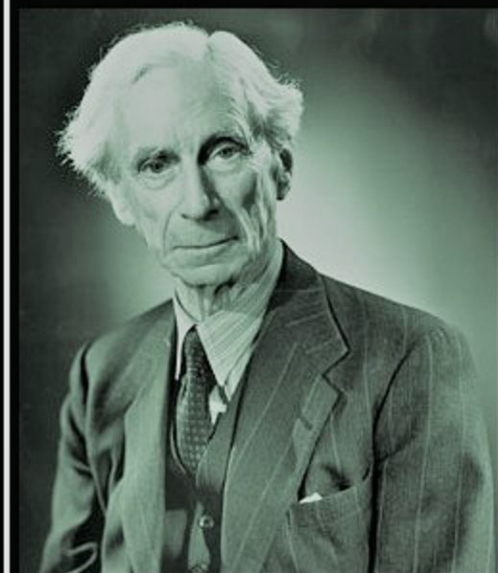


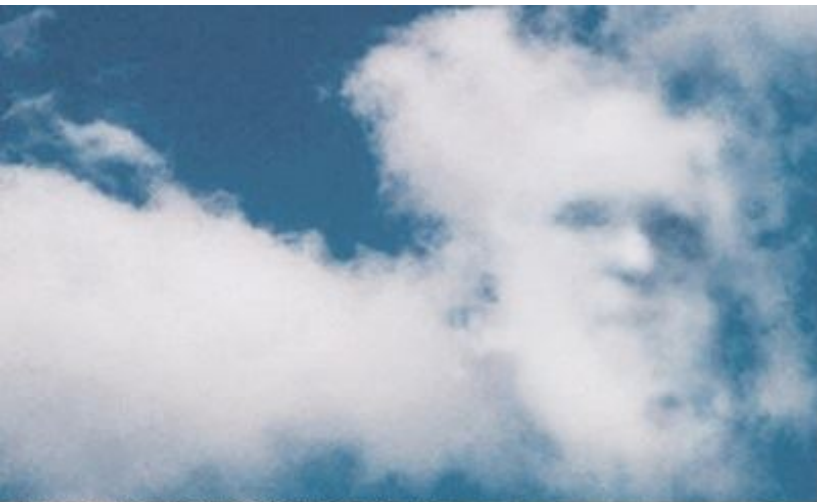


**John Edward
Mack, M.D.
1929 – 2004**



It has been said that man is a rational animal.
All my life I have been searching for evidence
which could support this.

(Bertrand Russell)





Naïve Realism



Electronic Voice Phenomenon

- It is claimed (e.g., Raudive, 1971) that by leaving a tape-recorder in record mode or by recording from a radio set between stations, messages from the spirit realm can be recorded
- Interpretation of the vague sounds recorded is often entirely subjective (Smith, 1972; Ellis, 1975)



Seeing as
vs.
Seeing that



'Fascinating, timely and important . . . perhaps the millions who read and loved [Dawkins's *The God Delusion*] can also read – and learn to love – *SuperSense*.'

New Scientist

SUPERSENSE



**From Superstition to Religion – the Brain
Science of Belief**

Bruce Hood

6. Hyperactive agency detection device

- It is better for a hunter to mistake a rock for a tiger than the opposite. This psychological inclination.
- **Hyperactive agency detection device** makes us receptive to imagined and invisible agents.
- If a flood destroys a village, it is better to assume that the river spirit is angry and do something, such as offering sacrifices to the river spirit.
- That's why we tend to find “something” out of “nothing” (e.g. seeing patterns out of randomness)





**WARNING: THIS BOOK
WILL BLOW YOUR MIND!**

AMAZING OPTICAL ILLUSIONS

**WITH OVER 60
INCREDIBLE MIND TRICKS!**

Afterimage












Inattentional Blindness

When we focus closely on one thing, we often fail to see other things in plain sight



Ben Hur
1959

Perception



Perception is the construction of a description, and reality.... a mere consensus of perception

Human Memory

Sensory Memory
(< 1 sec)

Short-term Memory
(Working Memory)
(< 1 min)

Long-term Memory
(life-time)

Explicit Memory
(conscious)

Implicit Memory
(unconscious)

Declarative Memory
(facts, events)

Procedural Memory
(skills, tasks)

Episodic Memory
(events, experiences)

Semantic Memory
(facts, concepts)

What is flashbulb memory?

