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A 8 year multiphase study was performed at four research sites to determine the probabilities of repeating behavior and sentience of ghost like phenomena.

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The probabilities of repeating behavior and sentience of ghost like phenomena

1. Abstract

A multiphase study was performed at four research sites to determine the probabilities of repeating behavior and sentience of ghost like phenomena. The study was conducted over a eight year time span.

According to a popular hypothesis, ghosts, if they exist, should not have any reasonable sentience. The hypothesis suggests that a remnant of consciousness survives due to a fluke in the death cascade.

The information we use to interact with our world is chemically linked into our brains (basically a hard drive of sorts). Without use of a "hard drive", there would be no memory or access to systems that are reliant upon the brain. Since the hypothesis of residual hauntings is scientifically unsound, behavior should be dependent upon the things that were recorded into the short term memory before death (and the chemical encoding into the brain). In this way consciousness may act like an operating system (like windows or linux on your computer). It needs input from another source and would be limited in what it can do (the way it can act).

2. Methods

This study was conducted over a eight year time span at four "haunted" locations. The criteria for the haunted locations was that the sites were not well known and the occurring phenomena was not openly discussed. Additionally, the locations were investigated skeptically and a reasonable explanation for the reported activity was not found.

The owners of the locations were given simple forms and self addressed stamped envelopes. If guests asked if the location was haunted and claimed to have a paranormal experience, they were given one of the forms and an envelope. This was a control measure to prevent biasing the witnesses from viewing each others' accounts.

For example; a typical form might include the following;

"I was seated at the bar when it suddenly became very cold. I felt that i was being watched but i was the only person in the room."

One check would go under "sensed presence (in bar)" and one under "cold spot (in bar)" for that location.

Reports filed by persons claiming to have psychic abilities were thrown out due to bias. At the end of each year the paranormal experiences were recorded, analyzed for trends and a field visit was performed at each location.

3. Study results

Site 1

| Reported Phenomena | # of recurring incidents |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Piano playing (sounds of music) | 4 |
| 2. Movement of silverware on dining room table | 9 |
| 3. Unseen Presence (feeling of being watched) Rear hallway | 5 |
| 4. Unseen Presence (feeling of being watched) Room 4 | 12 |
| 5. Unseen Presence (feeling of being watched) Room 2 | 8 |
| 6. Unseen Presence (feeling of being watched) Room 1 | 2 |
| 7. Stacking of chairs to block a doorway | 2 |
| 8. Apparition of man seen in mirrors | 3 |
| 9. Pushed by an unseen presence, tripped | 3 |
| 10. Lights turning on and off "by themselves" | 22 |
| 11. Sensation of being touched (Room 1) | 3 |
| 12. Sensation of being touched (Room 2) | 2 |
| 13. Apparition of a woman seen in mirror by dining table | 2 |
| 14. Disembodied voices in rear dining room | 6 |
| 15. Cold spot (room 1) | 4 |
| 16. Cold spot (room 2) | 3 |
| 17. Cold spot (room 4) | 6 |

Notes on Site 1:

All "paranormal" experiences reported at this location over the eight year duration of this project could easily be fitted into one of the seventeen occurrences. The frequency of the phenomena is inconsistent. For example, in one year four events of number 17 occurred all in that one year. The sightings of the apparitions are also consistent with multiple witnesses describing the "ghost" the same way and doing the same things. Besides these 17 events, nothing new has been reported by witnesses. The phenomena definitely repeats behavior. This site took the longest amount of time to discover the repeating pattern due to the inconsistencies and occurrences of all of the phenomena.

Item 14 was eventually discovered to be explainable. Conversations occurring near the restrooms were being conveyed through the buildings A/C ducts.

Site 2

| Reported Phenomena | # of recurring incidents |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Apparition seen on stairs (girl stops, looks, then vanishes) | 2 |
| 2. Apparition seen on stairs (girl runs upstairs) | 4 |
| 3. Apparition of girl playing in hallway (girl runs downstairs when seen) | 7 |
| 4. Apparition of girl playing in hallway (girl runs into south room when seen) | 3 |
| 5. Apparition of girl playing in hallway (Girl vanishes after being seen) | 2 |
| 6. Cold spot felt in upstairs hallway | 15 |

Notes on Site 2:

Site 2 is unique because it deals with the apparition of a 9 year old girl. The apparition is only seen on the stairs and upstairs hallway. No other encounters have been recorded in the location's eleven rooms. Although the two locations are consistent, what she does after the witnesses see her varies. In the witness reports the girl runs away after they ask about the location of her mother (or parents). If they do nothing at all, she simply

vanishes. All of the reports describe her as being solid, looking much like any young girl and in five reports the witnesses think she is a live child until she vanishes.

