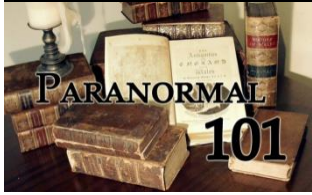


What is Paranormal?



We are often asked, “What exactly does paranormal mean?” The term paranormal is used to describe a wide variety of activity and phenomena. According to the Journal of Parapsychology, the term paranormal describes **“any phenomenon that in one or more respects exceeds the limits of what is deemed physically possible according to current scientific assumptions.”**

Many people associate the term paranormal as only dealing with hauntings and ghosts.

However, the paranormal also includes subjects considered to be outside the scope of parapsychology including:

UFOs	cryptozoology	psychics
mediumship	prophecy	astrology
witches	place memory	Déjà vu
telepathy	ESP	faith healing
clairvoyance	perinormal phenomena	astral projection
auras	Bermuda Triangle	time travel
teleportation	telekinesis	poltergeists
Life after Death	zodiac	I-Ching
horoscopes	spiritualism	incantations
mysticism	magic	demonology
reincarnation	orbs	ghosts or spirits
angels	pendulums	crystals
spirit writing	EVPs	parapsychology

Since paranormal phenomena is not generally accepted as real by traditional scientists, most of these ideas and theories about hard-to-reproduce anomalies are considered pseudoscientific (not a real science), partly because science needs evidence to be reproducible in a controlled environment.

Some anomalies eventually get a scientific explanation, losing their status as unexplained phenomena. For example; while the idea of stones falling from the sky was once considered anomalous, meteorites are now well understood. One significant modern example of a perinormal phenomenon is electromagnetic fields (EMFs). At one time EMFs were debatable from a scientific perspective but later were proven to be real and is currently accepted by scientific and medical communities.

“Carl Sagan was correct in asserting that ‘extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence,’ but that does not mean that anything less than extraordinary evidence may be ignored.”

“Paranormal” does not mean “ghostly.”

If you mean “ghostly,” say so.

If you just mean something that — at this time — cannot be explained by anything normal in that setting, at that time.....that’s paranormal.

There is a difference, and it’s an important one when we’re discussing research techniques and results.