *Magikon* (1840–1851); (2) *Sphinx* (1886–1896); (3) *Psychische Studien* (1874–1925); (4) *Zentralblatt für Okkultismus* (1907–1933); (5) *Zeitschrift für kritischen Okkultismus* (1925–1928); (6) *Zeitschrift für Parapsychologie* (1926–1934); (7) *Das Wunder* (1927–1929); (8) *Neue Wissenschaft. Zeitschrift für Grenzgebiete des Seelenlebens* (1950–1968); (8) *Zeitschrift für Parapsychologie und Grenzgebiete der Psychologie* (1957–1968). (9) In 2023, the popular Russian magazine *Anomalija* (1990–2019) was added. The data are stored on a Blu-Ray Disc and contain digitised issues as PDF. The magazine covers the popular spectrum of New Age, Esoterism and Occultism in Russia between 1990 and 2019. The digitisation of further historical journals is being prepared.

Bauer

2.3 Counseling Psychology Practice and Research

Information and counseling at the IGPP

Since its foundation in 1950 by Prof. Hans Bender (1907–1991), the IGPP has offered a free information service for the interested public and for professionals from the fields of psychology, psychotherapy, medicine, education, pastoral care and social work on the entire spectrum of topics in parapsychology and frontier areas of psychology as well as on the state of interdisciplinary and international scientific research dealing with paranormal phenomena and exceptional experiences. Every year, around 1,000 telephone, letter and email inquiries from journalists, students and people with an interest in science and the general public are answered. In particular, information is also provided on training and further education issues, references to specialist literature, additional information and links to important parapsychological research institutions and organizations and information on the use of the IGPP's extensive library and archive.

The IGPP offers a special counseling service with strict data protection precautions for people seeking advice and help for disturbing or distressing exceptional experiences (ExE). ExE are commonly referred to as “psychic”, “paranormal”, “magical” etc. and have been part of the spectrum of human experience in all cultures at all times. They usually occur spontaneously, i.e. unexpectedly and without a recognizable cause. However, they can also be induced by techniques such as automatic writing or meditative practices. There are also ExE that occur after contact with healers, mediums, clairvoyants or by taking advantage of offers from the esoteric scene. Many people evaluate their ExE positively and are able to integrate them well into their world view. Under certain circumstances, however, it can also trigger insecurities and fears that are not easy to overcome. People who feel burdened by ExE often search in vain for explanations and help. The IGPP counseling service supports clients in classifying their experiences and provides coping and processing aids.

Eberhard Bauer, Wolfgang Fach, Liane Hofmann, Ulrich Ott and Annette Zwickel

Exceptional experiences (ExE)

According to a definition by Fach and Belz ExE is a collective term for experiences “that deviate in their quality, their course or their genesis from reality beliefs of those affected and/or their social environment and/or from epistemological concepts and scientific principles and laws established in modern societies. It is ideologically neutral and implies neither statements about the reality status of such experiences nor about the mental health status of the people who report them”. The multitude of different ExE can be traced back to exceptional phenomena (ExP), which can be assigned to four basic classes. The ExP basic class model, developed by Wolfgang Fach and shown in Figure 1, is the starting point for the classification of ExE in IGPP counseling. It captures reported ExP as experiential content in a global phenomenal reality model based on the dichotomy of a self-model and a world-model as its fundamental components. Phenomena that devi-

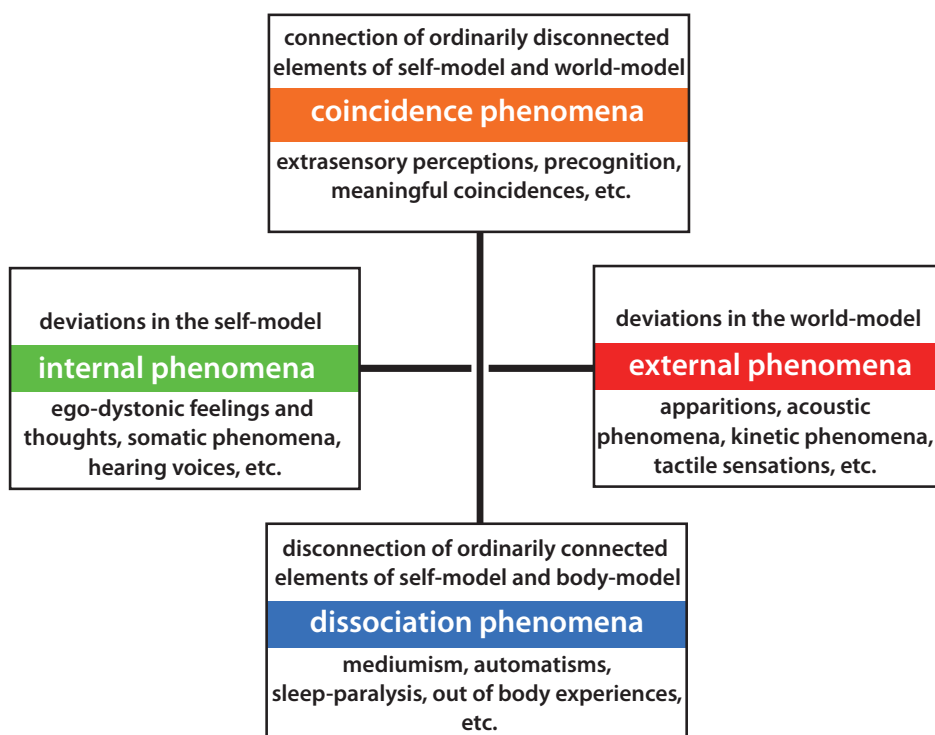


Fig. 33. ExP basic class model.

ate from reality beliefs in the sense of the above definition can be localized as external phenomena in the world-model or as internal phenomena in the self-model. In addition, coincidence phenomena can be defined as exceptional connections and dissociation phenomena as exceptional separations of the self-model and the world-model:

1. External phenomena are exceptional phenomena in the external environment. They often occur in the house or apartment of clients and are referred to as *poltergeist and apparitions*. This *ExE-pattern* is characterized in particular by kinetic phenomena (e.g. movement, disappearance or appearance of objects), unexplained noises (e.g. knocking, footsteps), smells, temperature fluctuations and perceptions of visible (shadows, diffuse figures, light, etc.) or invisible presences are reported.
2. Internal phenomena are exceptional phenomena that clients perceive mentally or in their bodies in the pattern of *internal presence and influence*. They usually attribute this experience to certain people or external powers that affect them through telepathic, paranormal or magical forces. They mainly report physical sensations (e.g. energy flows, pain, exhaustion), thoughts, feelings and moods that are ego-dystonic, or hearing inner voices.
3. Coincidence phenomena concern exceptional connections between inner experiences

and external events. For example, clients describe *extrasensory perceptions* of the inner states of other people (telepathy) or events in the past (retrocognition), present (clairvoyance) or future (precognition, dreams). There are also frequent reports on the pattern of *meaningful coincidences* in which oracle techniques (e.g. tarot, pendulum) lead to accurate statements, certain incidents are experienced as fateful, or accumulations of similar events (e.g. occurrence of a number) appear as a sign of a higher order or as a curse (e.g. misfortune).

4. Dissociation phenomena concern exceptional physical phenomena and the loss of control over one's own body. This can happen, for example, by the pattern of *mediumism and automatisms*, in which uncontrolled impulses for movement and action (e.g. automatic writing, glossolalia) occur that are experienced as heteronomous. Conversely, phenomena known as *nightmare and sleep paralysis* are experienced particularly in states close to sleep and on awakening. This ExE-pattern is characterized by an inability to move, often accompanied by tactile sensations (nightmares), as well as external phenomena (apparitions, invisible presence).

Wolfgang Fach

Consulting modalities

• *Documentation*

The counselors at the IGPP jointly manage the data of their clients using a documentation system (DOKU), which was introduced in 1998 in accordance with the valid standards for basic documentation at the IGPP. To date, around 5,000 clients with counseling concerns directly related to ExE have been recorded. The evaluation results show essentially constant distributions over the years with regard to the reported exceptional phenomena and the socio-demographics of the clients as well as the characteristics of clinically significant variables. However, the number of clients seeking advice has leveled off since 2010 from around 250 clients per year to around 100 per year due to a change in the search behavior of the younger generation and the continuously increasing number of offers and forums that clients come across on the Internet. In general it cannot be assumed that those affected will find appropriate and sustainable help, as many of them are dependent on professional care due to the circumstances surrounding their ExE (see below).

• *Data processing*

Personal data are processed in accordance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and professional obligations (Art. 6 para. 1 lit. c GDPR). In accordance with the documentation obligation under Section 9 of the Model Professional Code for Psychological Psychotherapists (MBO-PP/KJP), the data is stored for at least 10 years. They are used for quality assurance of counseling as well as for statistical and scientific research purposes (Art. 89 GDPR and § 27 BDSG). The recording and analysis of counseling and therapy sessions is also an integral part of quality assurance

and research work. Audio and video recordings of counseling sessions are made with the express consent of clients. Depending on the respective consent, these recordings are used (1) for quality assurance and supervision, (2) for scientific research purposes and (3) for training and further education.

- *Setting up a secure file server*

By setting up a network attached storage that is not connected to the Internet and to which only counseling staff have access, the guarantee of data protection in the counseling area was increased significantly once again. The database with personal data was transferred to a new PC, which also has no connection to the Internet and is connected to the protected file server for data backup.

- *Establishment of an online advisory platform*

In accordance with the GDPR, an internet platform has been set up to ensure secure email communication between counseling board and clients. This is an online counseling system from the technical service provider Zone 35, which was tailored to the needs of IGPP counseling within the possible scope of design. Clients can use the internet platform (<https://igpp-beratung.assisto.online/>) to contact the counseling team, exchange confidential information and schedule telephone or video appointments. To use the platform, clients only need to register with a freely selectable display name, an email address and a password. If they wish to remain anonymous, they can choose a nickname as their display name and an email address that conceals their identity. To make it easier to categorize requests and better tailor counseling to clients, some voluntary information is requested. The optional information on gender, age, marital status, partnership situation, living situation, employment situation and region of residence is also used for scientific documentation and research.

- *Establishment of video consultation hours*

Clients can arrange video consultations with the counseling staff via the online platform or by telephone. To ensure that the conversations remain confidential, the technical connection runs via the “eSprechstunde.net” platform from Dagineo GmbH. This company is a certified video service provider that meets the special security requirements of the National Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians for medical and psychotherapeutic video consultations. The video service provider guarantees that all content of the video consultation is encrypted end-to-end during the entire transmission process according to the current state of the art and is neither viewed nor stored by it.

Wolfgang Fach, Liane Hofmann, Ulrich Ott and Annette Zwickel

New counseling focus on “Spiritual and meditation-induced crises”

Spiritual practices such as yoga and meditation enjoy great popularity in western societies, and practitioners turn to them for a great variety of motives. Such practices can have multiple health-promoting psychological and physical effects. Under certain cir-

cumstances, however, they can at times also lead to unusual and stressful experiences, even to states of crisis, which require professional support and assistance. Problems and crises of this kind have been discussed in the literature under the term “spiritual crisis”, among others.

