



**Samuel Johnson, MA, DCL (*Oxon*)**

**Human experience, which is  
constantly contradicting theory,  
is the great test of truth.**

*Boswell's Life of Johnson*, Modern Library Edition, p. 274

Samuel Johnson told Jamie Boswell that human experience, which is constantly contradicting theory, is the great test of truth, and I can do no better than to take that for my theme this afternoon when I talk about Abnormal Psychology, Normal Science and the UFO Evidence. I thank Younghae Chi, of the Oriental Institute, for inviting me to give this talk, which is sponsored by the Oxford Institute for Paradigm Studies.

# **Abnormal Psychology, Normal Science and the UFO Evidence**

**Don C. Donderi**

**Nuffield College, May 5 2015**

Nuffield College and I were both founded in 1937. While Nuffield today is a mere infant as an Oxford college, today measures a somewhat greater maturity for me. My approach to this controversial topic is the result of about fifty years of professional interest and analysis. I hope that the Nuffield College venue, which is my age but incomparably younger on the Oxford scale, will encourage listeners to engage their youthful curiosity, prompted by Nuffield's academically youthful ambience, to listen carefully and openly to what I have to say.



## Charles Darwin, BA (*Cantab*)

**The limit of man's knowledge in any subject possesses a high interest, which is perhaps increased by its close neighborhood to the realms of imagination.**

Darwin, Charles (1839/1909). *The Voyage of the Beagle*. Volume 29 of Charles W. Eliot, LLD, ed, *The Harvard Classics*. New York: P. F. Collier, p. 301.

*On the Origin of Species* by Charles Darwin, published in 1859, explained the theory of the evolution of species by natural selection. Darwin spent from 1832 to 1836 aboard the Royal Navy brig HMS Beagle while it was surveying and exploring both coasts of South America and the Pacific Ocean. In 1839 he published *The Voyage of the Beagle* about the geology, botany, meteorology, ornithology, zoology, and the people that he met on his long voyage.



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Darwin wrote that his voyage on the Beagle had provided him with the essential background for his later work. While speculating about why sea-shells were found high above the seashore in the western foothills of the Andes Mountains, he wrote “The limit of man's knowledge in any subject possesses a high interest, which is perhaps increased by its close neighborhood to the realms of imagination.”

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Darwin's own imagination, based on the very limits of knowledge that he was accumulating on the *Beagle*, led him to the theory of evolution. Darwin's experience informs us that **the** vital preliminary work of science is to record the facts that are at our limit of knowledge, so that, with the help of both intelligence and imagination, we can come to understand them.

We are at the same limit of knowledge about extraterrestrial civilization that Darwin reached about evolution while he was on board the *Beagle*, twenty years before he published *On the Origin of Species*. We know that our planet is being explored by extraterrestrials, but we do not know who they are, what they want, where they are from or how they get here.



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A single lecture cannot provide the systematic and scholarly review of evidence that is necessary to establish the proposition that some of what people report as UFOs are extraterrestrial vehicles. All it can do is provide you with examples, outline the arguments about the evidence, and point you towards more reading – all of which I expect to accomplish within the next hour. I have written a book on the topic, which we will get to at the end of the talk. In the meantime I will start with some examples in chronological order.

Kenneth Arnold, Cascade Mountains, WA, June 1947: DD



Kenneth Arnold, an American businessman and private pilot, saw nine of these things while flying over the Cascades range in Washington State. The report, which eventually reached the newspapers via the Associated Press, tagged the objects as “flying saucers” because Arnold had described them more or less as moving like a stone thrown to skip across the water.

**Kenneth Arnold, Cascade Mountains, WA, June 1947: DD**



**RB-47, Gulf of Mexico, July 1957: R-V**



The crew of an American RB-47 reconnaissance aircraft, equipped with radars, radar detectors and other equipment, was paced by a UFO for hours as it completed a training mission over the Gulf of Mexico and on its return to its base in Oklahoma. Reports from the aircrew, the air traffic controllers, and the radar operators are all available to confirm a multiple-witness sighting that occurred within the US military.

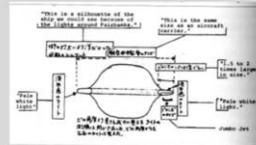
**Kenneth Arnold, Cascade Mountains, WA, June 1947: DD**



**RB-47, Gulf of Mexico, July 1957: R-V**

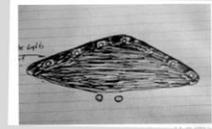


**Japan Air Lines, Anchorage, November 1986: R-V**



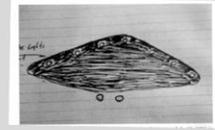
The full details of this sighting of a large UFO by the crew of a JAL 747 freighter over Alaska were analyzed by radar experts of the US Federal Aviation Administration, and reported on by the head of the FAA's Accident Investigation Branch, James Callahan, after he retired from government service. He had ordered the detailed analyses and was present during the analyses and when the CIA seized all the analysis records and told people "this event never happened."

