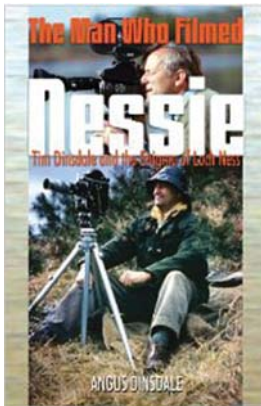


Further Books of Note

The Man Who Filmed Nessie: Tim Dinsdale and the Enigma of Loch Ness by Angus Dinsdale. Surrey, BC, Canada: Hancock House, 2013. 256 pp. \$25.95 CAD (paperback), \$9.99 (Kindle). ISBN 978-0888397270.

The strongest evidence that Loch Ness Monsters are real animals is the film taken in 1960 by Tim Dinsdale. It remains unique and remains the evidence that debunkers have most determinedly attempted to undermine. In trying to assess the merits of the film and of the criticisms, one wants to see the film itself and to learn about the circumstances of the filming and the trustworthiness of the photographer. This book by Dinsdale's youngest child is illuminating about the circumstances and the photographer, and the book's website (<http://www.themanwhofilmednessie.com/>) presents



the film in informatively annotated fashion. The book includes more than 30 pages of color photos showing people and historical events associated with the search for Nessie.

This reviewer is utterly biased, having come to know Tim Dinsdale as a trusted friend. Readers of this book are presented enough plain facts about Tim to appreciate the genuine enthusiasm he had for establishing Nessie's reality and identity, and to learn about the support from his wife Wendy that allowed him to carry on his quest without neglecting his family of four children; to the contrary, the Nessie hunt was a family adventure.

Of course the book itself is also biased. Angus, the author, himself accompanied his father on Nessie hunts and himself had a sighting. But bias in favor of the reality of Nessies does not detract from the book's recounting of events during the 1960s and 1970s, which recaptures the considerable public interest during those years that saw a variety of individual Nessie hunters as well as organized expeditions of volunteers led by the colorful Member of Parliament David James, already well known in earlier years for his adventurous escape from a German POW camp during WWII.

Anyone who has been at all interested in the Nessie controversy will find this book highly enjoyable reading. Anyone who has not taken much interest in the matter before can get a marvelous feel for several decades of

happenings from this readable account, enlivened by tidbits about the host of memorable characters who have had their hand in Nessie-seeking over the years.

HENRY H. BAUER

Professor Emeritus of Chemistry & Science Studies, Dean Emeritus of Arts & Sciences
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University
hhbauer@vt.edu, www.henryhbauer.homestead.com

Breaking Convention: Essays on Psychedelic Consciousness edited by Cameron Adams, Anna Waldstein, Ben Sessa, David Luke, and David King. Berkeley, CA: North Atlantic Books, 2014. 320 pp. \$15.12 (paperback). ISBN 978-1583947715.

Psychedelic drugs disappeared as quickly from the public eye in the early 1970s as they had burst into the consciousness of the 1960s. At first touted as a key to mental illness, creativity, and spirituality, LSD and other psychedelic drugs became anathema due to their association with civil unrest, and psychiatric and other medical morbidity. As a result, clinical and other research into their effects ceased with their placement into an inaccessible legal status in the U.S. and in Europe in 1970. The current resurgence of medical research with psychedelics has received generally positive media treatment and benign government oversight. As a result, psychedelic drugs are once again being discussed in academic circles.



This selection of 20 essays comes from a 2011 conference in the UK called *Breaking Convention: A Multidisciplinary Conference on Psychedelic Consciousness*. The topics covered are broader than simply consciousness itself and include legal and research questions that are associated with the study and use of psychedelic plants and drugs. The majority of essays come from the social sciences, philosophy, literature, and history. A smaller number report on or about clinical research with these substances.

The editors in their Introduction clearly state their “pro-psychedelic” stance, and this is the basis of my only misgivings about this book. There is little attention in this collection directed toward how psychedelic drugs may be harmful and misused, increase wrongheadedness, or may provide little more than a fleeting sense of meaningfulness. My only recommendation for

a second iteration of this project, should one take place, would be to include contributors with a more cautionary perspective.

