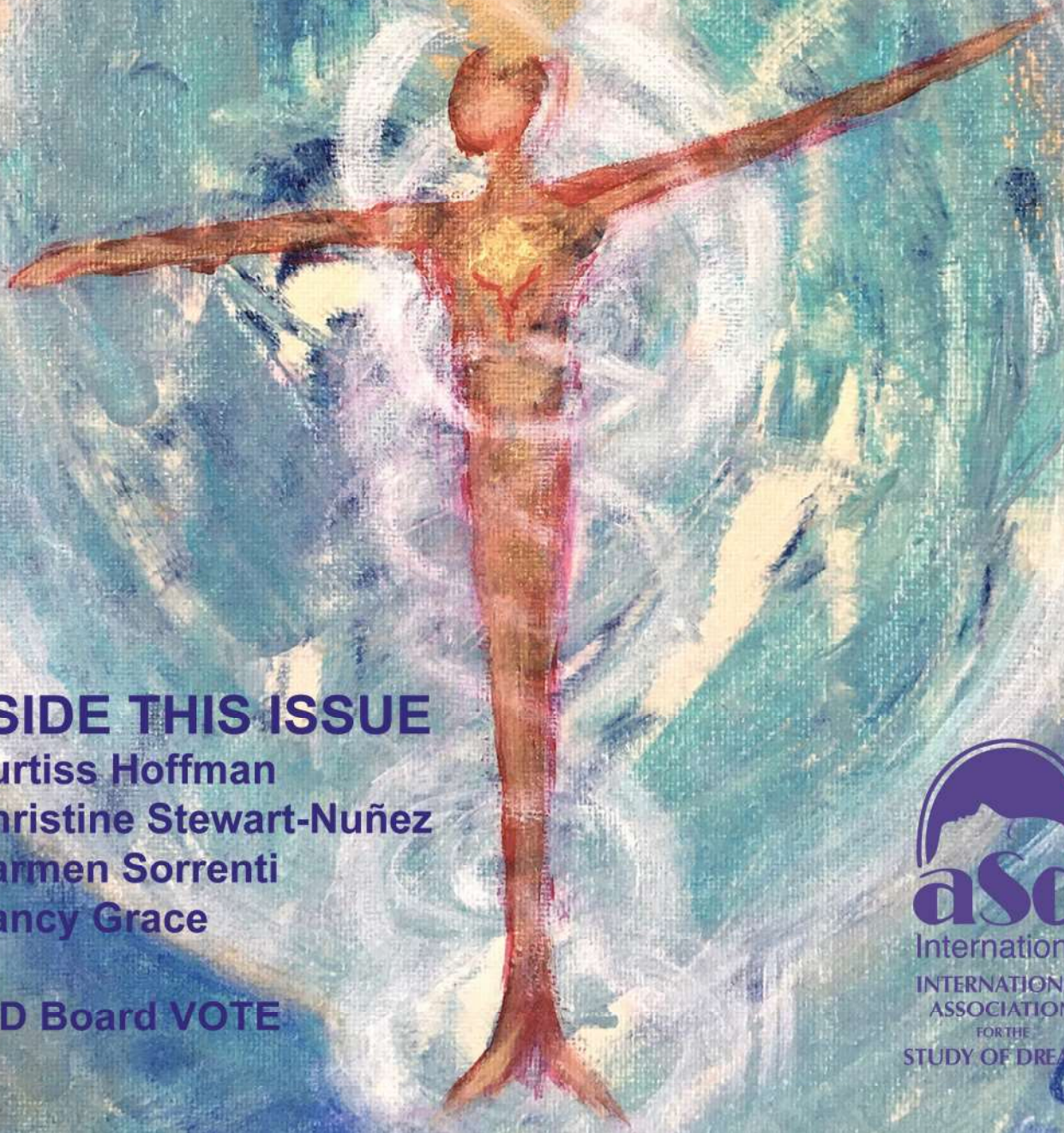


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Psychic Detectives and Dreaming