Hudson Valley, 1982– 1986: CE I, CE II



In 1983 people driving along the Taconic State Parkway, which bisects the part of New York State that lies to the east of the Hudson River from the New York City line almost as far north as Albany. Parkway, saw low-flying objects covered with lights moving through the night sky. Looking past the lights they saw dark boomerang or triangle shapes the length and width of a football field, hovering just a few hundred feet above the ground. The objects moved at road traffic speed and then jumped from one place to another in the blink of an eye. Drivers slowed down, looked up, drove erratically, and pulled over and talked about what they were seeing. They reported the sightings to local police. An officer who saw one of the things moving toward a nearby town would call that town's police, who would see it moving on toward another town, and so on from town to town until it blinked out or disappeared upward at tremendous speed.

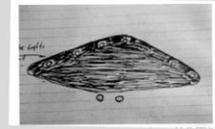
Hudson Valley, 1982– 1986: CE I, CE II



There were hundreds of reports like this in the Taconic State Parkway region and adjacent parts of New York State and Connecticut from the end of 1982 through the middle of 1986.

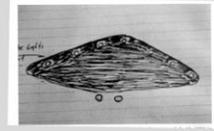
A professor of neuroscience from the Rockefeller University in Manhattan, who lived in upstate New York and commuted to work on the Taconic State Parkway, came to my university to give a talk. At the reception after the talk I asked him whether he had seen one of the low-flying objects, and he said that he had. I asked him what he thought he had seen. He said the government had explained them so he hadn't bothered to think more about them. The government (the FAA) had earlier said that people were seeing "stunt pilots flying in formation" and no one but the professor took that seriously.

Hudson Valley, 1982– 1986: CE I, CE II

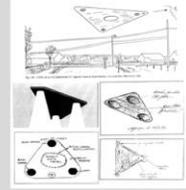


This distinguished professor's indifference to novelty staring him in the face shows us a scientist who felt no curiosity about the world beyond his professional limits. His experience was not uncommon, and neither was his scientist's reaction to the evidence. Sightings like those along the Taconic State Parkway have happened many times, over many years and in many places, and the scientific response to the evidence has always been much the same.

Hudson Valley, 1982– 1986: CE I, CE II

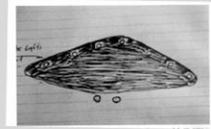


Belgium, 1989: R-V, CE I

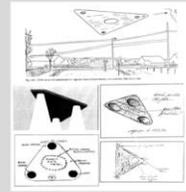


Near Eupen, a small Belgian town close to the German border, objects that looked very much like those over the Taconic State Parkway were seen at night in 1989 and 1990 by police, civilians, off-duty Air Force officers, and “several witnesses [who] had high-ranking functions and preferred not to reveal their names to the media.” But many witnesses with medium to low-ranking functions were willing to be named, and the government reacted quickly. The Belgian Air Force scrambled fighter jets on two occasions when police reported low-level sightings that were confirmed by radar. The first time the jets found nothing. The second time one of the two jets recorded a camera sequence of its radar lock-on of the UFO.

Hudson Valley, 1982– 1986: CE I, CE II

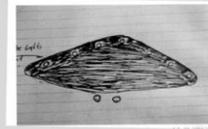


Belgium, 1989: R-V, CE I

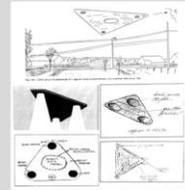


Simultaneous ground and airborne radar reconstruction of that jet's weaponless dogfight showed a large object leading the jets on a chase before speeding out of sight and out of radar range. The report on these sightings was prepared by Wilfried De Brouwer, who was then the chief of operations of the Belgian Air Staff. He wrote that although his government had no interest in solving the UFO problem, they had nevertheless decided that withholding information would be wrong. The government released the witness sighting and the radar data and General De Brouwer concluded, with an official shrug of his shoulders, that he could not explain what had been seen and recorded in Belgian skies as either a natural or a man-made phenomenon.