Under the direction of Dr. Liane Hofmann and in cooperation with the Spiritual Emergence Network, Germany („S.E.N. e. V., Deutschland“), a new telephone counseling service was established at the IGPP in 2021. Persons who, according to their own appraisal, are going through a spiritual crisis can receive initial orienting information and support here. Directly related to this is the establishment and further development of an additional counseling focus at the IGPP: “Spiritual and meditation-induced crises.” In 2017, Dr. Liane Hofmann as the first editor and co-author of the anthology “Spiritualität und spirituelle Krisen. Handbuch zu Theorie, Forschung und Praxis“ („Spirituality and spiritual crises. Handbook on Theory, Research and Practice“), laid a theoretical foundation on the topic of therapy and counseling for spiritual and meditation-induced crises. Together with Dr. Ulrich Ott, who is conducting research on the topic of negative side effects of meditation, essential theoretical, practice-oriented therapeutic-consultant as well as empirical foundations around the topic of “spiritual and meditation-induced crises” have thereby been worked out in a first phase. In a further step, the transfer of the insights gained in this way into therapeutic and counseling practice is to be advanced, with the objective of contributing to an improvement of health care services for those affected.

As a foundation for the further development of the counseling work and the accompanying research on the new thematic focus “spiritual and meditation-induced crises”, a number of objectives were driven forward in the reporting period. This included the development of regulations and measures for data protection, the consolidation of the infrastructure for telephone and video counseling, the development of a topic-specific documentation-system, the compilation of information materials, the review of suitable survey instruments for the accompanying research and the extension of nationwide psychotherapist contacts and professional networks.

In addition, a series of counseling sessions were conducted on spiritual and meditation-induced crises. On the basis of these consultations, initial impressions could be gained with regard to recurring phenomenological patterns, triggers and the course of such crises and problems, as well as with regard to the specific questions, concerns and problems with which this counseling clientele approaches us.

Liane Hofmann and Ulrich Ott

Counseling work

• Counseling volume

In 2022 and 2023, around 220 people from all over Germany made use of the counseling service for help-seeking people with ExE. As the data for 2023 had not yet been prepared for statistical analysis at the time of publication of this biennial report, the fol-

lowing information is based only on 2022, although it can be assumed that the data is also largely representative for 2023. According to this, ExE of the external patterns of *poltergeist and apparitions* accounted for 22%, the internal patterns of *internal presence and influence* 34%, the coincidence patterns of *extrasensory perception* and *meaningful coincidences* 33% and the dissociation patterns of *mediumism and automatisms* as well as *nightmare and sleep paralysis* 11% of the counseling volume. 54% of initial contacts were made by telephone and 43% by email, 3% by letter. A third of the clients came from Baden-Württemberg. With an average of around 8 contacts per case, counseling for all clients took up around 500 contacts in 2022.

• *Clientele*

The proportion of women among the clients was 57% and the average age was 50. Around 31% of clients did not belong to any religious denomination. The level of education was slightly lower than in previous years: 57% had a technical college or university entrance qualification and 38% had a technical college or university degree. The proportion of clients in a stable partnership was higher than in previous years at 57%. At 41%, fewer clients also lived alone. In terms of marital status, 44% were single, 26% married and 30% divorced or widowed. As in previous years, 37% were unemployed, unable to work or already retired at the time of contact. Around 63% of clients reported social problems (separations, financial difficulties, etc.), 63% reported psychological problems (stress, anxiety, depression, etc.) and 37% reported physical complaints and illnesses. Accordingly, 64% of clients felt burdened not only by ExE, but also explicitly due to their general life circumstances. Despite the lack of information in the majority of cases, a good third of clients are known to have received psychotherapeutic or psychiatric care before or during their counseling contacts with the IGPP. It is estimated that the actual percentage is up to 50%. Around 46% of the clients described symptoms that the counselors classified as possible indications of the presence of a mental disorder. 62% of clients rated their ExE as clearly negative and experienced it as stressful, while 24% were ambivalent and only 14% had a positive assessment.

Wolfgang Fach, Liane Hofmann and Annette Zwickel

Research on exceptional experiences

Preparation of a pilot study “Bonding styles and ExE”

Statistical analyses of around 2,400 counseling cases documented between 1996 and 2014 show that the six ExE-patterns (see Fig. 1), which essentially make up the IGPP counseling volume, correlate significantly with differing forms of social bonding (partnership, marital status, living situation, etc.). Empirical attachment research shows close connections between attachment patterns in childhood and attachment representations, which develop into a relatively stable and latent system of thoughts, beliefs and emotions until adulthood. Attachment representations determine bonding behavior: While a *secure-autonomous* bonding style is associated with a balanced relationship between autonomy

and bonding, an *insecure-dismissing* style emphasizes autonomy and an *insecure-enmeshed* style emphasizes bonding. Biographical analyses of the clients indicate systematic correlations between bonding styles and ExE-patterns. Based on the perceptual orientation in the coincident ExE-patterns, clients with *extrasensory perception* are expected to have a mixed style, which develops into an insecure-dismissing style with *internal presence and influence*. In contrast, clients with *meaningful coincidences* are expected to have a mixed style that develops into an insecure-enmeshed bonding style in the case of *poltergeist and apparitions*. In the dissociative patterns, *mediumism and automatism* as well as *nightmare and sleep paralysis*, it is assumed that the aforementioned bonding styles occur in a disorganized form. In order to specifically investigate these hypothesized relationships, a pilot study was prepared using the “Adult Attachment Prototype Rating” (AAPR) in the German adaption (EBPR) to assess the bonding styles of 30 clients, five of whom represent each of the six ExE-patterns respectively. The EBPR is a standardized and tried-and-tested interview procedure that has already been used in many studies. Despite its duration of around 1 ½ hours, it is comparatively economical in terms of evaluation. Based on the rough categories “secure”, “insecure-avoiding” (=dismissing) and “insecure ambivalent” (=enmeshed), an initial classification is made, which is differentiated in a further step with regard to seven more specific prototypical bonding styles. The interviews are conducted by four employees from the Counseling Psychology Service who have completed a certified training course specifically for conducting and evaluating EBPR interviews. In the run-up to the interviews, various questionnaires are used to investigate correlations of bonding styles with ExE and other personality traits. These are the “Questionnaire on the Phenomenology of Exceptional Experiences” (PExE-II, see below), the “Questionnaire for the Analysis of Motivational Schemata” (FAMOS), the “Incongruence Questionnaire” (INK), the “Personality Style and Disturbance Inventory” (PSSI), the “Symptom Checklist” (SCL-90-R), the “EBPR-Self-Assessment Questionnaire” (EBPR-SB), the German adaption of the “Experiences in Close Relationships” questionnaire (BoBi) and the “Relationship Questionnaire” (RQ-2). An application was submitted to the IGPP Ethics Board, who certified that the study fulfills the ethical requirements. The study is scheduled to start in April 2024 and run for approximately one year. If the results confirm the expected correlations between ExE and bonding styles, this would form the basis of a new paradigm for understanding ExE and a starting point for larger research projects and collaborations.

Wolfgang Fach, Liane Hofmann, Ulrich Ott and Annette Zwickel
Publication: Fach (2022)

International studies with the PExE-II

The revised “Questionnaire on the Phenomenology of Exceptional Experiences” (PExE-R), which has been used in counseling practice since 2011, is based on the model of phenomenon basic classes described above. The PExE-R was revised for the second time in 2017 (see biennial report 2021/22). The new PExE-II measures the mental represen-

tation of exceptional phenomena using 5 items on each of the four subscales *externality*, *internality*, *coincidence* and *dissociation* as well as all 20 items on an ExP global scale. The response format is a five-point frequency scale from 0 (“never”) to 4 (“often”). The items are presented in randomized order. Subsequently, the temporal occurrence of ExP is recorded with 8 items, the circumstances of its occurrence with 16 items and socio-demographic data with 11 items. The construct validity and reliability of the PExE-II have now been confirmed in three samples: (1) ExE clients of the IGPP and the Parapsychological Counseling Center of the WGFP in Freiburg (n = 193; Zwickel), (2) students (n = 450; Krischke; Tremmel & Ott) and (3) participants in an online survey on sleep paralysis (n = 380; Mayer & Fuhrmann). The reliability of the subscales is in a satisfactory to good range with Cronbach’s alpha values between .79 and .84 in the ExE sample, .67 and .72 in the students and .66 and .79 in the sleep paralysis sample. The internal consistency of the 20-item total scale is very good and reached α -values between .86 and .89. Table 1 provides an overview of all scale values of the three samples.

Scale	Sample											
	ExE clients				Students				Sleep paralysis			
	MD	M	SD	α	MD	M	SD	α	MD	M	SD	α
Externality	1.20	1.32	1.15	.84	.60	.75	.67	.72	.80	1.00	.92	.78
Internality	1.00	1.31	1.11	.81	.80	.86	.69	.67	.60	.88	.85	.74
Coincidence	2.20	2.05	1.08	.80	1.20	1.32	.76	.71	1.20	1.41	.99	.79
Dissociation	.40	.75	.89	.79	.40	.52	.60	.67	.80	1.01	.80	.66
ExE global	1.30	1.36	.82	.89	.75	.86	.53	.86	.95	1.08	.71	.86
<i>n</i>	193				450				380			

Tab. 1. Values of the German PExE II samples. For each scale, the median (MD), the mean (M), the standard deviation (SD) and Cronbach’s alpha (α) are given as a measure of internal consistency.

In various collaborations, the PExE-II has now been translated into English (Christine Simmonds-Moore, University of West Georgia), French (Renaud Evrard, University of Lorraine) and Italian (Patrizio Tressoldi, University of Padua). Yolanda Alonso (University of Almeria) has produced a first version in Spanish. Further translations are to follow. Initial data from online studies with participants from France (n = 254; Evrard) and Italy (n = 226; Tressoldi) are already available. The factor structure could be replicated in both samples and the reliability of the global scale is very good with $\alpha = .88$ in France and .90 in Italy. The reliability of the subscales, which is lowest for dissociation, is also comparable with German samples, with α between .64 and .78 in France and .68 and .80 in Italy. However, the mean values of the scales are significantly higher than in the German samples, both on the global scale with 1.4 in France and 1.9 in Italy and on the subscales with values between 0.8 and 1.2 for dissociation and 2.0 and 2.5 for coincidence. This is due to the fact that the subjects in France were recruited from ExE-affine internet forums

and in Italy explicitly people with ExE were interviewed. Table 2 shows the values of the two samples in comparison.

Regardless of the differences in frequency, the proportional expression of the ExP basic

Scale	Sample							
	France				Italy			
	MD	M	SD	α	MD	M	SD	α
Externality	1.40	1.51	1.02	.77	2.00	2.13	1.06	.80
Internality	1.20	1.28	.94	.75	1.80	1.81	1.04	.77
Coincidence	2.00	1.97	.99	.78	2.60	2.53	1.00	.80
Dissociation	.60	.80	.75	.64	1.20	1.18	.90	.68
ExE global	1.35	1.36	.73	.88	1.85	1.91	.81	.90
<i>n</i>	254				226			

Tab. 2. PExE-II analysis values of the French and Italian study.

classes is the same as in all previous PExE-R and PExE-II studies. The only exception is the sleep paralysis sample, in which dissociative phenomena occur more frequently as expected. Future studies must show whether the proportionality of the ExP basic classes is also valid beyond the area of European and Western cultures.

Wolfgang Fach, together with Yolanda Alonso, Renaud Evrard, Christine Simmonds-Moore and Patrizio Tressoldi

ExE and psychoticism – are ExE phenomena of a psychosis continuum?

