

Ghost Hunting: Hard or Soft Science and the EEG Theory Simplified

By Rev Dr Christopher Bashaw

Item	American Population	Reference
Ghosts may exist (1999)	48%	2
Ghosts definitely do not exist (1999)	47%	2
Ghosts exist (2003)	51%	1
Belief by women that ghosts exist (2003)	58%	1
Belief by persons 25 to 29 years of age	65%	1
Belief by persons over 64	27%	1

1. *"Most Americans believe in ghosts: Survey shows 1/3 accept astrology, 1/4 reincarnation," WorldNetDaily, 2003-FEB-27. The data poll was collected by Harris Poll from 2003-JAN-21 to 27. 2,201 subjects. Margin of error 2%.*

2-T. Hargrove & G.H. Stempel III, *"Poll indicates a haunted nation." Nando Times, 1999-OCT-27. Describes a poll by Scripps Howard News Service and Ohio University during 1999-SEP/OCT. Margin of error: 4%*

The popularity in the belief in ghosts is more mainstream now than it ever has been as evidence by the growing interest in such television shows as 'Ghost Hunters' Syfy Channel, "A Haunting' Discovery Channel, and 'Most Haunted USA' Travel Channel to name just a few. Additionally many cities throughout the nation have privately run ghost tours which are also gaining popularity. Then there is the ever growing number of 'ghost hunter' groups leading their own paranormal investigations.

Statistics regarding ghost hunting are limited at best. And scientific evidence supporting the existence in ghosts is also quite restricted. Groups armed with their electromagnetic frequency meters, digital thermometers, digital audio recorders and cameras are often considered no more science based than mediums and psychics. Instead of calling ghost investigation a hard science, or even pseudoscience which it has also been called, we might be best using a term like 'soft science,' a colloquial term referring to investigations that interpret human behavior, institutions, society, etc., for which it may be difficult to confirm stringently measurable criteria. Such established fields and disciplines considered as soft science include, but are not limited to psychology, sociology, anthropology, and political science.

For purposes here let it be recognized that ghost investigation is a soft science regardless of the means of investigation practiced- more specifically the three mainstays considered in the industry as scientific evidence based, medium/psychic based, or the combination of two. Just as psychology and sociology have their own theories, hypothesizes, and models adopted by the individual disciplines as mainstream practice within said respected fields- ghost hunting is now establishing such practices itself within the industry. And it is one of those theories that I want to share today.

Let us call this theory, as it has no mainstream name, 'The Esoteric Energy Concept of Ghosts' or 'EECG'. EECG is not an assumption based on hard science, but one based on preceding generations derived from the commonalities of many cultures regarding spiritual essence. In other words this theory tends to lead more toward the psychic and medium approach than any other.

Let us begin by establishing the concept shared by many aboriginal cultures around the globe; all life is connected energetically. This is often perceived as a shamanic notion. This idea that we are all connected is a basis of Natural Law. It is 'how we are connected' that we need to look at next; and we are connected by an esoteric energy.

This esoteric energy has been called by many terms, by many cultures; chi, ki, qi, prana, spirit, bio-electric magnetic energy, and most recently by the pop-culture as 'the force'. This cryptic and obscure energy can be thought of in the following way: it has no beginning and no end; it is not good or bad (it is simply energy- the terms good and bad are merely perceptions we as humans try to apply with limited judgments and attachments); and this energy cannot be created or destroyed for it is a vibration, a frequency which remains eternal. The frequency itself can be manipulated though as was and is the practice of shamans, witches, and healers.

To understand this in other terms, let us all recall our sixth grade science lessons of years past. Recall the basic teachings we all received of an atom. A basic atom has three components, electron, neutron, and proton. The neutron and proton form the nucleus and the electron circles about that nucleus. The solid particles, the three mentioned, are minute in size and matter to say the least. Figure 1.