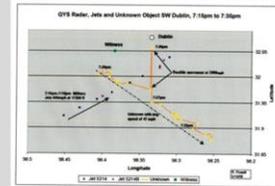
Hudson Valley, 1982– 1986: CE I, CE II



Belgium, 1989: R-V, CE I



Stephenville, TX, 2008: R-V



A large UFO flew over Stephenville, Texas at night in January 2008. Eyewitnesses included a constable, a chief of police, a former FAA air traffic controller and a private pilot. A radar expert using FAA-provided radar plots from several nearby civil airports validated the eyewitness accounts. Radar confirmed that a low-flying object without a civil or military aviation transponder hovered, loitered and then flew at high speed across several Texas counties. Radar confirmed that military jets—some fighter aircraft and some slower tracking aircraft—were diverted to and then crisscrossed the Stephenville area shortly after the UFO was seen there. The Air Force admitted military jets were in the air but said nothing else about the sighting. The analysis describes an object that was between 500 and 1,000 feet long, observed at altitudes between 5,000 and 17,000 feet, that sometimes flew very slowly (~50 mph) and then very fast (~1,900 mph). Investigators Glen Schulze and Robert Powell write “It was not any known aircraft.”



Reginald V. Jones, DPhil (Oxon), CH, CBE, FRS

***Most Secret War (1978)***

I therefore decided to accept only those reports which had mentioned liquid air or liquid oxygen as one of the fuels. This provided a *touchstone*, since it showed that any report which mentioned it had at least one element of truth and might therefore reflect the knowledge of someone who had a fairly direct contact with genuine information. (p. 111)

Re UFOs (1991): *"Nothing that has happened since has changed my viewpoint.."*

Now I am going to review a small fraction of the evidence that some UFO crews “catch and release” humans to study them. I am going to do this with the help of an idea expressed by a thorough UFO skeptic, who was involved with the UFO question shortly after the end of World War II and who actually contributed an appendix to the American study of UFOs headed by Edward U. Condon in 1968 – 1970. Reginald V. Jones was in charge of British Scientific air intelligence during WWII. He correctly analyzed the size and warhead weight of the V-2. He did this by using what he called “touchstones” – consistent aspects of reports that, when present, gave him confidence that other aspects of the reports reflected reality.



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***Most Secret War (1978)***

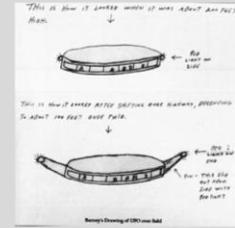
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Re UFOs (1991): *“Nothing that has happened since has changed my viewpoint..”*

I admired *Most Secret War* and wrote to Jones to find out whether his attitude had changed since the war. I quote from his letter at the bottom of the slide.

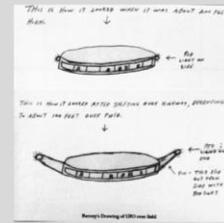
Nevertheless, each of the three cases described below has two touchstones, which while not proven true, are consistent across all cases and depend only on the ordinary kind of memory that we (and Dr. Johnson) call “human experience” – consistent individual testimony from unaided recall about what happened.

**Barney and Betty Hill, New Hampshire, 1961**



The Barney and Betty Hill case is perhaps the best-known and one of the best reported American cases – a couple abducted from their car in northern New Hampshire in 1961. They consciously remembered a close encounter; consciously remembered missing time, it was investigated by a leading psychiatrist using hypnotic therapy; he never believed their abduction stories revealed under hypnosis but they were consistent and were consistent with many other abduction stories recalled under similar circumstances since then.

**Barney and Betty Hill, New Hampshire, 1961**

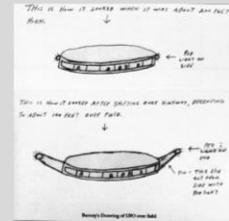


**Allagash Abductions, Maine, 1976**

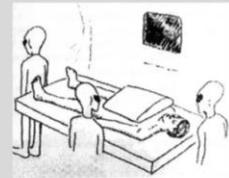


Four students, all of them gifted artists, went on a canoeing expedition in Maine in 1976. They consciously remembered a night-time close encounter with a glowing, spherical UFO that approached their canoe; they consciously recalled a period of missing time, and through dreams, aided memory recall and flashbacks, they recalled a history of being levitated out of their canoe into the hovering UFO, being examined by the Ets, and then being returned to their canoe. The event was investigated, and reported, by UFO investigator Raymond Fowler in *The Allagash Abductions*, published in 1993.

