

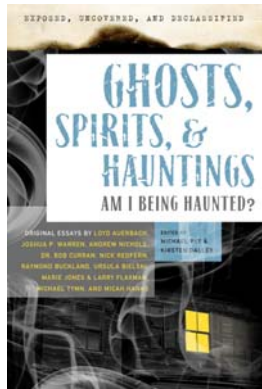
# GHOSTS, SPIRITS & HAUNTINGS

---

By Loyd Auerbach, MS

## BOOK SUMMARY

### *Parapsychology for Ghost Hunters*



Since the mid-1990s, the spread of interest in ghost hunting has been exponential – in great part because of the increased number of paranormal television shows, the Internet, and the availability of affordable hand-held environmental sensors. Ghost hunting and paranormal investigation groups naturally began putting their own ideas out there, mainly through their websites and conferences, and more recently through other internet-bound media such as podcasts and forums.

What's largely been missing is any background knowledge of the actual field of science that studies the phenomena and experiences these folks are looking into: parapsychology. It's clear that a great majority of people doing ghost hunting have gotten their information and training from general media representations, television shows, and others who got their information/training from the same sources.

In *Parapsychology for Ghost Hunters*, parapsychologist **Loyd Auerbach** presents a general introduction to parapsychology and its study of psychic phenomena – phenomena which include ghosts, haunting and poltergeists. He shows why such phenomena are, by definition, “psychic” and why other psychic phenomena such as ESP and PsychoKinesis (PK – mind over matter) are essential to an understanding of ghostly happenings.

An understanding of Parapsychology can help with methods of investigation, experiments one can do in the process of investigation, and even tools and technology not usually seen in investigation. Parapsychological research and investigation are, in fact, responsible for the very use of many tools such as magnetic field detectors – a fact unknown to most ghost hunters who generally are using EMF sensors without knowing why they were first proposed/used and often how to understand the data coming from them in relation to the actual situation being investigated.

Besides how educating oneself in the field, Auerbach shows the readers *why* knowledge of parapsychology, and its predecessor, psychical research, is essential to investigating phenomena such as apparitions, hauntings and poltergeists. To ignore the field and its 130 year history – which had a great focus on such phenomena when it started – is to be, as the cliché says, doomed to repeat history.

# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

---

## Loyd Auerbach



LOYD AUERBACH, M.S., Director of the Office of Paranormal Investigations, has been investigating cases of apparitions, hauntings and poltergeists for over 30 years.

He is an adjunct professor at JFK University and teaches Parapsychology at HCH Institute, both in northern California. He's currently on the advisory boards of the Rhine Research Center, the Windbridge Institute and the Forever Family Foundation.

His latest book, co-authored with psychic Annette Martin, is *The Ghost Detectives' Guide to Haunted San Francisco* (Linden Publishing, 2011). He is the author of 7 other books including: *A Paranormal Casebook: Ghost Hunting in the New Millennium* (Ariad Press, 2005), *Hauntings & Poltergeists: A Ghost Hunter's Guide* (Ronin Publishing, 2004) and *Ghost Hunting: How to Investigate the Paranormal* (Ronin, 2004). His first book, *ESP, Hauntings and Poltergeists: A Parapsychologist's Handbook* (Warner Books 1986), now out of print, was named the "Sacred Text" on ghosts by Newsweek in 1996.

His media resume is impressive: he has appeared on hundreds of national and local TV shows and thousands of other media appearances since the early 1980s. He is a professional mentalist and psychic entertainer, performing as Professor Paranormal – this part of his background has made him indispensable to numerous researchers over the years, concerned about possible fraud and also about proper controls in the lab and for field investigations. As of late 2009, he added the skill of "professional chocolatier" to his repertoire, and began selling his first chocolate products in late 2010 at [www.hauntedbychocolate.com](http://www.hauntedbychocolate.com).

He has a graduate degree in Parapsychology and a BA in Cultural Anthropology, and was recently appointed to the faculty of Atlantic University to both teach online and help develop new courses.

Visit his Paranormal Network website at [www.mindreader.com](http://www.mindreader.com)

# INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

## *Ghosts, Spirits & Hauntings*

By Loyd Auerbach

- What does the field of Parapsychology actually cover? Why is it not “paranormal psychology”?
- Is there a difference between a parapsychologist, paranormal investigator and ghost hunter? “Paranormal psychologist?”
- How did you get involved in this field? What made you decide to specialize in ghosts and hauntings?
- How can one get any sort of education in Parapsychology and paranormal investigations these days? Where do most ghost hunters get their training?
- The term “ghost” covers a lot of ground. What are the phenomena you investigate and how do parapsychologists define them?
- How is an understanding of ESP and Mind over Matter involved in the investigations and understanding of ghosts, haunting and poltergeists?
- How did the use of technology like EMF detectors come into play?
- Many groups say they’re doing “scientific” investigation. Can you say how they are or are not being scientific?
- Why is there no proof of the existence of ghosts? What about evidence?
- Why are photos and electronic voice phenomena (EVP) recordings not proof of ghosts?
- How does lab research in Parapsychology connect to field investigations?
- What are some of the latest research trends in Parapsychology?
- How are biometric sensors helping the research?
- What can you say about the trend to include demonology with ghost hunting?
- How has the Media impacted the general public’s perceptions and beliefs around the paranormal and psychic experiences?

- How has Media affected Parapsychology and ghost hunting in particular?
- How do the goals of parapsychological field investigators differ from those of most ghost hunting groups?
- If people believe their houses are haunted, what should they ask when considering bringing in a paranormal investigator or parapsychologist?
- How can the average person tell if they're dealing with professionals, amateurs or even crazies, and how much weight do the supposed "certifications" have?
- Can you tell us about how mainstream Science looks at Parapsychology and at the "paranormal community"?