Another interesting discovery is that the witnesses all describe her the same way (long black hair, blue dress with ruffles on the sleeves, white shoes) despite the fact that they are from varied locations and are just visiting this bed and breakfast hostel. Due to the religious affiliations of the owners, the "ghost" is not talked about, even among the staff. So how are they all seeing the same thing?

Item 6 was eventually found to be explainable. The foundation of the building is not a solid slab but consists of several concrete supports leaving a crawl space underneath many areas. This is common among many of the adobe type structures built in the early 1900's. Gusts of wind traveling from the northeast enter this crawl space through vents and the air is pushed up through the wooden floor in the areas where the cold spots were reported.

Site 3

| Reported Phenomena | # of recurring incidents |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Rocking chair moving by itself | 4 |
| 2. Apparition of woman in upstairs dining room. (cleaning) . | 4 |
| 3. Apparition of woman in upstairs dining room. (Moving across room, West to East) | 3 |
| 4. Apparition of woman in upstairs dining room. (Standing in center of room, vanishes) | 3 |
| 5. Pots and pans flying off shelf in kitchen | 2 |
| 6. Water glasses explode in Room 2 | 3 |
| 7. Apparition of man in east dining room (standing then vanishes) | 3 |
| 8. Cold spot felt near bar on ground floor | 2 |
| 9. Sensed presence (upstairs dining room, West) . | 9 |
| 10. Sensed presence (bar on ground floor) | 3 |
| 11. Sensed presence (kitchen, near prep area) | 7 |
| 12. Sensed presence (west dining room, near fireplace) | 3 |
| 13. Cold spot, moving air (entry hallway) | 2 |

14. Spinning Chandelier (south dining room, ground floor)**3****Notes on Site 3:**

All of the reported activity at this location occurred in the months of December, January, February and March. No occurrences have been reported at any other time. The events often occur in multiples with as many as 5 events occurring within a 24 hour time period.

Site 4

| Reported Phenomena | # of recurring incidents |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Sensed Presence. | 9 |
| 2. Sensed Presence | 8 |
| 3. Sensed Presence | 2 |
| 4. Sensed Presence | 5 |
| 5. Smell of perfume in room 1 | 7 |
| 6. Smell of perfume in room 2 | 4 |
| 7. Feeling of sadness (room 2) | 3 |
| 8. Apparition of woman walking down stairs (Vanishes suddenly) | 5 |
| 9. Apparition of woman walking down stairs (pauses, then vanishes) | 2 |
| 10. Apparition of woman walking down stairs (moves through wall) | 3 |

Notes on Site 4:

All of the reported activity at this location occurs on the second floor. Nothing has ever been reported anywhere else at the location. Items 5 and 6 were found to originate from a flowering tree and from a carpet freshener used by the staff.

Conclusion

The data collected in this eight year study clearly shows that the majority of reported paranormal activity repeats behavior. In some instances the

pattern is easier to identify due to the lower number of repeating incidents. Locations with high numbers of repeating incidents requires more study to identify all of the behavior patterns and then track the frequency that they repeat. It is important to note that some of the repeating incidents were found to be caused by explainable phenomena. As such, the repeating of reported activity alone is not sufficient to deem the events paranormal.

The importance of this experiment is a practical one. Investigating paranormal claims is not black and white. There are many induced issues, such as witness bias and myth building, which makes the identification of the actual phenomena experienced by the witnesses difficult. If you are going to identify and explain those paranormal events you must be able to separate the actual occurrences from the pseudo-events created by the witnesses belief system. This is accomplished by trending the events and identifying the ones that repeat.

Take Site 4 for instance. After all the witnesses were interviewed, the spreadsheet contained 94 various events. By isolating the repeating behavior, that list was dropped to only 10 events. The list was reduced further as items 1 through 4 (sensed presence, a common psychological reaction to fear) is eliminated and explanations were found for items 5 and 6. The key to solving the haunting now lies in the investigation of items 8, 9 and 10. Focusing on only three events is allot more efficient that trying to deal with 94. This is why most ghost investigations are never solved. Too much focus is spent on the truly unexplainable, the witnesses belief system and the perception of reality that it creates.