**Barney and Betty Hill, New Hampshire, 1961**



**Allagash Abductions, Maine, 1976**



**Lower Manhattan, 1989**



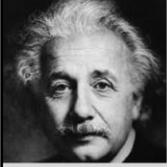
A 1989 abduction of a woman out of an apartment building window in lower New York that was witnessed by at least four people and probably many more. The common elements: a remembered close encounter (with ETs in the bedroom), missing time, and this time, independent witnesses to the physical abduction which involved close-encounter observation of the craft and the levitation of the abductee into the craft.

**Some UFOs are extra-terrestrial vehicles.**

**Some Extraterrestrial vehicles have ET crews.**

**Some ET crews "catch and release" people to study us.**

Reviewing the bona fides of the UFO and the abduction cases, and discussing the psychology of memory recall, hypnosis and suggestibility that has to be considered in evaluating the abduction cases takes a lot of time – more than I can devote to it in a single lecture; it took a four-lecture series to cover this topic in 2010 and three chapters of my book to cover it in 2013. But the brief discussion of the UFO observations and the abduction accounts give you a sketch of a much richer body of evidence that has been accumulating for at least sixty-five years. Here are my conclusions, based on more analysis and more cases than have been outlined here, and expressed as simply and clearly as I can express them.



## Scientific Attitudes

Albert Einstein

**These people have seen something.  
*What it is I do not know and  
am not curious to know.***

Letter to Louis A. Gardner, July 23, 1952 cited in Jacobs, D. M. *The UFO Controversy in America*, Indiana University Press, 1975 (Signet Edition, p. 71.)

Two historians of science, Michael Swords and Robert Powell, wrote about UFOs that “There is something about this subject, some barrier to its believability, some challenge of an emotional kind, which produces the most inexplicable responses by otherwise reasonable, highly functional people.” Here are two examples of that attitude expressed by scientists:

This sentiment of Albert Einstein was expressed in a letter to someone who had written to him about UFOs in 1952



## Scientific Attitudes

Edward U. Condon

- ... further extensive study of UFOs cannot be justified in the expectation that science will be advanced thereby.
- ... whatever effect there has been has been bad.
- ... fantastic propositions that are being supported by appeals to fallacious reasoning or false data.

Edward U. Condon, (Scientific Director). *Scientific study of unidentified flying objects*. New York: Bantam Books, 1968, pps. 1 - 6

These are excerpts from the introduction to the US Government “Condon commission” study completed in 1969. You will for the moment have to take my word for the fact that the conclusions drawn by Condon bore no relationship to the analytical – or, in Dr. Johnson’s phrase, the “human experience” aspect of the report.



## Explaining Scientific Attitudes

William James

**...We feel neither curiosity nor wonder concerning things so far beyond us that we have no concepts to refer them to or standards by which to measure them.. Only what we partly know already inspires us with a desire to know more.**

***(Principles of Psychology, vol II, 1890, p. 109)***

The UFO evaluation conflict is caused by the cultural limits of modern science. William James, the American psychologist, recognized that some things are so far beyond our ken that, as he said in his *Principles of Psychology*, “ we feel neither curiosity nor wonder concerning things so far beyond us that we have no concepts to refer them to or standards by which to measure them... only what we partly know already inspires us with a desire to know more (*Principles of Psychology*, Vol. II, 1890, p. 109).”



## Explaining Scientific Attitudes

Thomas S. Kuhn

**There is no such thing as research in the absence of any paradigm. To reject one paradigm without simultaneously substituting another is to reject science itself....**

**.... rejection of science in favor of another occupation is, I think, the only sort of paradigm rejection to which *counter-instances* themselves can lead.**

Thomas S. Kuhn : *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.  
U. of Chicago Press, 1962

A modern explanation for this kind of scientific blindness was explained by the American philosopher of science Thomas Kuhn: In his 1962 book, *The Structure of Scientific Revolution*, Kuhn argued that modern scientists limit their entire professional interest to data that can be explained by existing theories or by new theories that have been proposed to replace the existing ones. Kuhn called these existing or proposed theories “paradigms” and he wrote that “. . . there is no such thing as research in the absence of any paradigm. To reject one paradigm without simultaneously substituting another is to reject science itself.”

Kuhn also wrote that “some men have undoubtedly been driven to desert science because of their inability to tolerate crisis . . . that rejection of science in favor of another occupation is, I think, the only sort of paradigm rejection to which counter-instances [data that cannot be explained by an existing or proposed theory] by themselves can lead.”