In clinical psychology, and particularly in the context of psychiatry, ExE are often considered to be psychotic or psychosis-like experiences. In the discussion about a psychosis continuum, it is debated whether psychotic symptoms are discrete or lie on a continuum. Rarely occurring psychosis-like experiences would therefore not (yet) be clinically significant, but with increasing frequency would be interpreted as disorders of the schizophrenic spectrum. Further analyses of the data from people seeking advice on ExE ($n = 175$), which were collected as part of the 2018 survey on the PExE-II and the psychoticism facets of the Personality Inventory (PID-5) (see biennial report 2020/21), show that ExE should not be equated with psychotic or psychosis-like experiences. ExE form an independent continuum in which an increase in exceptional phenomena does not directly imply a mental disorder or an increase in it. This is in clear contrast to the clinically significant continuum, in which the disorder value also increases as the frequency of symptoms increases.

Using a cluster analysis, the clients could be assigned to four client types based on their reported ExE:

1. Low scorers (n=52) report few phenomena on all PExE-II scales: externality, internality, coincidence and dissociation.
2. Type E-D clients (n=44) report more externality and dissociation.
3. Type I-C clients (n=44) report increased internality and coincidence.
4. High scorers (n=35) report more phenomena on all scales.

A multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA) revealed that the four client types differed in terms of their levels on the psychoticism facets *Eccentricity* (ECC), *Cognitive and perceptive dysregulation* (DYS) and *Unusual Beliefs and Inner Experiences* (UBE) (all $p < .001$). Post-hoc analyses with Bonferroni correction showed that with increasing ExE and UBE across the client types, the levels of DYS and ECC did not increase equally: ECC increases marginally across the client types that only low scorers and high scorers can significantly be differentiated from each other. The increase in the level of DYS is even lower (see Tab. 3). The E-D client type cannot be significantly distinguished from the low scorers ($p = .71$), but can be distinguished from the high scorers ($p < .001$). The I-C client type does not differ significantly from the high scorers in terms of DYS ($p = .95$) (Tab. 3).

Client types	n	Facets of psychoticism		
		UBE	DYS	ECC
Low scorer	52	.84	.38	.74
External-dissociative (E-D)	44	1.38	.53	.91
Internal-coincident (I-C)	44	1.45	.67	1.32
High scorer	35	2.01	.93	1.33

Tab. 3. Client types and mean values in psychoticism facets of the PID-5. Notes. The client types were determined using a cluster analysis (Ward Method). The mean values of the psychoticism facets “Eccentricity” (ECC), “Cognitive and perceptive dysregulation” (DYS) and “Unusual beliefs and inner experiences” (UBE) are shown.

Nevertheless, the data show that the level of DYS (MW = 0.67 and 0.93) for the I-C type and the high scorers is below and for ECC (MW = 1.32 and 1.33) close to the “somewhat false “ level of agreement and therefore remains low overall despite increasing ExE and UBE (see Fig. 34).

A descriptive comparison of IGPP advice seekers with a representative German sample and a sample of people who have already sought therapeutic help before shows a significantly higher level of UBE among the advice seekers, which is to be expected based on the reported ExE. However, this increase in UBE is not reflected in the DYS and ECC scales (see Fig. 35). The publication of these results is in preparation.

Annette Zwickel

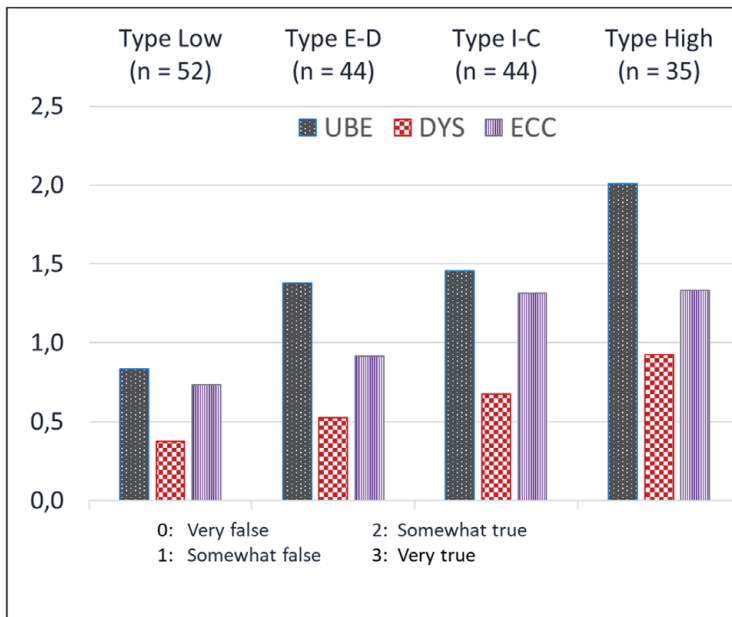


Fig. 34. A Psychoticism (PID-5) in different types of clients.

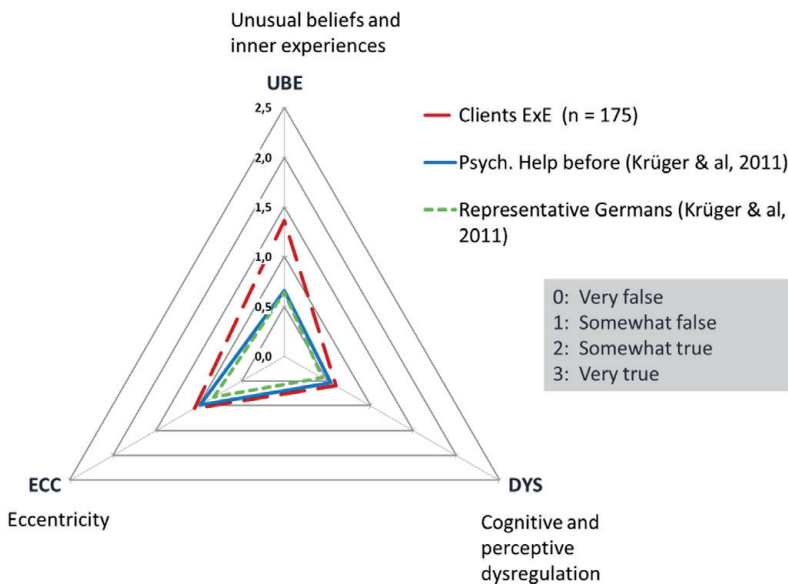


Fig. 35. Psychoticism (PID-5) in clients compared with samples from a German validation study on PID-5 by Krüger, 2011: Initial construction of a maladaptive personality trait model and inventory for DSM-5.

Network

International Expert Meeting on Clinical Parapsychology in London

The sixth International Expert Meetings on Clinical Parapsychology took place in London from 13 to 14 May 2022, this time organized by Erica Brostoff, Renaud Evrard and Clementine Raffort. It was a continuation of the previous five expert meetings, which took place in Naarden (Netherlands) in 2007, at the IGPP in Freiburg in 2010, in Paris in 2012, in Heidelberg in 2017 and in Nancy in 2019. The theme of this meeting was “Clinical approaches to exceptional experiences”. The twelve presentations and discussions with around 20 participants addressed different facets of the clinical, therapeutic and conceptual approach to ExE. Representing the IGPP, Wolfgang Fach spoke on the topic of “Relationships between patterns of exceptional experiences and bonding styles of clients. A new approach to clinical parapsychology” and Annette Zwickel on “The counseling approach of IGPP and its application in clinical practice. Case study of a client reporting exceptional experiences”.

Wolfgang Fach and Annette Zwickel

Course at the University College Freiburg

To date, it has not been possible to understand consciousness within the framework of a physicalist paradigm. Despite all the progress made, neuroscience cannot explain how phenomenal experience (first-person perspective) can be generated by neurobiological processes (third-person perspective). The psychophysical problem is central to the study of ExE and the research of the IGPP. On the initiative and with the collaboration of Benjamin Schult, research assistant at the IGPP and student of the Liberal Arts and Science (LAS) Bachelor’s program at the University College Freiburg (UCF), Wolfgang Fach has developed the concept for a course entitled “Consciousness, the Psychophysical Problem and Exceptional Experiences”. With the participation of six other IGPP colleagues, the English-language course will be offered in the summer semester 2024 at UCF in the LAS study area “Life Science”.

On 17 dates, totaling 19 double hours, fundamental questions about consciousness are dealt with in a combination of lectures, discussions and student presentations. The limits of naturalistic concepts, such as mental representation, self-organization and emergence, will be explored and it will be worked out where physical reductionism possibly fails. By referring to exceptional experiences (ExE) such as “extrasensory perceptions”, “mental healing”, “out-of-body experiences” or near-death experiences, the psychophysical problem is explored in depth. Regardless of how one evaluates their ontological status, ExE as exceptional deviations from “ordinary” mind-brain correlations and from conventional psychosomatics can open up new perspectives and insights into the relationship between mind and matter. Newer scientific approaches are discussed in which ExE can potentially be integrated. Enactivism, for example, attempts to overcome both physicalism and psychophysical dualism with the concept of embodiment. Even more far-reaching

approaches, which are becoming increasingly important in the philosophy of mind, are the so-called dual-aspect theories. Based on their presentations and essays on selected topics, which they submit at the end of the course, students will receive certificates of achievement.

Wolfgang Fach and Benjamin Schult, together with Liane Hofmann, Michael Nahm, Jürgen Kornmeier, Ulrich Ott, Marc Wittmann and Annette, Zwickel

3. Personnel

3.1 Corporate Members

Dipl.-Psych. Eberhard Bauer
Institute for Frontier Areas of Psychology and Mental Health, Freiburg

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Department of Psychology, University of Freiburg

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Institute for Integrative Health Care, Witten/Herdecke University

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PD Dr. Jürgen Kornmeier

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Dr. Dr. habil. Marc Wittmann, Vice Director (until June 2022)

Prof. Dr. Harald Walach, extended institute management (until June 2022)

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Director (since July 2022)

3.5 Service / Administration

Beate Baumgartner (until September 2022)

Alexandra Gleisberg, accountant

Kirsten Krebber, M.A., assistant, editor

Karin Moos, M.A., assistant, social media

Uwe Schellinger, M.A., archivist

Dr. Frauke Schmitz-Gropengießer, assistant, editor

Librarians of the University Library Freiburg: Julia Kuhn, Harald Volz, Viktora Zet-tisch

3.6 Research

Natural Science and Experimental Research

Dr. Federico Alvarez Igarzábal, research staff (until March 2022)

Lukas Hecker, research staff (until March 2023) und PhD student

Helena Hruby, MSc., PhD student, Scholarship holder of the Hanns Seidel Foundation (since January 2022)

Dr. Shiva Khoshnoud, research staff (until March 2022)

Karolina Kirmse, PhD student, research staff (until March 2023)

Jessica Knötzele, freelance research staff

PD Dr. Jürgen Kornmeier, Director (Coordinator: Perception and Cognition)

Yannick Lieb, stud. assistant (January 2023 until December 2023)

Moritz Maschke, freelance research staff

Azadeh Mozhdefarabakhsh, PhD student (since February 2022), research staff

Dr. Ulrich Ott, research staff (IGPP and BION)

Dr. Julie Papastamatelou, research staff (since November 2022)

Sophia Saad, stud. assistant (since October 2023)

Prof. Dr. Stefan Schmidt, project manager

Benjamin Schult, stud. assistant (January 2023 until December 2023)

