

Instrumental TransCommunication (ITC) and the Subset of ITC, Electronic Voice Phenomena (EVP)

This is a brief overview of these phenomena and the AA-EVP. You will find more information at the AA-EVP website: <http://aaevp.com> .

Overview

Electronic Voice Phenomena (EVP) are voices detected in electronic devices that cannot currently be explained with known physical principles. The voices typically constitute short utterances of just a few words, often in direct response to questions or comments about occurrences in the environment. Reports of these voices have involved virtually every known technology that is capable of supporting human voice. EVP are typically recorded using audio-recording devices or audio-recording computer software. In their basic form, EVP are not heard at the time they are recorded, but only on playback of the recording.

As the field is evolving, [real-time, two-way conversations](#) are being reported. The introduction of speech synthesis has also introduced a new direction of study. [\(See note about other forms of ITC below.\)](#)

EVP is a well-established fact; however, the source of the voices, how they are formed and why, remains an important question that requires considerable research. As will be explained in **Characteristics of EVP** and **Theories**, the theory most commonly used to explain the voices is the [Survival Hypothesis](#); [\(See article\)](#) however, two alternative explanations that remain viable in the face of research results are that the voices are initiated by the etheric (nonphysical) [\(See article\)](#) self of the EVP experimenter or that one aspect of a living person is a biologically evolved awareness that survives physical death as a residue of energy which is able to be detected by electronic instruments. This last theory is commonly referred to as the **Quantum-Holographic Hypothesis**.

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History

Speculation about EVP can be traced back to the 1920s. In a *Scientific American*²⁸ interview, Thomas Edison was quizzed on his views regarding contacting the dead. Edison said that it might be “possible to construct an apparatus which will be so delicate that if there are personalities in another existence or sphere who wish to get in touch with us in this existence or sphere, this apparatus will at least give them a better opportunity to express themselves than the tilting tables and raps and Ouija boards and mediums and the other crude methods now purported to be the only means of communication.” There is no indication that Edison designed or tried to construct such a device.

From: National Park Service, Edison National Historic Site (www.nps.gov/archive/edis/edifun/edifun_4andup/faqs_fables.htm#talk):

Did Edison make a machine that could talk to the dead?

This seems to be another tall tale that Edison pulled on a reporter. In 1920 Edison told the reporter, B.F. Forbes, that he was working on a machine that could make contact with the spirits of the dead. Newspapers all over the world picked up this story. After a few years, Edison admitted that he had made the whole thing up. Today at Edison National Historic Site, we take care of over five million pages of documents. None of them mention such an experiment.²⁹

In 1936, Attila von Szalay, A Californian, started capturing paranormal voices on phonograph records and then in the mid 1950s he was joined by Raymond Bayless. Together they acquired many evidential EVP on their new tape recorders and they published their findings in the *Journal of the American Society for Psychological Research*.³⁰

In 1959, the person credited with bringing EVP to the public, Friedrich Jürgenson, a Russian-born Swedish film producer, after recording birdsong on his tape recorder, heard on playback what appeared to be a human voice. Subsequent recordings contained a message which seemed to be coming from his dead mother.³¹

Konstantin Raudive is credited for learning about EVP as a student of Jürgenson and with the actual introduction of EVP to the English-speaking world with the publication by Colin Smythe of *Breakthrough*.³²

Colin Smyth is credited with coining the term, “Electronic Voice Phenomena” (EVP) as a more inclusive alternative to “Raudive Voices,” as the voices recorded by Raudive were referred to.³³

Types of EVP

Transform EVP: Traditionally EVP formation has involved the transformation of available audio-frequency energy into voice, which is thought to occur in the electronic equipment. The resulting signal is seen as a simulation of human voice which may very closely mimic the physical voice of the person thought to be speaking. This includes nuances of voice, such as accent, age, sex and attitude. Analysis of the resulting voice usually shows novel arrangement of formants (frequency grouping by octave of the voice box frequency developed during passage through the mouth³⁵) and fragmented voice box frequencies (Formant 0).¹³ Transform EVP was traditionally accomplished by using radio static (a readily available source of sound in the early days of EVP study) as background sound. Current Best Practices involve the use of unmodulated noise, such as supplied by a fan, but most EVP are recorded today using a digital voice recorder, and the device tends to provide ample noise for voice formation during normal operation.