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The extraterrestrial evidence is an insurmountable counter-instance to all of modern science because no existing or proposed scientific theory can explain where extraterrestrials come from or how UFOs work. Given Kuhn's analysis of normal science, how can a scientist resolve the conflict between accepting the limits of science and the evidence for extraterrestrial surveillance? Does the average scientist want "to reject science in favor of another occupation" by accepting the extraterrestrial counter-instances? Of course not. Instead, the scientist wants to resolve the conflict between the extraterrestrial evidence and normal science – in favor of normal science.



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That can only be done by throwing the extraterrestrial data into scientific wastebaskets labeled “atmospheric phenomena” or “misperceptions” or “psychological aberration,” none of which bear the slightest resemblance to the data itself, This allows the scientist to pay lip service to a plausible “normal science” explanation for the extraterrestrial evidence, as long as he or she does not actually look at the evidence. Once the data have been trashed by misclassification, the scientist is then free to ignore the problem.



## Elite Attitudes

### The US Department of Defense

<http://www.defense.gov/faq/pis/16.html>

- No UFO reported, investigated and evaluated by the Air Force was ever an indication of threat to our national security;
- There has been no evidence submitted to or discovered by the Air Force that sightings categorized as "unidentified" represented technological developments or principles beyond the range of modern scientific knowledge; and
- There was no evidence indicating that sightings categorized as "unidentified" were extraterrestrial vehicles.

Normal scientists do look for extraterrestrial life by observing and analyzing the information about exoplanets – those distant cousins of earth that appear, by telescopic analysis, to possess some at least of the prerequisites for the origins of life. Over the past ten years, thousands of exoplanets have been discovered, and their properties meticulously analyzed from a distance – a long distance. A prominent Canadian astrophysicist said recently that the exoplanets are so far away that exoplanet extraterrestrials could not travel here (by rockets, like those we use) and so all of the evidence of extraterrestrial surveillance of earth must be wrong. His statement confirms Kuhn's analysis of "normal scientists" – this scientist *rejected the evidence because there is no theory to explain the evidence!* The scientific profession as a whole settles the argument by finding multiple excuses for pretending that the extraterrestrial evidence does not exist.



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Elites, including governments and national media, also react to the UFO evidence with “some barrier to its believability, some challenge of an emotional kind, which produces the most inexplicable responses by otherwise reasonable, highly functional people “challenge of an emotional kind.” Here are some examples of the elite reaction; one the official position of the US Department of Defense, the other characterized by stories about a UFO conference that appeared in American national media:

## Elite attitudes

The Washington Post

*The conspiracy religion: UFOs and you*  
By [Alexandra Petri](#) May 3, 2013

The fear that drives our alien belief  
By [Caitlin Dewey](#) May 14, 2013

The New York Times

SundayReview | CONTRIBUTING OPED  
WRITER

Where Reason Ends and Faith  
Begins JULY 26, 2014 T. M. Luhrmann

This has been the official American position for over 45 years. The national media covered some recent conferences about the UFO evidence as seen above, concentrating on the purported *motivational factors* that drive people to “believe,” rather than on the *evidence* that might prompt them to “believe.” As a general rule, in the pages or on the screens of the national media, an interest in or the study of UFOs and related phenomena is evidence of mental and psychological unfitness that disqualifies the “believer” from serious consideration.



## Explaining elite attitudes

### Alexander Wendt and Raymond Duvall



There is a Taboo ... not in popular culture, of course, where interest in UFO abounds and websites proliferate, but in elite culture – the structure of authoritative belief and practice that determines what “reality” officially is .... this structure is dominated globally by three groups: governments, the scientific community, and the mainstream media.

Our thesis is that the origins of this taboo are political.. The inability to see clearly and talk rationally about UFOs seems to be a symptom of authoritative anxiety, *a socially subconscious fear of what the reality of the UFO might mean for modern government.*

Alexander Wendt and Raymond Duvall: *Militant agnosticism and the UFO taboo*, In Kean, Leslie: *UFOs: Generals, pilots and government officials go on the record*. New York: Harmony Books, 2010.

The reluctance of both the media and responsible elites to recognize the UFO evidence has been addressed by two American political scientists, Alexander Wendt and Raymond Powell, who wrote an interesting article about it a few years ago. They talked about “a socially subconscious fear of what the reality of the UFO might mean for modern government.” As soon as they had written that, they turned the argument over to the psychologists, one of whom had, fortunately, many years before, written a clear exposition of what happens to people who are confronted by a serious conflict between opposing beliefs.

The conflict produces what psychologist Leon Festinger called “cognitive dissonance” in scientists. Festinger knew that people disliked holding conflicting ideas, and that the conflict motivates them to discredit one or the other of the ideas.