Basic Atom

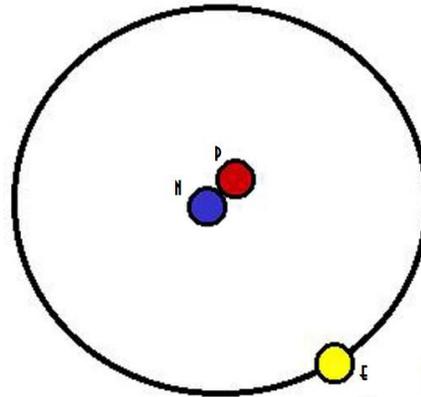


Figure 1

But what is more apparent is the space between the nucleus and the electron, a space created by the energy that keeps the atom stable in this manner. Continue to follow this observation and we conclude that there is more energy within the atom than actual physical matter; and in keeping with this understanding we can further conclude that, as in the case of the human body, we are not the illusion of solid matter that we appear, but beings of energy or spirit. What gives us the illusion of solid matter is that vibration/ frequency of the noted energy we speak of vibrating at a low rate which creates our dense state we presume is solid. In fact we are energetic beings, not solid; there is more space (energy) than physical (proton, neutron, and electron). It is the rate of frequency and pattern of the energy that gives us not only a solid appearance but distinguishes wood from metal from human from animal.

The energy that our essence presents has been called 'soul' by many; it represents our Divine self. Some traditions refer to it as the 'Holy Spirit'. This Divine or Holy energy has been described by many using the term aura. The common belief of the aura is that it is a field of subtle, luminous life-force (a continuation of the energy we have been discussing) surrounding and extending from a person or object. This energy is then colliding with other energies and, with proper training, can be detected; and based on the theory of EECG this provides an explanation how mediumship occurs as expected.

When a corporeal body ceases to vibrate at a frequency that supports life-force as in death, the energy discussed leaves that physical form. Once that soul leaves the body, depending on the belief of the culture at hand, as in Christianity, the soul goes to heaven or possibly hell. Regardless of the dimension's term (ie heaven or hell), what the theory of EECG is concerned with is that energy which does not transcend, but remains behind- what we commonly term a ghost.

This energy has been captured on film as orbs, wisps, mists, even partial or full bodied apparitions. This soul or esoteric energy described is the energy many traditional healers, psychic intuitives, mediums, even martial artists have skillfully mastered detecting, and in some cases manipulate. In Ghost hunting these similar skills can be honed to not only detect, but to obtain information from the apparitions remaining behind; as one "RIPA Method ©" student put it, "I have become my own ghost-meter.". The practice of the EECG theory and its practices are not widely supported by hard science; but remember it is a soft science that has had and continues to have research conducted that supports the EECG theory.

The "RIPA Method ©" as taught by the Rhode Island Paranormal (RIP) Academy extensively, but not exclusively, teaches the EECG theory in their Ghost Technician Certification course as well as a number of esoteric energy related skills in sensing and interpretation of esoteric energy data related to ghost investigation.

The Ghost Technician Certification course of RIP Academy primarily teaches lay persons with little or no experience in a simple but comprehensive 12-hour training. The RIP Academy training is not solely EECG theory related; also in the course of instruction is included the use of equipment like gauss meters, infra-red thermometers, as well as digital audio and recording devices, techniques and methods used in conducting an actual investigation, professionalism, and trends in the industry to name some of its extensive curriculum.

Participants and graduates of the "RIPA Method ©" have found the training exciting and informative- successfully using the skills and knowledge obtained from the training in both their professional and personal lives as a foundation for further training.

Do not forget that 98% of all people who have lived are now deceased. Hard science has great difficulty supporting evidence of ghostly existence but as the soft science of ghosts develops and progresses, as theories expand and develop, the proof hard science looks for will show itself over time. Ask yourself, "did electricity exist before Benjamin Franklin 'discovered' it?" Or was it always present and just waiting for hard science to detect it in a standard that society felt was methodical, systematic and evident by the scientifically based methods of the day? Ghosts are no different than the concept of electricity in Benjamin Franklin's era.

Christopher Bashaw is an ordained Buddhist Priest with extensive studies in religion and Divinity, shamanic studies and esoteric energy. He is an accomplished healer martial artist in the realms of esoteric energy. Bashaw is co-founder of RIP Academy www.RIPAcademy.com and RI Ghost Tour.com www.RIghostTour.com.