Opportunistic EVP: This technology is usually accomplished by sweeping a radio dial and recording the resulting sound stream composed of short segments of radio programming. This source for voice formation is referred to as a "live voice" technique. The concept is that the fragments of programming provide the necessary sounds to form the desired message. In its purest form, this technique produces a staccato audio stream that is said to include recognizable utterances that correctly respond to questions. Since the technique requires a recording stage, the audio stream is often found to be transformed into voice via the transform method.

A second form of opportunistic EVP formation is represented by [EVPMaker](#).³⁶ The computer program fragments a live voice file, and based on a random process, selects the fragments to form a new sound stream. This is like tearing up a letter, putting the pieces in a basket, shaking up the basket and then blindly picking pieces out to form a new letter. In this form, the utterance is thought to be formed by the selection of opportunistically available sound fragments.

Environmentally Stimulated EVP: A recent effort to improve the quantity and quality of EVP formation has been introduced by Digital Dowsing with a device called the [Paranormal Puck](#).³⁷ This device uses detected changes in the electrical environment to stimulate a speech synthesizer.

Characteristics of EVP

The following list is extracted from the book, *There is No Death and There are No Dead*,³ with additions based on more current work.

The following list of characteristics will provide a sense of how EVP sounds and the nature of the phenomenal voices.

Transform EVP

The first group of characteristics are specifically for **transform EVP**, which are thought to be formed by the transformation of audio frequency energy into a simulated voice.¹³

EVP are Distinctive: EVP have a distinctive character of cadence, pitch, frequency, volume and use of background sound. The voices have a distinctive sound to them that is difficult to describe. For instance, EVP messages often have an unusual speed of enunciation; the words seem to be spoken more quickly than normal human speech. Regarding this peculiarity, Konstantinos² wrote, “The best way I can describe it is that it’s almost as if each word is spoken quickly, yet the pauses between the words are of a natural length. The combination of these two speed factors makes for the peculiar rhythm and perceived speed.” You may also notice that the paranormal voices often have a hollow and/or monotone quality.

Frequency Range: EVP are sometimes received at higher or lower time base than normal speech. The enunciation of words is not just faster, but the frequency range of the phrases is sometimes higher than normal human speech.

Missing Frequencies: Italian researcher, Paolo Presi,⁴ has reported that spectral analysis of EVP samples has shown that the fundamental frequencies of voice associated with the human voice box are sometimes missing in EVP. He describes the typical EVP as a “thickening” of the background noise to form the voice.

Precursor Sounds: Sounds are often heard prior to an occurrence of EVP. Although these vary in nature, they tend to be within tenths of a second of a phrase and are a “popping” or “clicking” noise reminiscent of the “squelch” sound caused when the automatic gain control engages as the “push to talk” button is depressed on a Citizens Band radio.⁷

EVP Show Evidence of Being Limited by Available Energy: Alexander MacRae⁵ has noted that the utterances tend to have about the same amount of audio power in their associated sound wave from one EVP sample to another. That is, a short EVP will tend to be louder than a long EVP. A very long phrase might be composed of two or more average-length phrases separated by minor pauses. Also, an utterance may trail off at the end, as if the energy is being depleted before the message is delivered. Again, this is as if the communicator is attempting to manage available power as “packets” of energy. The evidence is very strong that EVP are energy-limited phenomena.

EVP are Complete Words or Phrases: Researcher Alexander MacRae has also conducted considerable analysis of EVP messages, determining that a message is typically one to two seconds in duration and is not truncated at the beginning or end. If EVP were crosstalk, they would often begin in the middle of a word. EVP messages are usually complete thoughts, as well.

EVP are Found by Playing the Soundtrack Backwards: One of the more bizarre characteristics of EVP is that it is possible to discover an EVP that seems to be garbled, but that makes perfect sense when the soundtrack is played in reverse. By this, we mean to say that the sound track is played so that the voice of the experimenter can be heard speaking backwards, but the EVP can be heard speaking forwards.¹¹

As with the ability of communicating entities to anticipate questions by placing answers into recording media before the question is asked, the phenomenon of reverse track EVP provides important hints as to the nature of time.