Daniel J Taylor



Can we use our dreams to help solve or prevent crimes, as in Philip K. Dick's science fiction book *The Minority Report*? Psychic detectives have a well-documented history of working with law enforcement agencies or for the families of crime victims. The use of psychics by police to solve crime is often a last resort and is quite uncommon, especially as many police officers can be skeptical about their effectiveness. Despite this, there have been many instances where psychic and mediumistic approaches to investigating murders and missing people cases have helped solve them – and such methods commonly employ the use of psychic dreaming.

Many readers will be familiar with CIA and Defense Intelligence Agency efforts at remote viewing such as the Stargate Project, so it will be no surprise that the use of psychics to receive intelligence has received widespread interest in US government security and law enforcement. The use of claimed psychics to help on missing people and homicide cases has been well documented in the media, in books, and by law enforcement agencies across the United States. An albeit skeptical report into their use by William Smithey (undated) showed that 6.3% of police “had knowledge of a psychic detective bringing a homicide or missing persons case to a successful conclusion” while 5.2% had direct knowledge of the same thing (p.8). In the same survey, 21.1% of police surveyed even recommended using the services of psychics.

However, there are fewer official police documents on the use of psychics. One of the most notable documents concerning the subject, found on a CIA website, is “Managing the Psychic in Criminal Investigations,” written by Jerry Tobias and Thomas Gordon for *The Police Chief*, a journal by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. The article looks at the use of psychics by police and offers some guidelines for officers to follow. While accepting the existence of frauds in the psychic community, the document notes that “many intriguing and scientifically unexplainable results have been achieved under controlled experimental conditions as well as spontaneous field situations.”

A Department of Justice document declassified in the year 2000, “Use of Psychics in Law Enforcement” (Gluckman, undated), notes the differing and varied methods that psychics use to receive “impressions” of information in criminal cases. It also outlines the difficulties in deciding which specific psychics to choose for each case; describes how to foster a positive work relationship with them, such as by making audio recordings of interactions for accuracy and review; and advises avoiding interrupting the psychic in the middle of their reading! The document also sets out the different types of information that can be received by psychics about suspects and locations linked to crime. The authors conclude, from the small sample they had examined from across 11 police agencies, “It does appear that some psychics have provided valuable assistance to law enforcement on specific cases.”



Nevertheless, there are understandably criticisms about the ways that some “psychic” detectives operate. One common occurrence is when purported psychics throw out large quantities of erroneous information and hope for a “hit” in relation to crime scene data. This can go alongside providing general rather than specific information about crimes, such as initials or vague locations like “something will be found by water” or “in a field...” in relation to an area with lots of fields or waterways (see Smithey, p.2). A

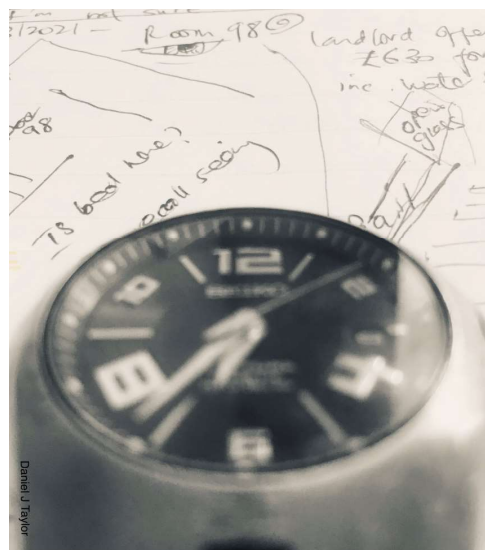


few psychics have also been known to retroactively change information given to police to match with details about crimes, and some information has been so far off the mark that it has caused significant distress for relatives of victims, such as informing them that their loved ones are dead when they are in fact alive. Skeptic William Smithey puts the use of psychics down to pressure from a paranormal-believing public and says that their use is simply political appeasement.

