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AECKO: TOWARDS A SCIENCE OF ANOMALOUS EXPERIENCE FIELD STUDIES

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Background: This two-phase project seeks to advance the study of, and field approaches to, spontaneous cases of anomalous physical disturbances (often labeled RSPK or “poltergeist”) by achieving a broad synthesis of the current data and developing a systematic approach to identifying a specific type of case with characteristics identified by the acronym “anomalous episodic communal kinetic occurrence” (AECKO).

Aims: 1.) Conceptually replicate and expand W. G. Roll’s 1977 database & survey of RSPK-type cases up to the present; 2.) Develop the AECKO concept and conduct a preliminary practical test of the systems-based approach stemming from it.

Method: Extensive manual and electronic searches were made for RSPK-type cases in the parapsychological literature, and those meeting certain specified selection criteria were compiled into a digital spreadsheet database. A basic analytical survey was then conducted to compare with Roll’s original survey findings, as well as those of two other independent case surveys.

Preliminary results: The complete digital database is comprised of 212 cases spanning the period from 1612 – 2021, expanding Roll’s original database by 96 cases. Survey analysis conceptually replicated several main findings from Roll’s 1977 survey relating to main phenomena (object movement & percussive noises), case duration & inception time, suspected agency, and health & psychosocial variables. Results relating to certain other variables examined in the two independent surveys were in line with those surveys. While not being fully independent of each other, these four surveys did continue to exhibit hints of similar patterns, features, and characteristics among their databases, suggesting that deeper study of the physical and psychosocial aspects of RSPK-type cases would be worthwhile. Novel aspects of the survey included the tallying of certain case variables which have not been previously described or quantitatively assessed in previous surveys. The findings of this first phase are being used to help further guide the conceptual development and testing of the AECKO approach in the ongoing second phase.

Keywords: Anomalous episodic communal kinetic occurrence (AECKO), Poltergeist, Recurrent spontaneous psychokinesis (RSPK), Spontaneous case research

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