## Explaining the elite's "socially subconscious fear"

Leon Festinger

### Cognitive Dissonance

Two cognitive elements are in a dissonant relation if, considering these two alone, the obverse of one element follows from the other.

The presence of dissonance gives rise to [mental] pressures to reduce that dissonance.

Festinger, L. (1957). *A theory of cognitive dissonance*. Stanford, CA., Stanford University press, pp 260 – 266

As Festinger pointed out, it is uncomfortable to hold ideas where “the obverse of one element follows from another” and the person who holds those ideas is motivated to reduce the dissonance.



## Explaining the elite's "socially subconscious fear"

Leon Festinger

**What is the cognitive dissonance?**

**The belief that humans are in control of the earth and that we are responsible for our own destiny**

**is inconsistent with**

**the fact that extraterrestrials come and go at will, disarm our weapons systems and kidnap people without interference.**

In this case, the dissonance is between the belief that we control the earth and, however bad a job we do of it, we are responsible for our destiny on this planet. This is inconsistent with the evidence that extraterrestrials come and go at will, disarm our weapons systems (which they have been observed to do) and kidnap people without interference.



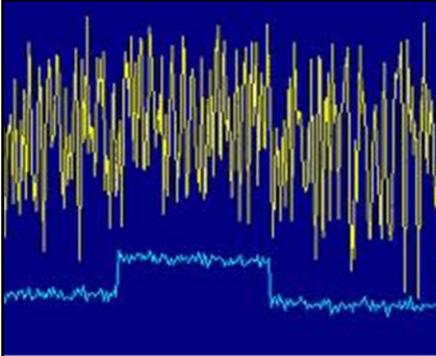
## Explaining the elite's "socially subconscious fear"

Leon Festinger

There are three major ways in which [reducing dissonance] may be done:

1. By changing one or more of the elements.. (the messenger is a "wacko")
2. By adding new cognitive elements that are consonant.. (it's all cults and pop culture)
3. By decreasing the importance of the elements involved in the dissonant relations.. (the signal-to-noise ratio is low)

In order to reduce the dissonance, one has to psychologically discredit the uncomfortable information by changing an element (the messenger is a 'wacko'), add a new but consistent element (it's just some kind of pop culture) or decrease the importance of the message (the signal-to-noise ratio is low). This is the most justifiable dismissal because, in fact, except following the analyses of people who carefully review the evidence, the signal-to-noise ratio is low:

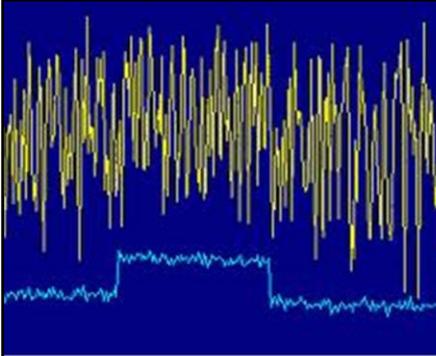


## The Signal – to – Noise Ratio

*Signal plus noise:*  
*Popular Culture*

*Signal:*  
*Credible UFO information*

The “signal plus noise” is what you get through uncritical surfing of the internet. The “signal” is what you get when you read critically written articles and books about the UFO and abduction phenomenon. I will suggest an entire reading list at the end of this lecture.



**And the noise is everywhere!**

***Signal plus noise:  
Popular Culture***

***Signal without noise.***



**ALIEN FACE DISCOVERED ON GOOGLE EARTH IN CANADA!!**



And there is plenty of noise (uncritical nonsense), on the internet and elsewhere.



## Charles Darwin, BA (*Cantab*)

How great would be the desire in every admirer of nature to behold, if such were possible, the scenery of another planet!

Darwin, Charles (1839/1909). *The Voyage of the Beagle*. Volume 29 of Charles W. Eliot, LLD, ed, *The Harvard Classics*. New York: P. F. Collier, p. 523.

### *Our extraterrestrial knowledge*

We have reached Darwin's "limit of knowledge" about extraterrestrials. And Darwin, close to the end of his own immense voyage of discovery, had the imagination to conjecture another voyage of discovery...

And it is clear that other admirers of nature are repeating, in one fashion or another, Darwin's voyage of discovery on our planet.



## Empirical Science

Paul R. Hill

How do they get here? UFOs use an antigravity force field

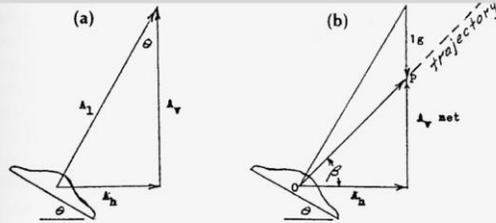


Figure XI-6. Takeoff Dynamics.

