

# Poltergeist!

## A New Look at Ghostbusters, Flying Phones & Floating Beds

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Poltergeists may be a real phenomena, albeit extremely rare. Just ask 51 police officers around the world – in 17 cases since 1952 – who claim to have seen poltergeist activity up close.

More than a dozen of them were assaulted by what they said was a poltergeist, but none were seriously injured, and no one was charged. One officer even pulled a gun on an “unseen force.”

Although there is no scientific proof that poltergeists exist, the eyewitness accounts of these officers, taken from published reports and from interviews, seem compelling. Gathering scientific proof is difficult because of the fleeting nature of their alleged existence. By the time a family suspects that they may have something paranormal on their hands, it is often too late for parapsychologists to study it, or the family may suppress it for fear of appearing crazy.

At the Ramol police station in Ahmedabad, India in 2007, a dozen officers claimed that they saw the effects of a poltergeist, and some officers claimed they were *victims* of it.

According to Constable Batuksinh Darbar, an unseen force terrorized the police station for more than a month, overturning furniture, moving chairs and even assaulting police officers. “It pushed police officials off tables and chairs,” Darbar said. “Some police officials even complained of chest pain in the middle of the night. They felt as if someone had jumped on their chests. Then there were others who felt someone was strangling them.”

Usually-skeptical police were even timid about working inside the station, where the poltergeist was said to wreak most of its havoc. “Almost all the cops working in the

night shift noticed strange activity inside the police station. We were all so scared that we decided to park ourselves near the entrance after sundown,” Darbar said. Some of the officers prayed to Meldi Mata, a Hindu goddess, when entering the station. Strangely, the poltergeist seemed to target cops sitting on tables and chairs.

A team of paranormal investigators did some limited investigating and theorized that it was the work of a female poltergeist, perhaps the ghost of a girl who had died while working in a mill which had been on the site of the police station. A religious tantric, similar to an exorcist, was summoned to perform some rituals at the station and the poltergeist activity gradually ceased. But questions remained whether the genesis was really a spirit, related to someone in the building or an elaborate prank.

In a well-documented case in 1970 in St. Catharines, Ontario, an entire shift of police officers said they believed in poltergeists after watching furniture move strangely around an 11-year-old boy in his apartment. The crustiest cop among them, burly veteran Constable Bill Weir, said that an unknown, unseen force lifted a chair he was sitting in and flipped him onto his behind. The boy could not possibly have done it, Weir said. As well, the boy was reportedly thrown off a chair in a similar fashion about a dozen times over the course of a week while Weir was watching.

“These occurrences are phenomenal,” said Weir, who went home and slept with his service revolver and a glass of liquor at his bedside.

Over the course of more than a week, seven officers, an acting crown attorney and two priests say they witnessed paranormal events in the apartment, including a heavy bed raising two feet off the floor. “It stayed that way, unsupported – I couldn’t believe my eyes,” Constable Scotty Crawford said in his official report.

In the Netherlands in 1995, two police officers investigating poltergeist-like activities in a house say they had sand thrown in their faces. The only other person in the room was a 15-year-old boy who had his hands in his pockets. Later, one officer said she had sand thrown “forcefully” into her head inside her police cruiser and also while standing outside the police cruiser while the boy was locked in the car.

It is very hard to prove that poltergeists and the energy they reportedly produce (known as recurrent spontaneous psycho kinesis or RSPK), says a respected scientist, Professor Robert Jahn, Dean Emeritus of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences at Princeton University.

However, Jahn believes he proved in laboratory experiments that a close cousin of RSPK, psycho kinesis (PK), or the ability to move objects with the mind, exists, at least on a small scale. "The (poltergeist) cases are so rare and happen under such awkward circumstances, it is hard to set up research to investigate them," he said. "There's no doubt, however, that they do exist."

A poltergeist is a disturbance or energy with bizarre physical effects of paranormal origin, which suggest mischievous or destructive intent, such as breaking or movement of objects and loud knocks or noises.

Parapsychologists have come up with a psychological profile – typically the poltergeist agent is an adolescent in a stressful household with a low tolerance for frustration, repressing feelings of aggression and hostility.

Possibly the most compelling evidence for both RSPK and PK was Nina Kulagina of Russia, who was also given the pseudonym Nelya Mikhailova by the government of the Soviet Union in the Cold War days of the 1950s and 60s because they believed she possessed a new and powerful mental force.

Initially, poltergeist activity was reported around her in her apartment – objects moving and lights flickering on and off. Then, for three decades, respected Soviet scientists, including two Nobel laureates, tested her – often in closely-controlled laboratory conditions – and they claimed that she could move things by focusing tightly with her mind. Kulagina was sometimes put into a cage to prevent trickery or she was forced to move things placed in a Plexiglas cube with video cameras rolling. No one ever caught her cheating.

The chairman of theoretical physics at Moscow University, Dr. Ya. Terletsky, said that Kulagina "displays a new and unknown form of energy."

American parapsychologist Dr. William Roll, who has likely spent more time than anyone studying poltergeists, believes that some people unconsciously unleash a rare and mysterious force to interfere with gravity.

Some people call this the zero point theory. According to Roll, during the actual movement or levitation of objects, there is a brief suspension of gravity. "It's still just speculation," he said. "But I think something interferes with inertia and gravity, allowing objects to gravitate. Scientists have found an electromagnetic field that fills the universe, but it's hard to detect, but it is detected in experiments. The theory in cases of

RSPK is that the weak electromagnetic signals from the brain affect this field. It's temporary and it cancels gravity and inertia."

Poltergeist agents may have something unusual about their brain, which causes this temporary suspension of gravity, Roll and others suggest. In 92 poltergeist cases, Roll found that four agents were diagnosed epileptic. That's higher than the world average of 0.5 per cent of people who have epilepsy.

Another parapsychologist, the late Andrew Green of London, agreed that some of the agents suffered from front temporal lobe epilepsy, a brain disorder in which people can suffer blackouts lasting from one minute to half an hour. During these blackouts, an unknown power of the mind may be released which can cause objects to move, Roll and Green said.

Green also suspected that a higher than average number of poltergeist agents suffer from schizophrenia, which may also lead to unusual mental powers.

It is possible that some agents suffer a type of partial seizure in which their brains are subject to sudden electromagnetic discharges and thus interfere with gravity and stationary objects, Roll said. Other agents are said to be susceptible to hysteria, phobias and high anxiety.

From ancient times to the Amityville Horror case on Long Island in 1974 to the Harry Potter books and movies to a family in Ireland abandoning their home in 2010, poltergeist reports have fascinated people.

Today, a woman in her forties, who asked to remain anonymous, says she "suffered" from RSPK energy and felt guilty when lights would go off and on and dishes would smash when she was frustrated with her husband. Now, she says, she calms herself by moving a homemade pinwheel with her mind.

Respected Canadian scientist Dr. Michael Persinger says the woman seems to have unusual powers, but he needs to test her more for proof.

Magician James (The Amazing) Randi is skeptical that poltergeists or PK exist and he offers \$1 million if anyone can prove the existence of such paranormal events. Randi says that if people can make things move off the ground with their minds it would amount to "a repeal of the basic laws of physics." Roll disagrees. "It's not true that physics says that objects cannot be affected without contact – we know that the moon

revolves around the earth and magnets can attract pieces of iron – RSPK does not require a repeal of the laws of physics, but an extension,” Roll said.

Article on Poltergeist Phenomenon- 1501 words