Mareike Wilson, PhD student (since September 2023), research staff

Dr. Dr. habil. Marc Wittmann, research staff (Coordinator: Time Perception and Time Consciousness)

Master students: Christine Flatten (April 2021 bis January 2022), Clara Koinegg, David Leitritz (October 2021 until April 2022), Moritz Maschke (February until September 2022), Cornelius Nkrumah-Buadii (March until September 2022)

Bachelor students: Lillian Wolff (May until September 2023)

Trainees: Helene Bernhard, Lilith Eisenhauer, Lena Jannasch, Marvin Hottenbacher, Sophia Saad, Benjamin Schult, Rohit Shankar, Sofia Straube, Musa Talha Ünal

Social and Cultural Research

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Dipl.-Psych. Eberhard Bauer, Vice Director (Coordinator: Cultural and Historical Studies, Archives and Library)

Andreas Fischer, research staff

Dr. Liane Hofmann, research staff

Dr. Gerhard Mayer, research staff

Dr. Michael Nahm, research staff

Uwe Schellinger, M.A., research staff

Dr. Ina Schmied-Knittel, research staff

Prof. em. Dr. Dr. Harald Walach, research staff (until June 2022)

Trainees: Julia Franziska Rank, Fabian Vugrin,

Psychological Counseling Research

Dipl.-Psych. Eberhard Bauer, Vice Director

Dr. des. Wolfgang Fach, research staff

Dr. Liane Hofmann, research staff (since February 2022)

Dr. Ulrich Ott, research staff (since February 2022)

M.Sc. Annette Zwickel, research staff

Trainees: Sybille Kunze, Charlotte Lüth, Jana Zander

4. Appendix

4.1 Publications

Refereed Publications

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Other Publications

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- Bauer, E. (2022c). Okkulte Versuchungen – Sylvia Paletschek und die Grenzgebiete. In M. Bräuer-Viereck, M. Fritscher-Fehr, A. Harms, M. Höfner, C. Klien, A. Lux, & M. Muschalek (eds.), *FestHeft. für Sylvia Paletschek*. Jg. 1. H. 1, 47–50.
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- Schmied-Knittel, I. (2022b). „Der Tod, mein schönstes Erlebnis“: Individuelle und gesellschaftliche Bedeutungszuschreibungen von Nahtoderfahrungen. In S. Gripenrog-Schedel, J. Kugele, & E. E. Popkes (eds.), *Grenzarbeiten auf der Nulllinie: Nahtoderfahrungen in interdisziplinärer Perspektive* (55–68). Kiel: Universitätsverlag.
- Schmied-Knittel, I. (2023b). Vorwort. In I. Schmied-Knittel (ed.), *Science und Séance. Die Biologin und Parapsychologin Fanny Moser (1872–1953)* (7–13). Baden-Baden: Ergon.
- Schmied-Knittel, I. (2023c). „Ich habe das Vernünftige immer gehasst“. Fanny Moser (1872–1953) – Portrait einer Grenzwissenschaftlerin. In I. Schmied-Knittel (ed.), *Science und Séance. Die Biologin und Parapsychologin Fanny Moser (1872–1953)* (15–71). Baden-Baden: Ergon.
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- Wittmann, M. (2022). Zeit und Existenz. In A. Nassehi, S. Anderl, & P. Felixberger (eds.), *Jetzt wird's knapp* (30–42). *Kursbuch* 58 (212).
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- Wittmann, M. (2023). Embodied time: What the Psychology and Neuroscience of time can learn from the performing arts. In C. Wöllner & J. London (eds.), *Performing time. Synchrony and temporal flow in music and dance* (333–347). Oxford: University Press.
- Wittmann, M. (2023). Gefühlte Zeit im Raum oder wie die Zeit vergeht. In T. C. Vollmer, A. Lepik, & L. Luksch (eds.), *Das Kranke(n)haus. Wie Architektur heilen hilft* (206–209). München: Architekturmuseum der Technischen Universität München (TUM).

Wittmann, M. (2023). How we experience the passage of time: the body, feelings, and the self. In *Behind and Beyond the Brain* (227–243). Proceedings of the Bial Foundation's 13th Symposium on The Mystery of Time.

Wittmann, M., & Montemayor, C. (2022). Reinterpreting the Einstein-Bergson debate through contemporary neuroscience. In A. Campo, & S. Gozzano (eds.), *Einstein vs. Bergson: an enduring quarrel of time* (349–374). Berlin: De Gruyter

4.2 Doctoral, Master and Bachelor Theses

Master Theses

Flatten, C. (2022). Achtsamkeit, Erwecht-Sein und Selbstregulationsfähigkeit bei erfahrenen Meditierenden: Eine Fragebogenstudie. Master Theses, University of Freiburg.

Heck, M. (2022). Zusammenhänge von Achtsamkeits- und Meditationserfahrung, psychedelischen Erfahrungen und ihren Auswirkungen. Master Theses, University of Münster.

Jones, S. (2022). Long-term effects of meditation onto the brain's resting-state network's functional connectivity – comparing two gold standard Functional Integration Tools. A functional connectivity resting-state fMRI replication study applying the Independent Components Analysis and Dual Regression. Master Theses, University of Marburg.

Kraus, S. (2022). Der Einfluss individueller Risikofaktoren auf unerwartete und schwierige Meditationserfahrungen bei MBSR-Kursteilnehmenden. Eine prospektive Studie. Master Theses, Justus Liebig University Giessen.

Leitritz, D. (2022). Time is imaginary and embodied, or is it not? An experimental study on the association of time perception in the supra-second range with the non-clinical traits interoceptive awareness and visual imagery. Master Theses, University of Bonn.

Maschke, M. (2022). Source Localisation of Human EEG Data: Testing Novel Artificial Neural Networks (ANN)-based Methods. Master Theses, University of Freiburg.

Metz, F. (2022). Schlafparalyse und Coping – Empirische Untersuchung verschiedener Variablen der Schlafparalyse und deren Einfluss auf die Ausprägung unterschiedlicher Coping-Stile. Master Theses, Justus Liebig University Giessen.

Nkrumah-Buadii, C. (2022). Ambiguity or Uncertainty effect in a auditory perception. Master Theses, University of Strasbourg, France.

Neumaier, L. (2022). Außergewöhnliche Bewusstseinszustände im Rahmen von Meditation und klassischen Nahtoderfahrungen. Master Theses, JMU Würzburg

Bachelor Theses

Bartholmeß, C. (2022). Zusammenhänge zwischen Hochsensibilität und außergewöhnlichen (paranormalen, mystischen) Erfahrungen beim Meditieren. Bachelor Theses, Justus Liebig University Giessen.

Swjagelski, A. (2023). The adverse effects of meditation: the other side of the research on meditation. What role does meditation play? Bachelor Theses, University College Freiburg.

Wolff, L. (2023). EEG- and Behavior- Correlates of Vision and Visual Imagination. Bachelor Theses, University of Freiburg.

4.3 Teaching

Anton, A.: Verschwörungstheorien und Verschwörungen im gesellschaftlichen Diskurs. University of Freiburg, Department of Sociology, WS 2022/23, WS 2023/24.

- Anton, A.: Einführung in die Exosozologie. University of Freiburg, Department of Sociology, SS 2023.
- Fach, W.: Grundlagen einer auf dem Synchronizitätsbegriff basierenden Systemtheorie, empirische Forschungsergebnisse und Fallbeispiele aus der beraterischen und therapeutischen Praxis. C. G. Jung Institut Küsnacht, Zurich, Switzerland, 19.05.2023.
- Hofmann, L.: Einführung in die Religionspsychologie. Catholic University Freiburg, WS 2021/22, WS 2022/23.
- Hofmann, L.: Stressbewältigung durch Achtsamkeit und Selbstfürsorge. Catholic University Freiburg, WS 2021/22, WS 2022/23.
- Kornmeier, J.: Neurobiology of visual perception. Lecture at the Faculty of Biology, University of Freiburg, SS 2022, SS 2023.
- Kornmeier, J.: Perception and visual illusions. EEG practical training at the Faculty of Biology, University of Freiburg, SS 2022, SS 2023.
- Schmied-Knittel, I.: Wissenssoziologische Diskursanalyse. University of Freiburg, Department of Sociology, WS 2022/23.
- Schmied-Knittel, I.: Biografie, biografisches Erzählen und qualitative Methoden der Biografieforschung. University of Freiburg, Department of Sociology, WS 2023/24.
- Wittmann, M.: „Experimentelle Manipulation von Embodiment durch VR und Floatation.“ (with F.-M. Trautwein). Interdisciplinary Anthropology / Philosophy, SS 2022.
- Wittmann, M.: Issues in Cognitive Neuroscience. School of Psychology, National University of Ireland Galway (mit Mark Elliott), WS 2022.
- Wittmann, M.: Cognitive Neuroscience. Bernstein Center Freiburg, University of Freiburg, SS 2022, SS 2023.
- Wittmann, M.: Seminar and lecture in Interdisciplinary Anthropology, University of Freiburg (with O. Müller, F.-M. Trautwein), WS 2022, WS 2023.
- Wittmann, M.: „In-der-Welt-sein: Phänomenologische Betrachtung und psychologisch-empirische Erfassung von Selbst, Zeit und Flow“ (with O. Müller). Advanced seminar Interdisciplinary Anthropology / Philosophy, University of Freiburg, SS 2023.
- Wittmann, M.: „Warum die gängigen Theorien des Bewusstseins falsch sind“. Online-Seminar DHBW Heidenheim – Studiengang Soziale Arbeit (with R. Gründer), 31.10.2023.
- Wittmann, M.: „Die Verkörperung der Zeit und der Jetzt-Moment“. Seminar zu „Zeitkunst Musik: Wahrnehmung und Gestaltung“. Freiburg University of Music (with C. Wöllner), 14.12.2023.

