



# A Definition of Parapsychology

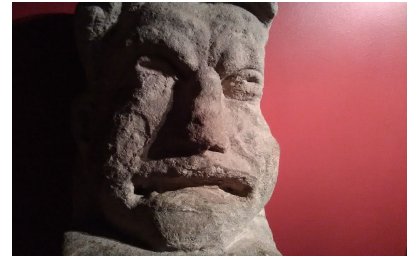
*Parapsychology: the scientific study and investigation of psychic or paranormal/supernatural phenomena.*



## Common Misperceptions of Parapsychology

Parapsychology is a science, and parapsychologists are trained in various fields of research science. The vast majority of parapsychologists hold a doctorate in a scientific discipline such as research psychology and physics. Thus, research in parapsychology is conducted with very strict rules and protocols that enable scientists to determine the quality of the paranormal phenomena being tested.

Parapsychology has both believers and skeptics. In fact, while some parapsychologists believe in paranormal phenomena, others are skeptical and actively critique and examine their own and others' research. This debate within the field typically creates very stringent and refined research.



## What Parapsychology Is Not

- Ghost hunting as conducted on television shows (although haunting phenomena are being studied)
- The practice of magic, mysticism, astrology, or stage magic
- The study of UFOs, aliens, or Cryptozoology (e.g., Bigfoot, Loch Ness Monster)



# Commonly Used Terms in Parapsychology



**Extrasensory Perception (ESP):** *ESP is generally divided into three subcategories: telepathy, precognition, and clairvoyance.*

**Telepathy:** *a means of transferring information between individuals without using the five senses.*

**Precognition:** *the perception of information about future events*

**Clairvoyance:** *obtaining information about a place or event by unknown means*

**Psychokinesis (PK):** *the influence of the mind on an object, a system, or a biological system without physical interaction. Is also used to explain movement of an object by an unknown source or means. PK is generally divided into three sub-categories in parapsychological research.*

**Macro-PK:** *the large-scale movement of observable physical objects with the power of the mind. Alternatively, the movement of an object by an unknown source or means.*

**Micro-PK:** *Mental influence over small-scale systems such as dice and electronic random number generators. Typically only observable with the use of inferential statistics.*

**Bio-PK:** *Mental influence on biological systems such as plants, animals, insects, and humans.*



**PSI:** *(general terminology) it is sometimes the case that particular psychic or paranormal phenomena is difficult to classify. If the above conditions do not clearly define the phenomena, the general term of PSI is used.*