The Voices in EVP are often Recognizable: It is common for an EVP to contain the recognizable voice of the discarnate person thought to be speaking. It is also common for that entity to say something that was typical of what he or she would have said while in the physical. Their personality clearly remains intact even though the person no longer has a physical body.¹²

Mundane Voices are Sometimes Transfigured: A communicating entity will sometimes remodulate or transfigure the experimenter's words into EVP. In one striking example, the words of a French-speaking radio announcer were changed, mid sentence, into an English spoken EVP. The EVP was clearly inappropriate for what the announcer had been saying.

Transfigured

The term, "transfigured," is used in much the same way here that it is used in mediumship to describe how an entity transfigures or changes the medium's features into the entity's likeness.

Please Note: One caution about using foreign-language that you do not understand as a sound sources for EVP is that it is very easy to mistake a mundane utterance as seeming to say something in your language. While this is a characteristic sometimes encountered with EVP research, we discourage the routine use of foreign-language sound sources for EVP experimentation.

Party Line: Some EVP sound as if they are comments intended for someone other than the experimenter. This is much like momentarily listening in on a party line telephone call. It is not uncommon in both field and controlled recording situations to record comments that seem as if unseen people are discussing the experimenter's actions in much the same way that you might discuss the activity of someone that you were watching.

A Need for Background Sound Sources: Research has shown that the voice in EVP is formed as "a thickening" of ambient sound energy. This is an opportunistic use of sound energy that often results in no or largely missing voice box frequencies and an unnatural arrangement of other frequencies usually formed by the passage of the fundamental frequencies through the mouth.¹³ Also, EVP has been recorded by audio-recording devices or processes which have been isolated from ambient sound by such techniques as removing the microphone, and in some instances, acoustically isolating the recording device."

Because of these characteristics, it is standard practice to assure in some way the availability of ambient sound for voice formation, even while isolating the recording device or process from uncontrolled ambient sounds, such as crowd noise.

Layered EVP: Experimenters often complain about having several layers of EVP in the same location of the recording media. This is especially common when more than one background sound source is used during the experiment. For instance, if a fan and radio static is used for background sound, a message might be found in the fan noise and a second message might be found in the radio static—both in the same segment of sound track.

EVP is Found Wherever the Experimenter Listens: This suggests that the source of audio noise is not a factor for EVP, so long as the audio energy is suitable for voice formation. In practice, the majority of techniques for recording EVP involve sound conditioning, rather than unique forms of psi detection. For instance, upscaling infrasound so that it can be heard by human ears or downscaling ultrasound, really constitute techniques of sound conditioning, and the resulting EVP is not evidence that the utterance was formed beyond human hearing, but that it was formed when the audio energy was made available to the recording process.

All forms of EVP

EVP are in the Language of the Experimenter: Alexander MacRae has conducted experiments in a place that has no English language radio or television stations, yet resulting EVP were in English, which is his primary language. It is typical for the EVP, no matter where they are recorded, to be in a language that the experimenter understands. There have been exceptions to this which were apparently intended as a demonstration, but as a rule, EVP will be spoken in a language understood by the experimenter or an interested observer.

This brings up an interesting point of speculation about psi-based communication. Mental mediums often report that they receive communication from nonphysical entities as images which they must interpret. These images are not just mental pictures. They are packets of information that are sufficiently complete for the receiver to fully understand their meaning. Robert Monroe⁸ referred to this form of information as “Thought Balls.”

EVP are not Ambient Sound or Broadcast Programming: Again, Alexander MacRae has made a contribution to the field of EVP by submitting the newest model of his Alpha Device for testing at the [Institute of Noetic Sciences](#) (IONS). The device produced EVP in a chamber that was shielded from environmental Radio Frequency (RF) sound energy and light.⁹ This demonstration proving that EVP are not stray sound or RF has been made before.¹⁰ One of the problems researchers have faced in the past is that “old proof” is often discounted because of the considerable improvement in instrumentation, experimental protocol and understanding of physical principles. In light of this, it is important that our modern generation of scientists is able to witness demonstrations that adhere to modern standards for research, such as that just provided by Alexander MacRae. As of the writing of this book, we await a response from the scientists.