The case studies that defy conventional explanation

Despite such issues, there are a significant number of cases that defy conventional explanation and should cause people to think twice about the nature of some information received from dreams and similar sources. Although information obtained by psychics is inadmissible in US courts, Rosemarie Kerr was one of the first psychics to give testimony in a criminal trial regarding her psychic impressions in relation to the murder of Andrei Daigle in 1987. Rosemarie's use of psychometry to gain psychic impressions from objects linked to the crime and victim, such as through touching and gazing at photographs, led the family of the victim to a stolen car and to the killers, as well as to Andrei's final resting place.

Psychic detectives such as Dixie Yeterian have also used non-traditional sources of information such as astral travel to bring forward profound evidence that could hardly have been guessed. For instance, Dixie knew that a missing man had been shot in the head while he was outside, and the shooter was inside a building. She knew that the killer had tied green cloth around the man's neck, that he was lying in



a vehicle with a green carpet, that the victim had been buried alive, and the approximate distance of the body from where the man went missing. When the suspected killer was confronted with this

correct information, he was dumbfounded, and confessed. Dixie was so good at what she did that a hitman linked to organised crime attempted to assassinate her. Indeed, some psychic detectives have divulged such sensitive information about crime scenes that they have become suspects themselves, and even spent time in cells until suspects eventually confessed to their crimes.

Another such case involving dreams was a first for the reluctant psychic involved. After a large gas explosion and fire in Houston that killed five people, Ivy Beasley was reported missing after her house had been destroyed, and police wondered if the incident had been used to cover up foul play.

Meanwhile, Elizabeth Joyce had arranged a meeting with her social worker, Brenda Hayes, whom she disclosed information to about dreams that had been troubling her: "I was having a recurring dream... It was a very strange dream as it didn't make sense to me."

The dream

"Ivy? You have to look at the map. I can smell burning, they're scared. I see oil wells and I see a trailer park, and in the middle of that is this little house... I don't recognise it. And a woman, she's all alone... there's a fence on one side of the house... Ivy is all over the house. I can see this woman. An explosion, a fire, I can smell burning. I keep hearing this message; your aunt, Houston Texas... it's very strange because my aunt lived in... New Hampshire, so I was confused by the dream."

Brenda then told Elizabeth that she felt her dreams referred to her own aunt Ivy, who was still missing from where the fire had occurred. From her dreams, Elizabeth Joyce was adamant that Ivy Beasley was outside of the house when the explosion happened and that she was now in tall grass by a fence. She drew a map and gave it to the search team. The search occurred in an area that authorities had not thought to look. Using the map provided by Elizabeth, they found Ivy's body by a fence, 450 feet from the house. A former fire investigator involved in the search stated, "The map depicted almost exactly where the body was."

Despite skepticism in police circles, there are a multitude of people who claim to use such skills to help them with their policing. Criminal profiler Deborah Schurman-

Kaufin, PhD, who had worked alongside the FBI and CIA, believed her huge successes in profiling female serial killers was partly down to being a psychic medium. She also felt that police officers who were most successful in solving cases had experienced prophetic dreams and “gut feelings” related to cases and may not even know that they are tapping into such abilities!

Many people have seen the future in their dreams, but few have been able to prevent large-scale and sudden losses of life from events such as terrorist attacks and natural disasters. While brave scientists and dreamers have written about seeing the future in our dreams, as did Dr. Julia Mossbridge and Theresa Cheung in their book *The Premonition Code*, it remains to be seen whether a future crime could be prevented using our dreams.

What I personally believe, though, is that sometimes our dreams relate to the external world, that we can experience the consciousness of strangers in the past and future, and that something is trying to show us the location of missing people through symbolic and literal depictions in our dreams. If you want to wake up, go to sleep!

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