4.4 Presentations

- Anton, A.: Unwirkliche Wirklichkeiten. Wissenssoziologische Überlegungen zu Verschwörungstheorien. Sociological research seminar, University of Passau, 18.01.2022.
- Anton, A.: Exosozologie: Außerirdische Intelligenzen und die Folgen eines Erstkontaktes. Workshop Interdisciplinary Research Center for Extraterrestrial at the JMU Würzburg, 16.03.2022.
- Anton, A.: „UFOs exist and everyone needs to adjust to that fact.“ (Des-)Informations-Kampagnen zum UFO-Phänomen. Workshop „Da draußen. Neue Entwicklungen in der SETI-, SETA- und UFO-Forschung“. Society for Anomalistics, Marburg, 18.06.2022.
- Anton, A.: Außerirdische Intelligenzen und die Folgen eines Erstkontaktes. Science Notes, Munich, 04.07.2022.
- Anton, A.: Der Kampf um die Wahrheit. Verschwörungstheorien im gesellschaftlichen Diskurs. „Scala“ Tuttlingen, 11.07.2022.
- Anton, A.: Wie können wir miteinander ins Gespräch kommen? COVID-19 und das ‚Virus Verschwö-

- rungstheorie'. Gesellschaft reflektieren, ein neues Miteinander denken – Fragen zwischen Pandemie und Populismus. Symposium Kooperationskreis Ethik der Stiftung Liebenau, Filderstadt, 22.07.2022.
- Anton, A.: Außerirdische Intelligenz? Ein wissenschaftlicher Blick aus exosozialer Perspektive. Zukunftszentrum Nord: Per Anhalter durch Digitalisierung und KI., Hannover, 15.12.2022.
- Anton, A.: "UFOs exist and everyone needs to adjust to that fact." (Des-)Informations-Kampagnen zum UFO-Phänomen. MUFON-CES, 18.01.2023.
- Anton, A.: Unwirkliche Wirklichkeiten. Wissenssoziologische Überlegungen zu Verschwörungstheorien. Institut für Film-, Theater-, Medien- und Kulturwissenschaft (FTMK), Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, 31.01.2023.
- Anton, A.: Beam Me into Orthodoxy! The Status Change of UFOs and what Parapsychology can learn from it. Symposium "Shared Deviance", Parapsychological Association, 25.02.2023.
- Anton, A.: COVID-19 und das 'Virus Verschwörungstheorie'. Volkshochschule Trossingen, 02.03.2023.
- Anton, A.: "UFOs exist and everyone needs to adjust to that fact." (Dis)Information Campaigns on the UFO Phenomenon. Colloquium "Alien Conversations" Durham University, UK, 24.03.2023.
- Anton, A.: Exosozialität: Von Menschen und Außerirdischen. MUFON-CES, 17.05.2023.
- Anton, A.: Exosozialität: Von Menschen und Außerirdischen. University of Potsdam, Faculty of Law, Lectures, Potsdam, 04.07.2023.
- Anton, A., & Schmied-Knittel, I.: Das Paranormale: Erfahrungen, Wissen, Diskurse. Extraordinary general meeting of the IGPP Freiburg, 13.07.2023.
- Anton, A.: Vernünftig über Außerirdische reden. Robert-Jungk-Bibliothek, Salzburg, Austria, 04.12.2023.
- Bauer, E.: Fanny Moser, Hans Bender und der Spuk. Symposium anlässlich des 150. Geburtstags der Biologin und Parapsychologin Fanny Moser, University Library Freiburg, 23.06.2023.
- Bauer, E.: Fanny Moser, Hans Bender und der Spuk. 36. Workshop der Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Parapsychologie, Offenburg, 06.10.2023.
- Bauer, E.: Hans Bender and the History of the IGPP. Meeting of the Scientific Board der Bial Foundation at the IGPP Freiburg, 17.11.2023.
- Costa, R. M., Wiborg, M., Wittmann, M., & Kornmeier, J.: Visual snow, absorption, and altered states of consciousness. The Science of Consciousness 2023, Taormina, Italy, 22. –27.05.2023.
- Fach, W.: Relationships between patterns of exceptional experiences (ExE) and bonding styles of clients. A new approach to clinical parapsychology. 6th International expert-meeting on clinical approaches of exceptional experiences. British Psychological Society, London, UK, 13.05.2022.
- Fach, W.: Außergewöhnliche Erfahrungen und synchronistische Phänomene als Manifestationen der unbewussten Selbstregulation. C. G. Jung-Gesellschaft, Freiburg, 03.09.2022.
- Fach, W.: Autonomy and bonding as structural determinants of exceptional experiences (ExE) - evidence for dual-aspect monism? The Science of Consciousness Conference 2023, Taormina, Italy, 26.05.2023.
- Fach, W.: Research with the Questionnaire on the Phenomenology of Exceptional Experiences. From PAgE-R to PExE-II. 65th Annual Parapsychological Association, Norway, 04.08.2023.
- Friedel, E. B. N., Schäfer, M., Endres, D., Maier, S., Runge, K., Küchlin, S., Reich, M., Lagrèze, W. A., Kornmeier, J., Bach, M., Heinrich, S. P., Ebert, D., Domschke, D., Tebartz van Elst, L., & Nickel, K.: Funktionelle und strukturelle Netzhauttontersuchungen bei Erwachsenen mit Autismus-Spektrum-Störungen. Scientific Conference Autism Spectrum, Freiburg, 16.–17.03.2023.
- Hecker, L., Joos, E., Bhatia, K., Feige, B., Maier, S., Tebartz van Elst, L., & Kornmeier, J.: Source Reconstruction of the ERP Uncertainty Effects reveals common Neural Mechanisms for different Stimulus Categories. European Conference on Visual Perception, Nijmegen, Netherlands, 28.08.–01.09.2022.
- Hofmann, L.: The Encounter of Eastern Kundalini Concepts and Western Psychology and Psychotherapy. Conference Subtle Energies, University of Vienna, Austria, 28. – 30.04.2022.

- Hofmann, L.: Was sind spirituelle Krisen und wie können wir Menschen in einer solchen Krise begleiten? – Facetten eines vielschichtigen Phänomens. Internationale Sommerakademie 2022: Theater & Therapie. Rituale und transpersonale Ansätze in der Theatertherapie, Berlin/Blossin, 15. – 19.06.2022.
- Hofmann, L.: Sinnfragen und Spiritualität in der Psychoonkologie. Weiterbildung psycho-soziale Onkologie – Psychotherapie. Caritas Tagungszentrum, Freiburg 02.07.2022.
- Hofmann, L.: Spirituelle Krisen – Grundlagen zur Einordnung eines facettenreichen Phänomens. Symposium Psychotherapie – Spirituelle Krise oder Krankheit: Von der Kunst der Unterscheidung, Benediktushof, Holzkirchen, 15. – 17.09.2023.
- Knötzele, J., & Kornmeier, J.: Can rose odor help to improve memory consolidation during sleep and retrieval? Gorilla BeOnline Seminar, 06.07.2023.
- Knötzele J., Neumann, F., Tebartz van Elst, L., & Kornmeier, J.: Lernen im Schlaf? Wie Duftstoffe den Lernerfolg steigern können. Research Conference Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Medical Center, University of Freiburg 14.02.2023.
- Knötzele, J., Tebartz van Elst, L., & Kornmeier, J.: Can rose odor help to improve memory consolidation during sleep and retrieval? 47. Jahrestagung Psychologie und Gehirn, University of Freiburg, 16. – 18.06.2022.
- Kornmeier, J.: Ambiguous figures – What happens in the brain when perception changes but not the stimulus? Department of Brain & Cognition, University of Leuven (KU Leuven), Belgium, 21.06.2022.
- Kornmeier, J.: Multistable Perception – When and How Bottom Up and Top Down Interact. European Conference on Visual Perception, Nijmegen, Netherlands, 28.08. – 01.09.2022.
- Kornmeier, J.: Kann ich glauben, was ich sehe? Ein Blick auf das Mind-Matter Problem aus der Perspektive der Wahrnehmungsforschung. Institute Research Colloquia IGPP, Freiburg, 20.12.2022.
- Kornmeier J.: Can I trust in what I see? About Visual Phenomena and Optical Illusions. Interdisziplinäres Zentrum für Extraterrestrik (IFEX), Informatik VIII, JMU Würzburg, 20.07.2023.
- Kornmeier, J.: Das IGPP – Ist-Stand und Ausblick. 36. Workshop der Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Parapsychologie, Offenburg, 06. – 08.10.2023.
- Kornmeier, J.: Wie Duft bei der Gedächtnisbildung helfen kann – eine kurze Reise von der Laborforschung in den Alltag. Bernstein Center Freiburg, 18.12.2023.
- Kornmeier, J., & Bauer, E.: The Institute for Frontier Areas of Psychology and Mental Health (IGPP). Visit of the Bial Board at the IGPP Freiburg, 04.11.2023.
- Kornmeier, J., Bhatia, K., & Joos, E.: Top-down resolution of visual ambiguity – knowledge from the future or by footprints from the past? Mind and Matter Conference, Helsinki, Finland, 16. – 18. 06.2022.
- Kornmeier, J., Wilson, M., & Wittmann, M.: Spuren der Vergangenheit und/oder Hinweise aus der Zukunft? – EEG-Studie zu Vorwärts- und Rückwärts-Priming. 36. Workshop der Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Parapsychologie, Offenburg, 06. – 08.10.2023
- Maschke, M., Hecker, L., Tebartz van Elst, L., & Kornmeier, J.: EEG Source Localisation Using esinet, an Artificial Neural Networks-based Method. European Conference on Visual Perception, Nijmegen, Netherlands, 28.08. – 01.09.2022.
- Maschke, M., Joos, E., Kornmeier, J., & Heinrich, S.P.: EEG correlates of bottom-up and top-down processing during perceptual uncertainty. 47. Jahrestagung Psychologie und Gehirn, University of Freiburg, 16. – 18.06.2022.
- Mayer, G.: Open up the field - broaden the horizon. Invited Address (Outstanding Contribution Award), Parapsychological Association, online, 25.02.2022.
- Mayer, G.: Schamanismus und Neoschamanismus. Sauerlandmuseum Arnsberg, 30.04.2022.
- Mayer, G.: Sleep Paralysis, Extraordinary Experiences, and Belief in the Supernatural. Annual Convention of the Society for Scientific Exploration and the Parapsychological Association, online, 23. – 26.06.2022.
- Mayer, G.: Women and Parapsychology – Main Results of an Online Survey. Symposium “Women and

- Parapsychology Revisited”, Parapsychological Association, online, 19.11.2022.
- Mayer, G.: Considerations on my Career as a Parapsychologist. Student Meeting, Parapsychological Association, online, 11.02.2023.
- Mayer, G.: Reflections on Single Case Studies Using the Example of Two Case Investigations. Paramooc Parapsychology Online Course, 03.03.2023.
- Mayer, G.: Magic and its Evaluation. 65th Annual Convention of the Parapsychological Association, Oslo, Norway, 06.07.2023.
- Mayer, G.: Beängstigendes und Beglückendes an den Grenzen des Schlafs: Ergebnisse einer Online-Untersuchung zu Schlafparalyse-Erfahrungen. 36. Workshop der Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Parapsychologie, Offenburg, 07.10.2023.
- Mayer, G.: Magic and its Evaluation. PA Convention Video Replay and Q&A, online, 12.11.2023.
- Mozhdefarahbakhsh, A., Hecker, L., & Kornmeier, J.: Aphantasia: How much can visual imagination influence perception of the Necker cube? European Conference on Visual Perception, Nijmegen, Netherlands, 28.08. – 01.09.2022.
- Mozhdefarahbakhsh, A., & Kornmeier, J.: Visual imagination can influence visual perception – a new experimental paradigm to measure imagination. The Science of Consciousness 2023, Taormina, Italy, 22. – 27.05.2023.
- Nahm, M.: Terminal/Paradoxical Lucidity and the Mind/Brain Question. Online-Symposium International Association for Near-Death Studies, 11.02.2022.
- Nahm, M.: Paradoxe Lichtblicke. Forschungsstand und gegenwärtige Entwicklungen rund um terminale Geistesklarheit. Society for Anomalistics, online, 24.02.2022.
- Nahm, M.: Toward a “Parapsychological Synthesis”. Proposals for Integrating Theories of Psi. Annual Convention of the Parapsychological Association, online, 25.06.2022.
- Nahm, M.: Revitalizing vitalism. Workshop “Superhuman evolution”, Esalen-Institut, CA, USA, 18.07.2022.
- Nahm, M.: Terminale Geistesklarheit. Gegenwärtige Entwicklungen und Kontexte. MUFON-CES, online, 16.11.2022.
- Nahm, M.: Building Bridges from Psychical Research to Biology: The Work of Hans Driesch (1867–1941). Study Day “The Early Years of the SPR and 140 Years on”, Society for Psychical Research, online, 26.11.2022.
- Nahm, M.: Current “Physical Mediumship”. An Overview and Some Examples. The Swedish Society for Psychical Research, online, 16.02.2023.
- Nahm, M.: Shared Deviance. Assessing the Interrelations of Psi and UAP. Symposium of the Parapsychological Association, online, 25.02.2023.
- Nahm, M.: Terminale Geistesklarheit. Gegenwärtige Entwicklungen und Kontexte. Matrixwissen, online, 05.05.2023.
- Nahm, M.: Toward a “Parapsychological Synthesis”. Proposals for Integrating Theories of Psi. Rhine Research Center, online, 17.05.2023.
- Nahm, M.: Arbeitsfelder von Parapsychologen. Präsentation für eine Oberstufen-Klasse des Markgräfler Gymnasiums in Müllheim am IGPP, 20.06.2023.
- Nahm, M.: Fanny Moser und die Quallen. Die zoologischen Arbeiten einer Okkultistin. IGPP-Symposium anlässlich des 150. Geburtstags der Biologin und Parapsychologin Fanny Moser, University Library Freiburg, 23.06.2023.
- Nahm, M.: Das Geist-Körper-Problem aus Sicht der Biologie. Extraordinary general meeting of the IGPP, 13.07.2023.
- Nahm, M.: „Physikalischer Mediumismus“ heute. Ein Überblick über jüngere Entwicklungen. 36. Work-