EVP are Appropriate to the Circumstances: There are numerous examples of EVP that are clearly direct responses to questions recorded just prior to the EVP phrase or to the circumstances. An example of an EVP being appropriate to a circumstance is an instance in which experimenters were trying to figure out how to set up a new tape recorder for an EVP experiment. The tape recorder was finally set up correctly but not before causing a very loud feedback squeal that was recorded. On that recording, a male voice said in a Class A EVP, “*Leave it alone*” right after the loud squeal.

Precognitive Responses: Answers to questions may be recorded prior to a question being asked, so that the answer as a phenomenal message is on the sound track followed by the experimenter asking the question. More research is required before informed speculation about this observed characteristic, but the indication is that, while time may be meaningful to us, our time may well be irrelevant to a nonphysical entity. Alternatively, the entity may be sensing what the experimenter is about to ask.

Vocalized Questions Elicit more EVP: There is evidence that the communicating entities are able to read our thoughts, as in placing an answer on a recording prior to the asking of a question. However, experiments conducted by Alexander MacRae⁵ have shown that EVP responses increase when questions are asked out loud. MacRae conducted a simple experiment during which he ran numerous sessions and did not verbalize questions, and then the same number of sessions speaking the questions. He then counted the number of EVP responses. On the non-verbalized sessions he collected 3.2 utterances per session, whereas on the verbalized sessions he collected 5.3 utterances per session. (MacRae uses a baseline recording session duration of five minutes for such controlled sampling.)

The “Newness” Effect: The experimenter’s excitement in trying a new detection device or recording technique may be the source of improved EVP collection. As the new approach becomes “normal operating procedure,” the improvements generally fade back to a more “normal” Quality and Quantity (QQ) of EVP collection. This suggests that it is important for the experimenter to maintain piqued interest during experiments. This is also one of the reasons it is speculated that the experimenter is an integral part of the recording circuit. The experimenter is apparently supplying the necessary psi energy to enable a nonphysical to physical transfer of energy.

Effective Devices Unique to the Experimenter: Exceptionally effective EVP and ITC collecting systems have been developed; however, these typically work well for the developer, but do not work as well for other experimenters. This paradox supports the belief that the experimenter is part of the recording circuit. It has also reinforced the concept that the communicating entity may be specific to the experimenter.

Because various devices and equipment setups have worked exceptionally well for one experimenter and not for another, it has been argued that it is a waste of time to try to develop the hoped for equipment that will become the proverbial “spirit telephone” that anyone would be able to use to call up his or her loved one on the other side.¹⁴ This may prove to be the wrong assumption. There is growing evidence that people who have not done well with a cassette recorder are now recording increased QQ EVP using digital voice recorders.

EVP can be Thoughts of Living People: There have been a number of well-designed experiments that appear to have resulted in EVP initiated by living people who were sleeping at the time. As an ethical consideration, such experiments

are always prearranged with the person who volunteers to be the sleeping “sender.” In these experiments, questions are clearly answered by a communicating entity, and the answers are appropriate for the sleeping person. This fact of EVP suggests the possibility that EVP can become an important tool for consciousness research. For instance, is it possible that a patient in a coma might initiate an EVP when requested?