- It was suggested by Brown and Kulik in 1977
- A kind of emotional memory
- Vivid and detailed memories of highly emotional events
- Recorded in the brain like a camera's flash
- Formed instantaneously and remembered forever, after experiencing shocking events

Source Amnesia

- Source amnesia also helps explain **déjà vu** (French for “already seen”).
- The key to déjà vu seems to be familiarity with a stimulus without a clear idea of where we encountered it before (Cleary, 2008). Normally, we experience a feeling of *familiarity* (thanks to temporal lobe processing) before we consciously remember details (thanks to hippocampus and frontal lobe processing). When these functions (and brain regions) are out of sync, we may experience a feeling of familiarity without conscious recall



What is confabulation?

- A memory of an event or experience that has not actually happened
- Known causes:
 - ▣ Brain damage
 - ▣ Psychological or psychiatric disorders (e.g. Schizophrenia, Alzheimer's disease)

- “Rashomon Effect”

Creating a False Memory in the Hippocampus

Steve Ramirez,^{1*} Xu Liu,^{1,2*} Pei-Ann Lin,¹ Junghyup Suh,¹ Michele Pignatelli,¹
Roger L. Redondo,^{1,2} Tomás J. Ryan,^{1,2} Susumu Tonegawa^{1,2†}



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A Guide for Women Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse

ELLEN BASS & LAURA DAVIS

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Repressed Memories vs. False Memory Syndrome

- Recovered Memory Experiences
- The theory of repression
- The role of hypnosis
- A dangerous assumption:

"The abuse in your life is always as great as the emotional pain you suffer now... If your pain is extreme, the abuse must have been severe, and if you don't remember being abused, you must have repressed it."

- from Bass & David, The Courage to Heal, 1988

Exploring the Alien Abduction Phenomenon

Kidnapped by UFOs?