- shop der Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Parapsychologie, 07.10.2023.
- Nahm, M.: Terminal Lucidity in Children and in Animals. Overview and Recent Research. Conference "Beyond the Brain", Scientific and Medical Network, online, 05.11.2023.
- Nahm, M.: The King of Mediums: Franek Kluski, his Mediumship and the Survival Question. Annual Convention of the Society for Psychical Research, 11.11.2023.
- Ott, U.: Meditation – Grundlagen und Anwendungsmöglichkeiten in der Onkologie. University Cancer Care Center Hamburg, online, 09.02.2022.
- Ott, U.: Wirkungen von Achtsamkeit auf Psyche und Gehirn. Tagung, Evangelische Akademie Hofgeismar, 11.06.2022.
- Ott U.: Investigating Oneself with Buddhist Meditation: Possible Benefits and Risks. Workshop on Meditation and Ethics, Numata Zentrum, University of Hamburg, 07.07.2022.
- Ott, U.: Neuronale Korrelate von Achtsamkeit. 17. Mind-Body Medicine Summer School, Essen, 27.08.2022.
- Ott, U.: Was Sie schon immer zu Achtsamkeit fragen wollten. Department of Sport and Sport science, University of Freiburg, 09.05.2023.
- Ott, U.: Moderner Yoga: Herkunft, Vielfalt, Zukunftsaufgaben. Institute for South and central Asian Studies, Leipzig University, 05.07.2023.
- Ott, U.: Neuronale Korrelate von Achtsamkeit. 18. Mind-Body Medicine Summer School, Essen, online, 26.08.2023.
- Schellinger, U.: „Kriminaltelepathen“ und „Okkulte Detektive“: Zur Geschichte des Paranormalen in der badischen Polizeiarbeit. Society for Anomalistics, 15.12.2022.
- Schellinger, U.: Wunderheiler, Trancemedien und Propheten auf dem Dorf: Beispiele aus Südbaden. Heimat- und Landschaftspflegeverein Yach, 27.11.2023.
- Schmied-Knittel, I.: Magie und Technik. Aktuelle Diskurse und Praktiken zu Schwangerschaft und Geburt. Arbeitskreis Religion und Medizin der Deutschen Vereinigung für Religionswissenschaft: Zeugung – Schwangerschaft – Geburt unter religiösen Vorzeichen, Vienna, Austria, 17.03.2022.
- Schmied-Knittel, I.: Zum Leben und Wirken von Dr. Fanny Hoppe-Moser: Ein Nachmittag mit Fanny Hoppe-Moser zum Jubiläum ihres 150. Geburtstages, Rathauslaube Schaffhausen, Switzerland, 27.05.2022.
- Schmied-Knittel, I.: „Das heute Unmögliche ist die Wahrheit von morgen“: Über Leben und Wirken von Dr. Fanny Hoppe-Moser (1872–1953). Society for Anomalistics, online, 02.06.2022.
- Schmied-Knittel, I.: Paranormal Evidence as Starting Point and Research Object: The case of Fanny Moser (1872–1953): Symposium "Women and Parapsychology Revisited", Parapsychological Association, online, 19.11.2022.
- Schmied-Knittel, I.: Seele? Gehirn? Unendliches Bewusstsein? Über Nahtoderfahrungen und die Nahtod-Forschung. Studium universale, Leipzig University, 24.05.2023.
- Schmied-Knittel, I.: „Glücklich, wer eine Wahrheit besitzt, die der Zukunft gehört“. Fanny Mosers (1872–1953) akademischer Werdegang. Absolvent:innenfeier Department of Sociology, University of Freiburg, 09.05.2023.
- Schmied-Knittel, I.: Science und Séance. Leben und Wirken von Fanny Moser. Symposium anlässlich des 150. Geburtstags der Biologin und Parapsychologin Fanny Moser, University Library Freiburg, 23.06.2023.
- Schmied-Knittel, I.: „Mehr Licht!“ Über ein häufiges Motiv in Nahtoderfahrungen. Disputationes. Overture spirituelle der Salzburger Festspiele, Austria, 26.07.2023.
- Schmied-Knittel, I.: Science und Séance – Leben und Wirken von Fanny Moser. 36. Workshop der Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Parapsychologie, Offenburg, 06.10.2023.

- Wilson, M., Hecker, L., Alcobendas, M., Joos, E., Giersch, A., Bonnefond, A., Tebartz van Elst, L., & Kornmeier, J.: More EEG evidence for increased temporal variability during perceptual processing in patients with Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorder. Research Conference Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Medical Center, University of Freiburg, 28.03.2023.
- Wilson, M., Hecker, L., Joos, E., Tebartz van Elst, L., & Kornmeier, J.: Spontaneous Necker-cube Reversals are not that Spontaneous – An EEG Study. 47. Jahrestagung Psychologie und Gehirn, University of Freiburg, 16. – 18.06.2022.
- Wilson, M., Hecker, L., Joos, E., Tebartz van Elst, L., & Kornmeier, J.: Spontaneous Necker-cube Reversals are not that Spontaneous – An EEG Study. European Conference on Visual Perception, Nijmegen, Netherlands, 28.08. – 01.09.2022.
- Wilson, M., Hecker, L., Tebartz van Elst, L., & Kornmeier, J.: Altered EEG variability on different time scales in participants with autism spectrum disorder – an exploratory study. Scientific Conference Autism Spectrum, Freiburg, 16. – 17.03.2023.
- Wilson, M., Hecker, L., Joos, L., Tebartz van Elst, L., & Kornmeier, J.: Spontaneous Necker-cube Reversals are not that Spontaneous – An EEG Study. The Science of Consciousness 2023, Taormina, Italy, 22. – 27.05.2023.
- Wilson, M., Wittmann, M., & Kornmeier, J.: Testing for behavioral and EEG Correlates of forward and backward priming. 65th Annual Convention of the Parapsychological Association, Oslo, Norway, 03. – 06.08.2023.
- Wittmann, M.: Wie die Zeit vergeht: Psychologie und Neurobiologie des Zeitgefühls. Unser Umgang mit Zeit. Volkshochschule Zürich am Universität Zürich-Zentrum, Switzerland, 12.01.2022.
- Wittmann, M.: How we experience the passage of time: the body, feelings, and the self. 13th Symposium of the Bial Foundation “Behind and Beyond the Brain”, Porto, Portugal, 09.04.2022.
- Wittmann, M.: Experiencing empty time while waiting in silence. Symposium “Understanding real-world distortions to time: who, what, why and when?” Liverpool John Moores University, UK, 21.04.2022.
- Wittmann, M.: Zeitorientierung und Impulsivität: Effekte individueller Disposition auf die Erfahrung von Zeit. Symposium „Interindividuelle Unterschiede in der Zeitwahrnehmung und deren Auswirkungen“. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Psychologie-Kongress Hildesheim, 12.09.2022.
- Wittmann, M.: Zeiterleben im palliativen Kontext. Clinic for Palliative Medicine, Medical Center, University of Freiburg, 15.11.2022.
- Wittmann, M.: Wie die Zeit vergeht: Psychologie und Neurobiologie des Zeitgefühls. Interdisciplinary scientific colloquium, Coburg University, 21.12.2022.
- Wittmann, M.: Gefühlte Zeit im Wartezimmer - von geduldigen und ungeduldigen Patienten. Keynote Lecture 7. Congress of the Swiss Academy of Ophthalmology, Luzern, Switzerland, 02.03.2023.
- Wittmann, M.: Von Zeitwahrnehmung und Zeitlosigkeit: Psychologie und Neurobiologie des Zeitgefühls. Studienkolleg 2022/2023: „Spielarten des Unendlichen“, Tübinger Forum für Wissenschaftskulturen, University of Tübingen, 04.05.2023.
- Wittmann, M.: Embodied time in ordinary and altered states of consciousness: How the body informs us about the passage of time. CELab Seminar Series at the Centre for Philosophy of Science, University of Lisbon, Portugal, online, 30.06.2023.
- Wittmann, M.: How we experience the passage of time: Bodily feelings, the self, and altered states of consciousness. Symposium Embodied, Enacted and Represented Time, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, online, 17.07.2023.
- Wittmann, M.: Subjective time and body-self during altered states of consciousness: new evidence. Mind Foundation’s INSIGHT 2023, Berlin, 02.09.2023.
- Wittmann, M.: Subjective Time and Self during Altered States of Consciousness. Symposium “Psychological Times” at Fechner Day 2023. 39th Annual Meeting of the International Society for Psychophysics, Assisi, Italy 11.09.2023.

Wittmann, M.: Changes in subjective time and body boundaries during meditation and floatation-REST. Symposium "The sense of time in altered states of consciousness". 3rd Conference of the Timing Research Forum, Champalimaud Center for the Unknown, Lisbon, Portugal, 05.10.2023.

Wittmann, M.: How we experience time: The bodily self, altered states of consciousness, and anomalous phenomena. *Science and Consciousness 2023: Wyrð Time*. Broughton Hall Estate, UK, 20.11.2023.

Wittmann, M.: Subjective time during ordinary and altered states of consciousness. "Time and Mind", the Essentia Foundation, online, 01.12.2023.

Zwickel, A.: Beratung für Menschen mit außergewöhnlichen Erfahrungen am IGPP. Seminar Emotions- und lernpsychologische Grundlagen klinisch-psychologischer Störungsfelder, LMU Munich, online, 17.12.2022.

Zwickel, A.: Beratung für Menschen mit außergewöhnlichen Erfahrungen am IGPP. Seminar Emotions- und lernpsychologische Grundlagen klinisch-psychologischer Störungsfelder, LMU Munich, online, 16.12.2023.

Zwickel, A.: The counseling approach of IGPP and its application in clinical practice. Case study of a client reporting exceptional experiences (ExE). 6th Expert meeting on clinical approaches to exceptional experiences. British Psychological Society, London, UK, 14.05.2022.

Zwickel, A.: The counselling approach of IGPP and its application in clinical practice. PA Symposium for Counseling and the Exceptional Experiencer, online, 20.05.2023.