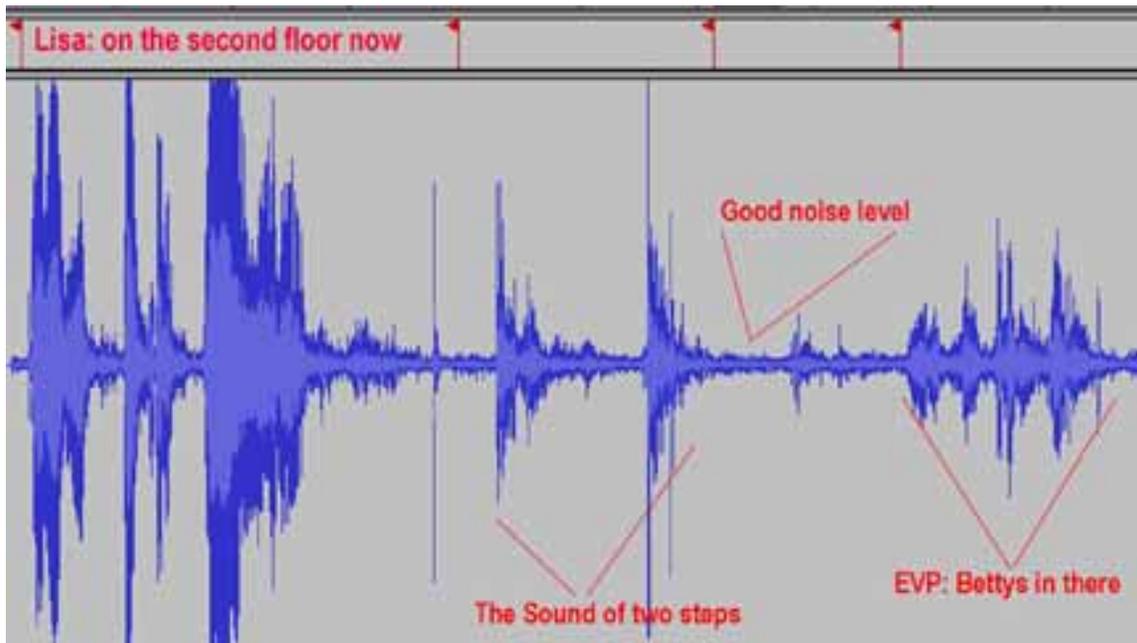
Theories Proposed to Explain Observed ITC Phenomena

The existence of EVP is not realistically contested. Any reasonably capable person with a device capable of recording audio can expect to eventually record an understandable utterance. A workable protocol for such recordings can be found at http://aaevp.com/techniques/techniques_evp9.htm.

The real questions are what causes the voices, who is causing them (if appropriate) and how they are caused. The following list details the most commonly proposed possible answers:

Radio signals, unnoticed conversations and/or light-generated signals: Probably the most obvious explanation is that the voices are recordings of stray radio signals. Inexpensive electronic equipment designed to handle audio signals are designed with “unbalanced” input and output ports, poorly shielded circuitry and what amounts to a “floating ground” in portable equipment. All of these design shortcuts leave the equipment open to detect and record stray radio signals, and if it is possible to pick up a radio station, with a portable radio, then it is also possible to record a stray radio signal. This does not often happen, but it is possible.

The most obvious way to test the possibility that EVP are stray radio signals is to shield the audio recording device from ambient radio frequency noise. One way is to place a turned on, voice-activated audio recorder in a padded metal container, such as a candy tin, place that in a second padded tin, and that in a third padded tin that has a metal strap from the metal side of the tin to a good ground—usually a metal water pipe will do. This will prevent most stray sound, all light and essentially all radio frequency energy from reaching the recorder.



An example of a good level for background noise. The “*Betty’s in there*” EVP example is at http://aaevp.com/examples/examples_voice11.htm

Since research shows that the voices are formed from available audio frequency energy,¹³ some noise will be required for this experiment. Inexpensive digital voice recorders usually produce sufficient internal voice frequency noise for EVP formation, but if EVP are not collected in the above enclosure when the recorder is known to produce EVP in the open, it may be necessary to include a sound source, such as a turned-on am radio with the volume set so that the resulting static would not obscure the voice of a person speaking into the microphone.

Variations of this experiment have been conducted by many people. In the simplest version, a recorder is placed in a microwave oven to take advantage of its radio frequency-shielding. One experimenter used a metal paint tin in the desert.¹⁵ Another used a grounded metal oil drum,¹⁰ and Alexander MacRae used the Institute of Noetics' Sciences (<http://www.noetic.org/>) screened room to isolate his recording apparatus from ambient light-, sound- and radio-frequency energy.⁹ All of these techniques produced EVP.