This feature contains
disturbing material

NOVA
ONLINE

Believers

- John Mack
- John Velez
- Budd Hopkins

Skeptics

- Carl Sagan
- Paul Horowitz
- Philip Klass

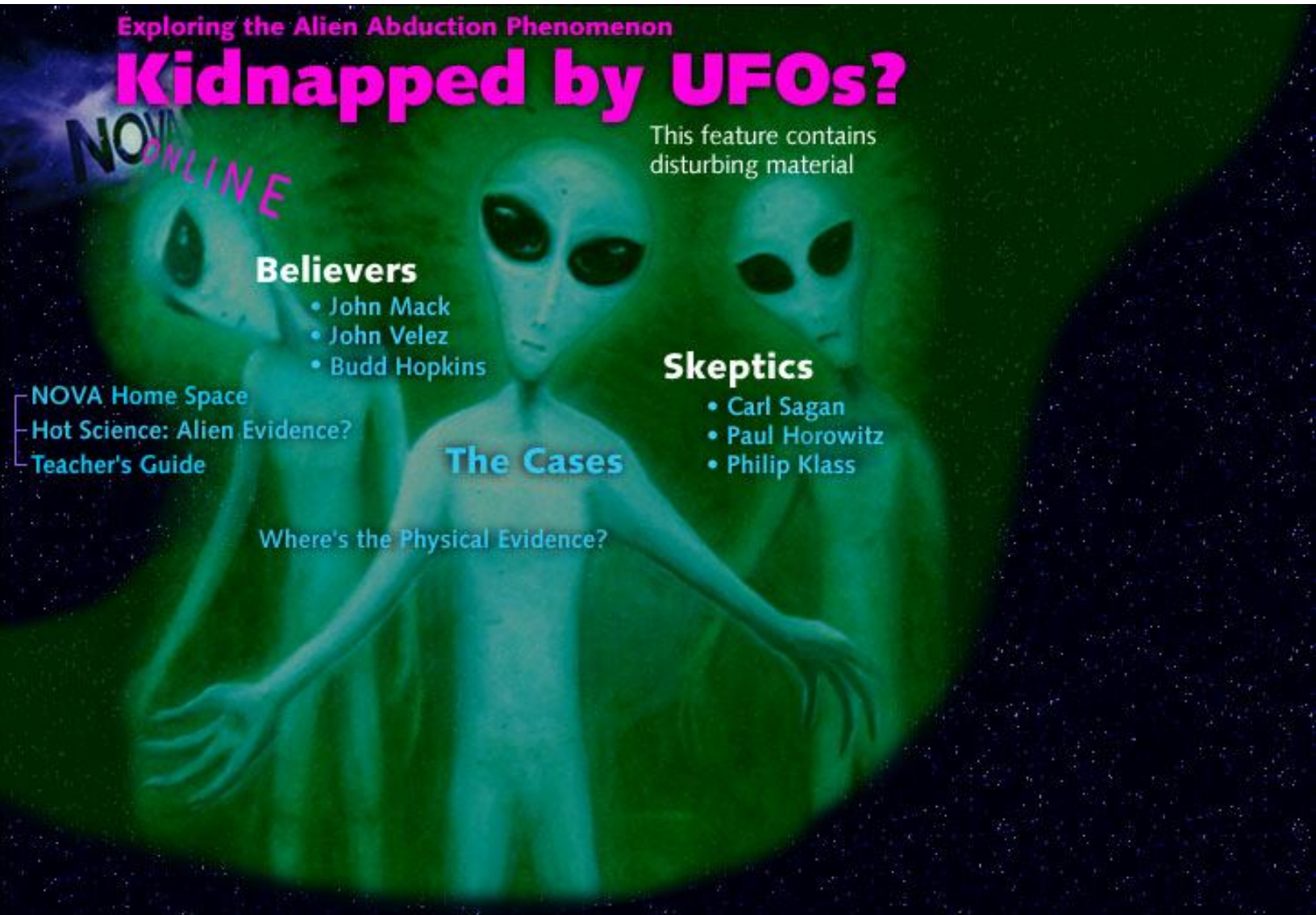
NOVA Home Space

Hot Science: Alien Evidence?

Teacher's Guide

The Cases

Where's the Physical Evidence?



Split Brain Experiments, Lateralization of Brain Functions

- In cats and monkeys first
- Cut optic nerves in the eye, so left eye connected to left hem and right connected to right hem
- Also cut corpus callosus
- Taught to distinguish triangle from square with right eye covered
- Then presented same problem with left eye covered
- Showed left and right hemispheres functions separately when not connected by corpus callosus

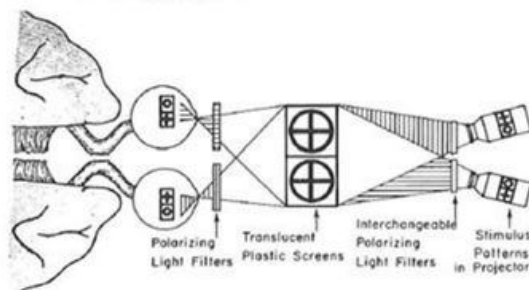
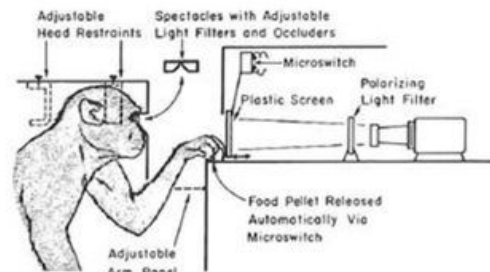
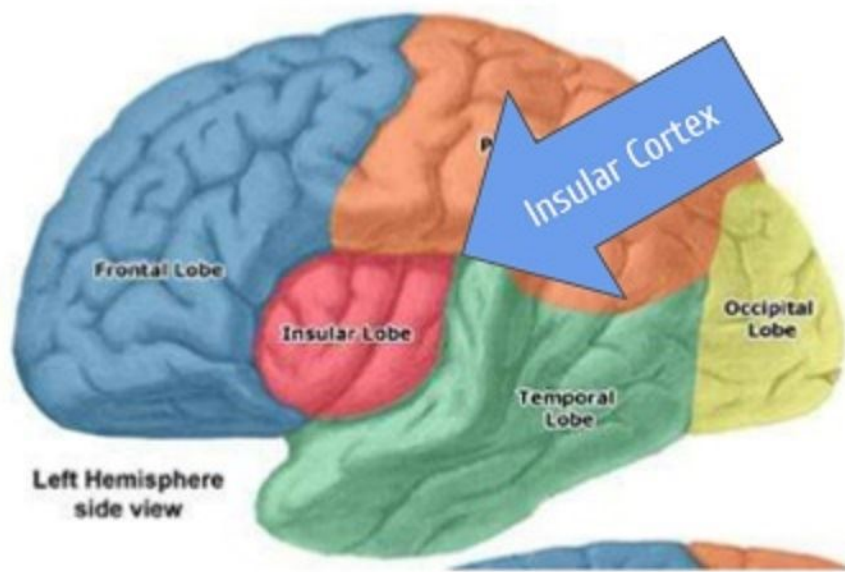