Paul R. Hill, *Unconventional Flying Objects: A Scientific Analysis*: Hampton Roads Press, 1997

And although there is no theory to explain how they do it, there are plenty of what Thomas Kuhn called counter-examples, and the counter-examples point towards a theory. Aeronautical engineer Paul R. Hill worked from 1939 to 1970 at the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA, later NASA), the US government agency that designed airplanes during the Second World War. In July of 1952, UFOs flew over NACA's Hampton Roads, Virginia headquarters, about 150 miles south of Washington, DC, and Hill saw them.

As an engineer, Hill wanted to know how they worked. As an observer, he learned a great deal about how they worked by watching them. As a scholar, he learned even more by reading other people's reports. Hill wrote *Unconventional Flying Objects*, a brilliant and informative book about UFO technology, during the 1970s, but NASA policy forbade him from publishing information or opinion about UFOs under his own name, so the book was only published in 1995, after his death.



## Empirical Science

Paul R. Hill

How do they get here? UFOs use an antigravity force field

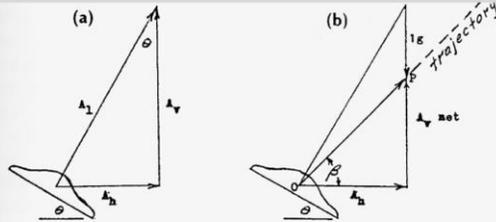


Figure XI-6. Takeoff Dynamics.

Paul R. Hill, *Unconventional Flying Objects: A Scientific Analysis*: Hampton Roads Press, 1997

Hill's goal was to build a coherent understanding of the UFO phenomenon from multiple reliable sources of information, and he found consistencies across many UFO reports. Based on those consistencies he concluded that extraterrestrial UFOs generate an anti-gravity force field. His explanation, as he admitted, lacked an important detail: he could not explain how to build a machine that would generate an antigravity force field. Hill's book is the closest that any scientific analysis published in the open literature has ever come to explaining how extraterrestrial UFOs work, but he was offering only a hypothesis based on the data, not a theory that could be used to build an anti-gravity drive and so explain the data.



**Samuel Johnson, MA, DCL (*Oxon*)**

**Human experience, which is constantly contradicting theory, is the great test of truth.**

*Boswell's Life of Johnson*, Modern Library Edition, p. 274

Following, again, the example of the English man of letters Samuel Johnson, who wrote that “Human experience, which is constantly contradicting theory, is the great test of truth,” here is a summary of what our accumulated experience of over sixty-five years tells us about extraterrestrial surveillance.

Extraterrestrial UFOs are observed worldwide. There have been irregular temporal cycles in the frequency of reports, at least in the Western world, for the past fifty years or so. Extraterrestrial UFOs range from very small (tens of feet in diameter) to very large (hundreds of feet in length or diameter). Their shapes include the classic flying saucer, Saturn-shaped discs, small ovoids or spheres, large cigar-shaped craft, and large triangular, rectangular, spherical, or boomerang-shaped objects that move very slowly at very low altitudes and then disappear rapidly. The performance of all of these machines exceeds that of the most advanced terrestrial aircraft.



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Many UFOs have crews. The occupants have humanoid features (a head, two arms, two legs) in a variety of complexions, heights, and widths. Some occupants are small, perhaps two or three feet tall, and are seen wearing what appears to be the occupant equivalent of a spacesuit. The common variety of occupant, seen in or near UFOs, is a gray (either skin or clothing, or both) humanoid between four and five feet tall with skinny limbs, a thin neck, a large cranium tapering to a face with narrow chin, a thin line of a mouth, vestigial nostrils and ear openings, four fingers, and, most noticeably, large, oval black eyes that slope upward and outward.



**Samuel Johnson, MA, DCL (*Oxon*)**

**Human experience, which is constantly contradicting theory, is the great test of truth.**

*Boswell's Life of Johnson*, Modern Library Edition, p. 274

People are sometimes kidnapped into extraterrestrial UFOs from camps or cabins, from their cars or from their homes or apartments, and they experience more or less the same sequence of events. The experience is psychologically disturbing but it does not appear to produce permanent physical injury. The *modus operandi* of UFO occupants is familiar because we treat animals much the same way as the occupants treat us. Consider bears. We fly over the forest in a helicopter, shoot a tranquilizing dart into a bear and when it is unconscious we land, haul it away in a net, and carry out tests. Then we return the bear to the general area where we found it, after which the bear wakes up and goes about its life. We can't interview bears, so we have no idea how they recall the experience, but the experience that we inflict on some bears is like the experience that UFO occupants inflict on some of us.