Zwickel, A.: "Are phenomena that constitute exceptional experiences (ExE) subclinical symptoms of a psychosis continuum?" 65th Annual Convention of the Parapsychological Association, Oslo, Norway, 04.08.2023.

Zwickel, A.: Sind außergewöhnliche Erfahrungen als psychoseähnliche Erfahrungen zu verstehen? 36. Workshop der Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Parapsychologie, Offenburg, 07.10.2023.

4.5 Conferences, Workshops, Symposia

Anton, A. Da draußen. Neue Entwicklungen in der SETI, SETA und UFO-Forschung. Conference of the Society For Anomalistics, Marburg, 18.06.2022.

Bauer, E., & Lucadou, W.v.: 36. Workshop der Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Parapsychologie, Offenburg, 06.–08.10.2023.

Cardena, E., Wittmann, M., & Linares Gutiérrez, D.: The experience of time in altered states of consciousness. Workshop, 13th Symposium of the Bial Foundation "Behind and Beyond the Brain", Porto, Portugal, 08.04.2022.

Kornmeier, J., & Pastukhov, A.: Symposium: Multistable Perception – When and How Bottom Up and Top Down Interact. European Conference on Visual Perception, Nijmegen, Netherlands, 28.08. – 01.09.2022.

Mayer, G.: "Sleep Paralysis" (Table Host). Psi Agora, Parapsychological Association, online, 05.05.2022.

Mayer, G.: Symposium "Women and Parapsychology Revisited". Parapsychological Association, online, 19.11.2022.

Nahm, M.: Symposium "Shared Deviance. Interrelations of Psi and UAP". Parapsychological Association, online, 25.02.2023.

Schmied-Knittel, I.: Science und Séance. IGPP-Symposium anlässlich des 150. Geburtstags von Fanny Moser, University Library Freiburg, 23.06.2023

4.6 Institute Research Colloquia

Prof. Dr. Yolanda Alonso, Department of Psychology, University of Almería, Spain: Die „repräsentativen Empfindungen“ bei Familienaufstellungen, 21.11.2023.

Dr. Andreas Anton & Dr. Michael Nahm, IGPP: Shared Deviance: Über Schnittstellen zwischen UFO-Forschung und Parapsychologie, 18.07.2023.

Dr. med. Klaus Blaser, Centre for applied Boundary Studies, Basel, Switzerland: Ich-Bewusstsein, mentale Perspektiveinnahme und Therapie, 27.06.2023.

Prof. Dr. Michael Bohlander, Chair in Global Law and SETI Policy in Durham Law School, UK: “Take me to your lawyer.” Rechtliche Aspekte des Kontaktes mit außerirdischen Zivilisationen, 15.11.2022.

Cyril Costines, Clinic for Psychosomatic Medicine and Psychotherapy, Faculty of Medicine, University of Freiburg & IGPP & Timo Torsten Schmidt, Department of Education and Psychology, Freie Universität Berlin: Phänomenomik: Induktion veränderten Erlebens als Werkzeug der Bewusstseinsforschung, 15.11.2023.

Prof. Dr. Johannes Dillinger, Oxford, Brookes University, School of History / Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz: Gespenster in der Geschichtswissenschaft, 12.12.2023.

Eric Dullin, PhD, Anomalous Psychophysics and Cognitive Dissonance Laboratory (LAPD): Methodology and Results in Macro-PK Experimental Research, 17.05.2022.

Karla Evans, PhD, University of York, UK: What is Perceiving the Gist Good for?, 14.11.2023.

Prof. Dr. Hartmut Grote, Gravity Exploration Institute, University of Cardiff, Wales, UK: Dunkle Materie, 26.07.2022.

Dr. Andrea Jungaberle & Dr. Henrik Jungaberle, MIND Foundation, Berlin & OVID Health Systems, Berlin: Stille Revolution? Psychedelische Substanzen und Bewusstseinszustände in der Therapie psychischer Störungen. Und darüber hinaus, 14.03.2023.

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hakan Kayal, Computer Science III – Aerospace Information Technology, JMU Würzburg: Stand und Perspektiven der UAP (Unidentified Aerial Phenomena)-Forschung an der JMU Würzburg, 22.11.2022.

Prof. Dr. Niko Kohls, Coburg University: Resilienz und Grenzerfahrungen – Bergsteigen oder Schusterkugeln, 04.07.2023.

PD Dr. Jürgen Kornmeier, IGPP: Kann ich glauben, was ich sehe? Das Mind-Matter-Problem aus der Sicht der Wahrnehmungsforschung, 20.12.2022.

Dr. Manfred Kubny, Professor NUNM, National University of Natural Medicine College of Classical Chinese Medicine, Portland, USA: Individuelle Prognosesysteme in China, 08.02.2022.

Prof. Dr. Michael Lackner, Chair of Sinology, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg: Bedeutende Denker in China und Europa über das Wahrsagen und den freien Willen, 12.07.2022.

Pastorin Dr. Gabriele Lademann-Priemer, Hamburg: Tod und Unsterblichkeit, Ahnenglaube, Geisterglaube und Reinkarnation?, 18.10.2022.

Avi Loeb, Professor of Science, Harvard University, USA: The Galileo Project: In Search for Technological Interstellar Objects, 06.12.2022.

Dipl.-Phys. Dr. Dr. Walter von Lucadou, Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Parapsychologie (WGFP), Freiburg: Fünfzig Jahre Suche nach dem Heiligen Gral – Ein theoriegeleitetes experimentelles Programm und seine Resultate, 27.09.2022.

Ulrich Magin, Hennef: Geburtsstunde des „Loch-Ness-Ungeheuers“ vor 90 Jahren – „Nessie at 90“, 05.09.2023.

Prof. Dr. Markus Maier, LMU Munich, Department of Psychology: Subjektivität – Wie objektiv ist die Realität und ist alles wirklich nur Zufall?, 05.04.2022.

Dr. Gerhard Mayer, IGPP: Parapsychologie als Forschungsgebiet: Das Feld öffnen – den Horizont erwei-

tern, 03.05.2022.

Theresa Müller, M.A., University of Hamburg, Cluster of Excellence 'Understanding Written Artifacts': Magische Manuskripte. Schutz- und Himmelsbriefe im Kontext des Ersten Weltkriegs, 11.01.2022.

Dr. Michael Nahm, IGPP: Spontanerinnerungen kleiner Kinder an frühere Leben: Forschungsstand, Interpretationen und Perspektiven, 29.03.2022.

Prof. Fotini Pallikari, PhD, University of Athens, Greece: The Greek Society for Psychical Reserach. Angelos Tanagras and his telekinetic medium Cleio, 13.06.2023.

Yves Rossetti, Lyon Neuroscience Research Centre, France: Learning from illusions about the reality of other's perspective, 25.20.2022.

Dr. phil. Franziska Schaudack, Württembergische Landesbibliothek Stuttgart: Die alchemistische Handschriftensammlung der Leopold-Sophien-Bibliothek in Überlingen, 18.11.2022.

Dr. phil. Barbara Schmidt, Jena University Hospital, Institute for Psychosocial Medicine, Psychotherapy and Psychooncology: Hypnose – eine außergewöhnliche Erfahrung oder eine alltägliche Spielart unseres Bewusstseins? Ein Bericht aus der Hypnoseforschung, 10.10.2023.

Dr. Bertram Schmidt, Berlin: Grenzen einer wissenschaftlichen Erkenntnis des Paranormalen aus der Sicht der Philosophie (Kant, Heidegger), 21.03.2023.

Dr. Ina Schmied-Knittel, IGPP: „Dieses seltsame, reiche, tragische Leben.“ Die Biologin, Parapsychologin und IGPP-Stifterin Fanny Moser (1872–1953), 17.01.2023.

Rupert Sheldrake, PhD, London, UK: Scopaesthesia and its implications, 15.03.2022.

Dr. Finn-Mathis Trautwein, Clinic for Psychosomatic Medicine and Psychotherapy, Medical Center, University of Freiburg: Meditation-induced self-boundary dissolution: Results from a neurophenomenological investigation, 31.05.2022.

Dr. phil. habil. Gerhard Wiechmann, University of Oldenburg: Von der deutschen Flugscheibe zum NAZI-UFO. Metamorphosen eines medialen Phantoms 1950–2020, 05.12.2023.

Prof. Dr. Dr. Uwe Wolfradt, Department for Psychology, MLU Halle-Wittenberg: Zur Kulturpsychologie des religiös-transzendenten Erlebnisses, 20.06.2023.

Dr. Edgar Wunder, Sozialwissenschaftliches Institut der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland (EKD): Mythen und empirische Befunde zu Ausbreitungs- und Schrumpfungprozessen „esoterischer“ und „alternativreligiöser“ Orientierungen in den letzten 25 Jahren in Deutschland, 24.10.2023.

Prof. Adam Zeman PhD, Cognitive & Behavioral Neurology, University of Exeter Medical School, UK, 29.11.2022.

4.7 Collaborations

Natural Science and Experimental Research

• *Perception and Cognition (Jürgen Kornmeier)*

PD Dr. rer. nat. Harald Atmanspacher, Collegium Helveticum, Zurich, Switzerland: Quantum approaches to Multistable Perception.

Prof. Dr. Peter Brugger, Rehazentrum Valens, Switzerland: Altered States of Perception and Consciousness.

Prof. Dr. Thomas Filk, Institute of Physics, University of Freiburg: Quantum approaches to Multistable Perception.

Prof. Dr. med. Anne Giersch, Psychiatry, University of Strasbourg, France: Perceptual instability in psychiatric disorders.

Dr. rer. nat. Elisabeth Hein, University of Tübingen: Multistable Perception.

PD Dr. rer. na. Sven P. Heinrich, Eye Center at Medical Center, University of Freiburg; Functional Vision Research Section: Multistable Perception and Statistics.

Prof. Dr. Michael B. Hoffmann, University Eye Clinic, University of Magdeburg, Faculty of Medicine: Multistable Perception.

Dr. rer. nat. Ellen Joos, INSERM U1114, Cognitive Neuropsychology and Pathophysiology of Schizophrenia, Strasbourg, France: Perceptual instability in psychiatric disorders; Aphantasia.

Prof. Dr. Bigna Lenggenhager, General Psychology Group with Focus on Cognitive Psychology, University of Konstanz: Altered States of Perception and Consciousness.

Prof. Dr. med. Ludger Tebartz van Elst, Section for Neuropsychiatry, Clinic for Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Medical Center, University of Freiburg: Perceptual instability in psychiatric disorders.

Prof. C Wendland, Hochschule Aalen and Karlsruhe Institute of Technology: Altered States of Perception and Consciousness.

Dr. Marc Wittmann, IGPP Freiburg: Altered States of Perception and Consciousness.

• *Time Perception and Time Consciousness (Marc Wittmann)*

Dr. Rui M. Costa, ISPA William James Center for Research Lisbon, Portugal: Altered states of consciousness.

Prof. Dr. Mauro Dorato, Università degli Studi Roma Tre, Italy: Philosophy of time.

Dr. Mark Elliott, School of Psychology, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland: Millisekunden-Timing.

Dr. Justin Feinstein, Clinical Floatation, Medical Research Center, USA: Interozeption, Floatation-REST.

Dr. Anne Giersch, INSERM Unité 1114, University of Strasbourg, France: Psychopathology.

Prof. Dr. Karin Meissner, Prof. Dr. Niko Kohls, Coburg University: Psychophysiology, Meditation.