FIGURE 7 Profile and schematic diagram of apparatus for testing perceptual conflict in a split-brain monkey (13).

The Insular Cortex





The Challenge of the Oceanic Feeling:

ROMAIN ROLLAND'S MYSTICAL CRITIQUE OF PSYCHOANALYSIS AND HIS CALL FOR A "NEW SCIENCE OF THE MIND"

Ayon Maharaj
Assistant Professor and Head
Department of Philosophy
Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University
P.O. Belur Math, Dist. Howrah 711202

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From the files of
Damn Interesting

ALIEN HAND SYNDROME

AND OTHER
TOO-WEIRD-NOT-TO-BE-TRUE STORIES

Welcome to the weird. The macabre. The truly, unbelievably, breathtakingly strange. Welcome to a world where a seemingly normal lake explodes, emitting a toxic cloud that kills everything in its path. Where people believe their loved ones are stolen away and replaced by exact

Also Featuring

- The Mad Gasser of Mattoon.....140
- The Nucleon.....168
- Undark and the Radium Girls.....262
- Clever Hans the Math Horse.....44
- The Phobia Factory..196



Watch Out! A rebel limb has a mind of its own in the mysterious Alien Hand Syndrome, first reported in 1908. *page 2*



duplicates. Where a woman falls 33,330 feet out of a jetliner and lives. Where carnivorous centipedes long as a man's forearm crawl through the night looking for living flesh. Welcome to the world of Damn Interesting.

By ALAN BELLOWS AND THE EDITORS
OF DAMN INTERESTING

Phanthom Phenomena

- Phanthom Limb
- Phanthom Pain
- Stump Pain
- Super added Phanthom
- Referred Phanthom Sensation



60% and 80% of amputees experience PLP
(Nikolajsen and Jensen., 2000)

MASS DELUSION

A condition in which a large group of people exhibit a similar false belief or opinion, strongly held in spite of invalidating evidence, especially as a symptom of mental illness.



- The former term **paranoia** was derived from **Greek words** meaning “beside” and “mind”.
- In **modern usage**, paranoia is taken to mean extreme suspiciousness, usually not based on realistic assessment of the situation.

GRANDIOSE DELUSION

- EXAGGERATED CONCERNS ABOUT ONE'S IMPORTANCE, POWER OR IDENTITY.
- BELIEVES THAT ONE HAS SPECIAL POWERS AND IS ACCOMPLISHING OR WILL ACCOMPLISH EXTRAORDINARY THINGS FOR GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY.

FOLIE À DEUX

A madness shared by two



Heaven's Gate Cult

- Founded by Marshall Applewhite AKA “Do”, and Bonnie Lu Truesdale AKA “Ti”
- Mid 1970’s – West Coast