## **Alternatives**

*Do we have the technology that produces the UFO phenomenon?*

**No. No government has taken advantage of such a technology for political or economic gain, and the technology has been in evidence for over 65 years.**

*Aren't UFOs just something else in nature that we don't understand?*

**No. We are seeing and recording technologically advanced machines that humans cannot make; therefore**

The skeptic still asks: are there alternative explanations? I have already ruled out the psychological ones: misperception, mischief, mental instability, and will not revisit them.

Here are the remaining skeptical arguments: They are made by us, or simply that we don't understand "nature" and the UFO evidence simply requires us to better understand "nature." Wrong is the answer to both arguments. There is no evidence that any terrestrial power controls a technology that could generate the over 65 years of UFO observations that I have just summarized here, and the statement that "we just don't understand nature" is just an excuse for avoiding looking carefully at the evidence that confronts any well-informed student of the UFO phenomenon.

**Some UFOs are extra-terrestrial vehicles.**

**Some Extraterrestrial vehicles have ET crews.**

**Some ET crews "catch and release" people to study us.**

I return to the theses stated earlier in the talk: Some UFOs are extraterrestrial vehicles, some of the ET vehicles have ET crews, and some ET crews "catch and release" people in order to study us.

*What happens next?*

For more than half a century we have had intermittent contact with extraterrestrial civilization, but we do not know the motives and cannot predict the future behavior of the extraterrestrials who observe us and who occasionally kidnap some of us to satisfy their curiosity about us. Whether they will continue to interact with us it is impossible to say; whether they will play a significant role in our future it is equally impossible to say. But because they are here now we should begin to think about what our collective response to their presence should be.

## Authoritative books about extraterrestrial UFOs

Hynek, J. Allen. *The UFO experience: A scientific inquiry*. Chicago: Regenery, 1972

Sagan, Carl and Thornton Page, eds. *UFOs: A scientific debate*. New York: Barnes and Noble, 1972

Jacobs, D. M. *The UFO controversy in America*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1975

Sturrock, P. A. (ed). *The UFO enigma: A new review of the physical evidence*. New York: Warner Books, 1999

Jacobs, D. M. (ed). *UFOs and Abductions: Challenging the Borders of Science*. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 2000

Hall, Richard. *The UFO Evidence, Volume II: A thirty-year report*. Oxford, UK: Scarecrow Press, 2001

Dolan, R. M. *UFOs and the national security state*. Charlottesville, VA: Hampton Roads Press, 2002.

Kean, Leslie. *UFOs: Generals, pilots and government officials go on the record*. New York: Harmony Books, 2010

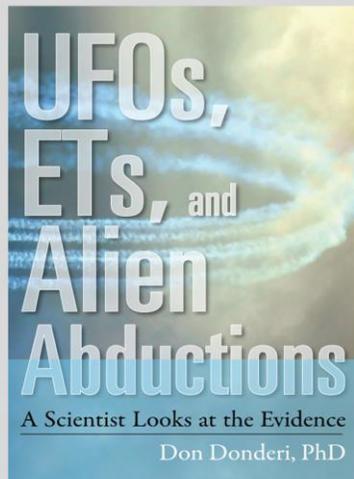
Swords, Michael & Powell, R. (eds.) *UFOs and government: A historical inquiry*. San Antonio, TX: Anomalist Books, 2012

Donderi, D. C. *UFOs, ETs and Alien Abductions: A scientist looks at the evidence*. Charlottesville, VA: Hampton Roads Press, 2013

Maccabee, B. *The FBI-CIA-UFO Connection: The hidden activities of USA Intelligence agencies*. Rochester, NY, Dolan Press, 2014

Political decisions in a free society command respect and generate action when they are informed by public discussion leading to a common understanding and a shared vision, and the reality of extraterrestrial surveillance should begin our discussion leading to that understanding and vision.

Here is a list of readings that offer you a thorough historical and factual background about the UFO phenomenon.



I wrote a book about UFOs, ETs and Alien Abductions. It can be downloaded as a kindle or a nook, and is available in paperback on Amazon's websites.

The reason we need a shared vision to deal with the extraterrestrial presence is explained by a cautionary Old Testament proverb that is as true today as it was when it was recorded centuries ago: *Where there is no vision, the people perish.*