The essays are generally well-written, engaging, and optimistic for the future of the field. As a snapshot of how the contemporary, primarily non-medical, academic community is approaching what appears to be a second flowering of research into the psychedelic drug experience, this book is highly recommended.

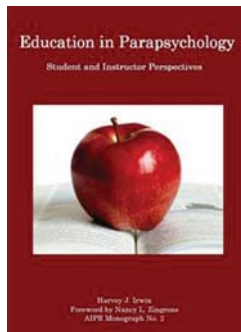
RICK STRASSMAN

Gallup, NM

Education in Parapsychology: Student and Instructor Perspectives

(AIPR Monograph No. 2) by Harvey J. Irwin. Gladesville, New South Wales, Australia: Australian Institute of Parapsychological Research, 2013. 105 pp. Australian \$25. (paperback). ISBN 978-0987077219.

Harvey Irwin has had more than 30 years of involvement in both teaching and researching parapsychology within a university setting. In this monograph



he offers, with much modesty, advice for students and instructors based on his valuable experience in the field. It feels like a parting gift, as he states in the Preface: “As I near the end of my own career in parapsychology it is timely that I proffer to others the benefit of my considered experience to use or not to use as they wish” (p. viii). The monograph consists of two parts, the first directed toward prospective students of parapsychology, and the second toward prospective instructors. While these may seem like two distinct audiences, as Irwin notes

there is much for the student to gain from considering the perspective taken by an instructor as he or she plans a course in parapsychology, and speaking from my own experience as an educator in this field, I am confident that from now on I will be recommending this book to every prospective student who approaches me.

In the first part of the monograph, Irwin pulls no punches in addressing misconceptions about parapsychology, motives for studying parapsychology, and practicalities and benefits of studying this topic. He gives a frank and realistic appraisal of what it means to study parapsychology, and provides wise advice on how to do so while minimizing the risk of damaging one’s future career prospects. In addition to advice to educators on designing a parapsychology course, the second part gives practical advice based on the (not unreasonable) assumption that the prospective instructor is situated

within an academic environment that may be hesitant or even openly hostile to the idea of teaching students about such a controversial topic.

In sum, I think this monograph will be of great value to readers who wish to become actively involved in learning or teaching parapsychology. It is succinctly written, but packed full of treasures. Fittingly, Irwin dedicates the book to his students, from whom he has learned so much about the fascination of parapsychology.

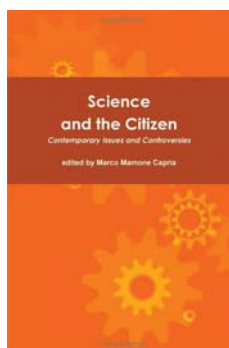
CAROLINE WATT

Perrott-Warrick Senior Researcher, Koestler Parapsychology Unit
University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK

Science and the Citizen: Contemporary Issues and Controversies

edited by Marco Mamone Capria. lulu.com, 2013. 450 pp. \$25.99 (paperback). ISBN 978-1291446838.

Capria organizes the Science and Democracy conferences in Italy (<http://www.dmi.unipg.it/~mamone/sci-dem/sci&dem.htm>), which cover a wide range of topics typically critical of mainstream ideas and actions. This book contains a selection of essays presented at a conference or posted on his website. Four pieces grouped under the heading Brave New Science and Its Discontents address societal interactions of science with economics and corporatism. Experts and Participatory Democracy includes questions of risks, environment, nuclear energy. Corporate Medicine includes my essay, Evidence-Based Medicine? Wishful Thinking, David Rasnick on AIDS Drugs Cause AIDS and Death, Martin Walker on The Bigger the Lie—The Wakefield Case, and Rocco Maruotti on Ethics, Surgeons, and Transplantation. Public Opinions, Official Lies, and Whistleblowers focuses on conspiracy theorizing, explanations of the 9/11 events, an interview with the activist mathematician Serge Lang (now deceased), and Lang's file on suppression of dissent in contemporary science. The final essay, by Anthony Liversidge, is a delightful description of the ambience of the Science and Democracy conferences. Every anomalist and contrarian should find some things of interest in this volume. Libraries should be urged to add it to their collections.



HENRY H. BAUER

Professor Emeritus of Chemistry & Science Studies, Dean Emeritus of Arts & Sciences
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University
hhbauer@vt.edu, www.henryhbauer.homestead.com