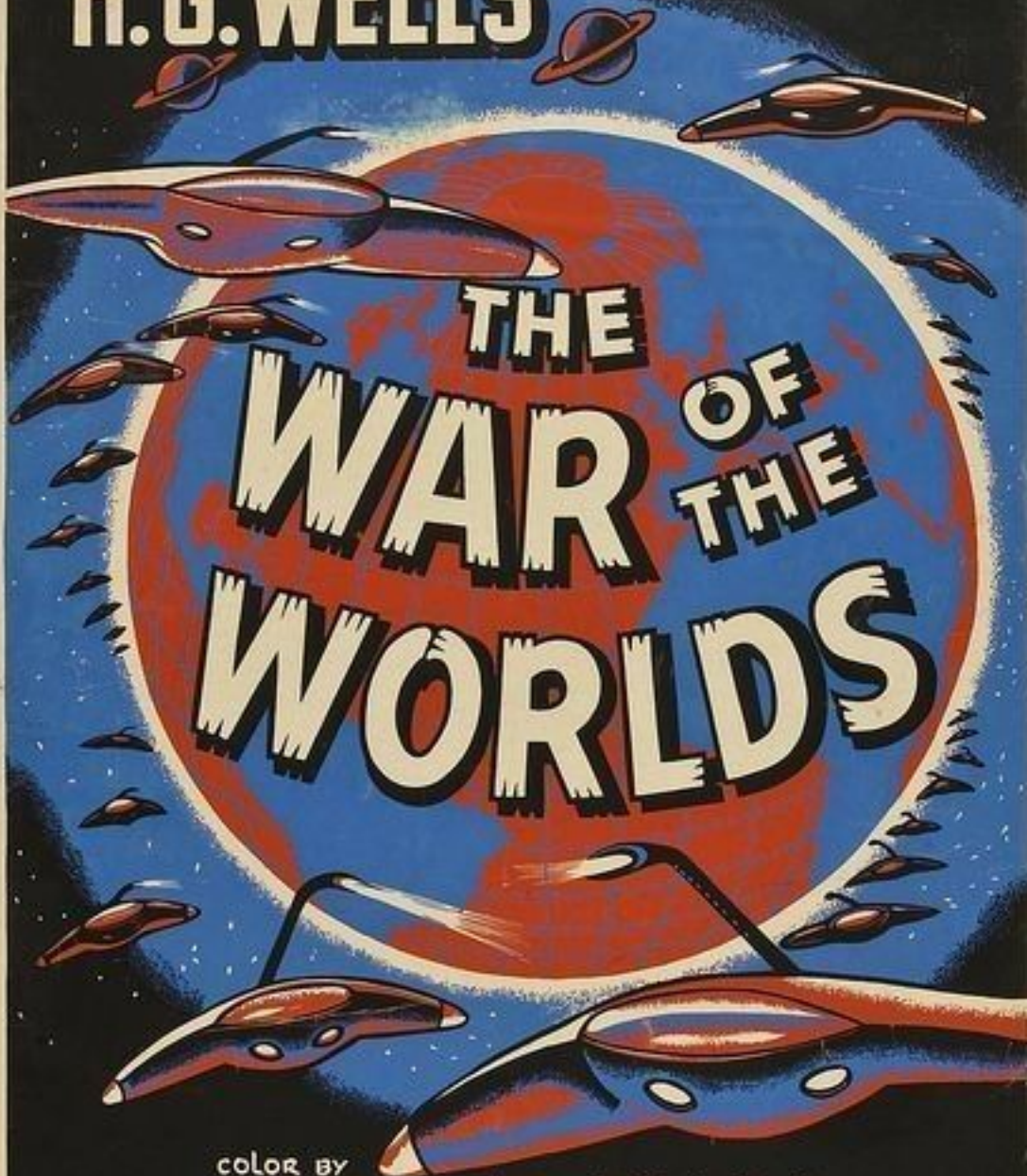
- **Beliefs**

- Aliens a “ Level Above” humans
- Earth was a “ Garden for Souls”
- Jesus was part of this. Applewhite was the same as Jesus
- Earth was being “Recycled”
- Comet Hale-Bopp was signal to leave



THE WAR OF THE WORLDS 55-023-Y

H.G. WELLS'



THE
WAR OF THE
WORLDS

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TECHNICOLOR

Produced by

Directed by

Screenplay by

GEORGE PAL • BYRON HASKIN • BARRÉ LYNDON

Based on the Novel by H. G. Wells

A *Paramount* PICTURE

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PRESENTS

MASS HYSTERIA RYE



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By Oshia Fen Raju