Prof. Dr. Carlos Montemayor, San Francisco State University, USA: Philosophy of time.

Dr. Julia Mossbridge: The Institute for Love and Time, Sebastopol, CA; Institute for Noetic Sciences, Petaluma, USA: Precognition.

Prof. Dr. Eric Pfeifer, Catholic University of Applied Science Freiburg: Relaxation in silence.

Prof. Dr. Oksana Senyk, Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv, Ukraine: Time perspective.

Dr. Steve Taylor, Leeds Beckett University, UK: Awakening.

Prof. Dr. Kai Vogeley, University Hospital Cologne: Time perception and psychopathology.

• *Bion (Ulrich Ott)*

Prof. Willoughby Britton (Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior), Prof. Jared Lindahl (Department of Religious Studies and is Director of the Humanities Research Track in the Clinical and Affective Neuroscience Lab), Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, USA: Vielfalt von Meditationserfahrung.

Prof. Dr. Peter Sedlmeier & Dr. Karin Matko, University of Technology Chemnitz: Motivationen zum Meditieren.

Cultural Studies and Social Research

Prof. Dr. Daniel Berthold, & Jan Gramm, Institut für Palliativpsychologie, Frankfurt am Main: Einbeziehung der spirituellen Dimension in Palliative Care.

Prof. Dr. Michael Bohlander, Durham University, UK: Exosozio­logie/Extraterre­strische Intelligenz.

Dr. Stefan Brachat, Friedrich Schiller University Jena: Exosozio­logie/Extraterre­strische Intelligenz.

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Bröckling: University of Freiburg: allgemeine Soziologie, Lehrveranstaltungen und Ko­operation IGPP und Institut für Soziologie.

Max Fuhrmann, independent researcher, Marburg: Schlafparalyse.

Dr. Markus Hänsel, Prof. Dr. Thilo Hinterberger, Ulla Pfluger Heist, Dr. Harald Piron, Dr. Dorothee Wienand Kranz, Dr. Nike Walter: Redaktion Zeitschrift Bewusstseinswissenschaften. Transpersonale Psy­chologie und Psychotherapie.

PD Dr. Karl Hepfer, University of Erfurt: Verschwörungstheorien.

Prof. Dr. Hakan Kayal, Space Technology, JMU Würzburg: Extraterre­strische Intelligenz.

Sebastian Klimasch, M.A., Trier University: Verschwörungstheorien.

Prof. Dr. Hubert Knoblauch: TU Berlin: Religions- und Wissenssoziologie.

Cedar S. Leverett, independent researcher, Minneapolis, USA: Women and Parapsychology Revisited.

Dr. Anna Lux: Institute for Cultural Studies, Leipzig University: DDR-Geschichte, Wissenschaftsges­chichte, Frauen- und Geschlechtergeschichte.

Moser Familienmuseum Schloss Charlottenfels, Neuhausen (CH): Fanny Moser.

Sonja Nowara, independent researcher, Bonndorf-Ebnet: Ghost Hunting.

Prof. Dr. Sylvia Paletschek: Historical Department, University of Freiburg: Frauen- und Geschlechterges­chichte, IGPP-Geschichte.

Prof. Dr. Enno Edzard Popkes: Kiel University & Kieler Akademie für Thanatologie: Nahtoderfahrungen.

Dr. Alan Schink, Ulm University: Verschwörungstheorien.

Prof. Dr. Dirk Schulze-Makuch, TU Berlin: Extraterre­strische Intelligenz.

Sozialwissenschaftliches Forschungsinstitut zu Geschlechterfragen (SoFFI F.): Protestant University of Applied Sciences Freiburg: Umfragen und Methodenentwicklung.

Rüdiger Vaas, Bild der Wissenschaft: Exosozio­logie.

Dr. Nancy Zingrone, National University California, USA: Women and Parapsychology Revisited.

Cultural and Historical Studies

Prof. Dr. Monika Bednarczuk, University of Białystok, Poland: Nicht-hegemoniales Wissen, Kultur und Politik im sozialistischen Polen: Akteure – Strategien – Transferprozesse.

Paul Blender, Bremen: Kabbala-Rezeption im Okkultismus der 1950-er Jahre.

Dr. Renaud Evrard, Université de Lorraine, France: Terminale Geistesklarheit.

Peter Fenwick, Kings College, UK: Terminale Geistesklarheit.

Dr. Joachim Michael Feigl, Rutesheim: Fotoprojekt zum Arbeitsfeld Grenzgebiete/Parapsychologie.

Dr. Alexander Gomez-Marin, Instituto de Neurociencias, Alicante, Spain: Terminale Geistesklarheit.

Bruce Greyson, University of Virginia, USA: Terminale Geistesklarheit.

Historix-Tours GbR, Freiburg: Spukschloß, Grüfte, Poltergeister – Die paranormale Tour. Ghost-Walk.

Dr. Allan Kellehear, University of Vermont, USA: Terminale Geistesklarheit.

Dr. Gustav Keller, Offenburg: Biographie von Heinrich Meng.

Karalee Kothe, University of Colorado, Denver, USA: Terminale Geistesklarheit.

Drs. Wim H. Kramer, Direktor Stichting Het Johan Borgman Fonds, Bunnik, Netherlands: Ergänzung der IGPP-Bibliotheksbestände der UB Freiburg, Geschichte der parapsychologischen Forschung in den Niederlanden.

Dr. Maryne Mutis, Université de Lorraine, France: Terminale Geistesklarheit.

James Matlock, Parapsychology Foundation, New York, USA: Nachtod-Kontakte von Tieren.

Prof. Dr. Birgit Menzel, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Fakultät für Angewandte Sprach- und Kulturwissenschaft (FASK), Germersheim: Kulturgeschichte von Esoterik und Okkultismus in Russland.

Organisationsteam „Tag der Regionalgeschichte“ (Dr. Bettina Fürderer, Juliane Geike, Clemens Joos, Thorsten Mietzner, Elise Vörkel).

Georg Prick, Biederitz: Biographie von Albert Hellwig.

Dr. Chris Roe, University of Northampton, UK: Terminale Geistesklarheit.

Philip Roehrs, University of Virginia, USA: Terminale Geistesklarheit.

Rolf Schwarz, Remscheid: Biographie von Willy Schrödter.

Dr. Marcus Schröter, University Library Freiburg: Provenienzforschung zu den Bibliotheksbeständen des IGPP.

Sylvi Siebler, Saarbrücken: Landkommunen in Deutschland und Frankreich in den 1970er-Jahren.

Dr. Rupert Sheldrake, London, UK: Todesnähe-Phänomene bei Tieren.

Pamela Smart, London, UK: Todesnähe-Phänomene bei Tieren.

Dr. Natasha Tassell-Matamua, Massey University, Neuseeland: Terminale Geistesklarheit.

Dr. Zofia Weaver: Society for Psychical Research, UK: Monographie über Franek Kluski.

Dr. Marjorie Woollacott: University of Oregon, USA: Terminale Geistesklarheit.

Verbund Freiburger Archive.

Counseling und Research on Exceptional Experience

PD Dr. Harald Atmanspacher, Turing Center, ETH Zurich, Switzerland: Außergewöhnliche Erfahrungen und Duale Aspekte Monismus.

Prof. em. Dr. Franz Caspar, Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy, University of Bern, Switzerland: Plananalysen und Außergewöhnliche Erfahrungen.

Prof. Dr. Renaud Evrard, Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology, Université de Lorraine, France: Studie mit französischer Übersetzung des PAgE-II.

Netzwerk für spirituelle Entwicklung und Krisenbegleitung (S.E.N. e. V., Deutschland), Peter Findeisen, Bad Bevensen: Beratung für Menschen in spirituellen Krisen.

Dr. Sarah Pohl, Zentrale Beratungsstelle für Weltanschauungsfragen Baden-Württemberg (ZEBRA-BW), Freiburg: Kooperation in der Beratung von Menschen mit außergewöhnlichen Erfahrungen.

Prof. Dr. Christine Simmonds-Moore, Department of Anthropology, Psychology, and Sociology, University of West Georgia, USA: Studie mit englischer Übersetzung des PAgE-II.

Prof. Dr. Patricio Tressoldi, Assistant Professor Department of General Psychology, Università di Padova, Italy: Studie mit italienischer Übersetzung des PAgE-II.

Prof. Dr. Yolanda Alonso, Department of Psychology, University of Almería, Spain: Spanische Übersetzung des PAgE-II.

4.8 Public Relations

Andreas Anton

Hennigsen, C. (15.01.2022). Interview mit Andreas Anton. Das! NDR.

Moesch, M. (07.02.2022). Interview mit Andreas Anton. BILD TV.

Biel, B. (21.02.2022). Matter of fact. Warum wir an Verschwörungstheorien glauben wollen. Eine digitale Ausstellung zur Geschichte, Struktur, Gefahr und Prävention von Verschwörungstheorien. Bildungsstätte Anne Frank.

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Sozialwissenschaftliches Gymnasium St. Ursula Schulen, Abiturklasse „Pädagogik / Psychologie-Kurs“ (Eberhard Bauer, Jürgen Kornmeier, Annette Zwickel), 23.05.2022.

Friedrich-Weinbrenner-Gewerbeschule Freiburg, Thema „Okkultismus“ (Eberhard Bauer, Michael Nahm, Jürgen Kornmeier, Annette Zwickel), 23.01.2023.

Universitätsbibliothek Freiburg, Führung IGPP-Bibliothek (Eberhard Bauer), 30.01.2023.

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Gymnasium St. Landolin Ettenheim, Seminarkurs „Seele“ (Eberhard Bauer, Michael Nahm, Jürgen Kornmeier, Annette Zwickel), 31.03.2023.

Markgräfler Gymnasium Müllheim. Leistungskurs Biologie (Eberhard Bauer, Michael Nahm, Jürgen Kornmeier, Annette Zwickel), 20.06.2023.

Sonja Nowara und Jan Stampfer (Gruppe „Hidden Voices“), Führung im Archivmagazin des IGPP (Uwe Schellinger), 19.10.2023.

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Guided tours at the BION

Ott, U.: BION-Führung für die Erstsemester im Studiengang Psychologie, Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen, WS 2022/23.

4.9 Raising of External Funds

2020/2022: Kornmeier J., Tebartz van Elst L., Wendland C., & Giersch A.: Using artificial intelligence to identify biomarkers for psychiatric disorders. Eucor – The European Campus (€ 42.000,-).

2022/2025: Kornmeier J., & Tebartz van Elst L.: Neural processing of sensory ambiguity in healthy subjects and patients with Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorder. DFG (€ 55.000,-).

2022/2025: Ogden, R., Codina, N., Vostal, F., Martin-Soelch, C., Abou Khaled, O., Witowska, J., & Wittmann, M.: TIME experience in Europe's Digital age (TIMED). CHANSE Programme "Transformations: Social and cultural dynamics in the digital age" (€1.561.633,-); IGPP funded by BMBF (€180.100,-).

2023: Bauer, E., & Kornmeier, J.: Spende für Bender-Böhringer-Fonds (330.000 €).

2023: Wittmann, M., Lieb, Y., & Schult, B.: VR video game-induced psi experiences in red and green Ganzfeld. Society for Psychical Research (€4.054.-).

2023/2025: Wittmann, M., Wilson, M., & Kornmeier, J.: EEG and behavioral correlates of forward and backward priming. FUNDAÇÃO Bial (€55.000.-).

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