Simple content analysis is usually sufficient to establish that the utterance in question is unlikely to be cross-talk or unnoticed voices from people in the room. Assuming the experimenter is not attempting to provide "scientific" evidence, it is usually adequate to note whether or not the utterances are complete statements, if they are appropriate to the circumstances and if they are understandable. If they were stray radio or television signals, they would contain the tell-tale signs of commercial broadcast, they would often be partial statements and they would usually be nonsensical, considering the circumstance.

Imagination of the experimenter: This is an important possible explanation for any form of phenomena involving unexpected sounds, images or events. Modern technology is capable of producing such a wide variety of unexpected results, often referred to as mundane artifacts, and a person can easily mistake an artifact as phenomenal unless the experimenter is an expert in the use of that technology. For instance, when used in an automatic mode, and with a flash, modern cameras often keep the shutter open much longer than the user realizes. A characteristic of film and digital image detectors referred to as "latency" will cause a moving camera to quickly image a bright light, such as a street light or flash reflected from a bright object in the scene, much quicker than a poorly illuminated background. This can result in a "ghostly" streak of light in a photograph while the background scene seems to indicate that the camera never moved.

The point is that such photographic artifacts are mundane, yet they are often offered as evidence of ghosts. In the same way, sounds in an audio recording can be made by very mundane influences but yet sound very phenomenal. For instance, it is common for a person to take a breath of air just before speaking, and the sound of that breath can be mistaken as something phenomenal when a person is examining every little deviation in the wave form.

All aspects of etheric studies are plagued by what is generally termed "the lack of critical thinking" amongst people seeking to experience these phenomena. This is a natural result in view of the complexity of the involved technologies and when the very large population of amateur experiencers is considered. So the casual witness to this field of study should be dubious about individual reports of phenomena, as many such reports are demonstrably misattributed mundane events. It is intellectually lazy to say that all reports of etheric-to-physical phenomena are just the imagination of the experimenter when the evidence for the existence of EVP is reviewed. The fact that the voices can be collected by just about any person with average hearing, access to an audio recorder and sufficient patience to learn how to listen for the voices, provides sufficient reason to discount this argument. A better argument is that following.

Thoughts of the experimenter: Once the possible explanations that would prove the voices to be mundane have been dispensed with, there remains the possibility that the voices are phenomenal, etheric to physical influences, but that they are caused by a physical person. It is here that the argument changes from if EVP is real to who is talking.

A number of experiments have been conducted to see if it is possible to record the thoughts of people known to be still in the flesh. Perhaps the most conclusive was conducted by Jacque Blanc-Garin of the French ITC organization, Infinitude.¹⁸ In that experiment, Jacques had arranged with Monique Simonet to attempt contacting her via an EVP experiment while she slept.¹⁶ (It is an ethical consideration to ask permission of the "sender" before conducting such an experiment.) In the exchange, Jacques, in a different part of the house, verbalized the question, "If you answer me, you are maybe in the environment where I record. If that is it, you can then tell me what I currently hold in my left hand?" The recorded EVP was, "*It is a crystal*" Jacques reported that, "I indeed, had a crystal in my hand. Monique saw me!"

Lisa Butler and Sarah Estep also conducted coordinated experiments from either coast of the USA with convincing results.¹⁷ Other experimenters have reported similar results, some possibly impressing their thoughts into recording medium, although this point requires further research.

Current thinking is that the conscious aspect of a person is what survives physical death, and when a person still in the flesh is in some way disassociated from the physical body, his or her conscious self is much the same as the etheric

communicator. In other words, it is predicted by some proposed theories that the thoughts of a living person should be able to be recorded in EVP. Probably the real question is whether or not all of the EVP are from living people.

Many of the observed characteristics of EVP could be explained as thoughts of the living. One, the fact that some messages are clearly spoken in response to something the experimenter is about to say, seems to eliminate the experimenter as a source. More convincing are the reports from the AA-EVP Big Circle recording group¹⁹ showing that, on occasion, a member will record the voice of a person, say “John,” who is later shown to be the discarnate son of a person who had not yet joined the Association, but that in subsequent conversations, John’s voice is recognized saying the sort of things John would have said while in the flesh.

Another source of experimental evidence that not all EVP are initiated by the experimenter is the results from the 4Cell EVP Demonstration.³⁴ In this series of experiments, four people work together to execute the experimental protocol. A Requester decides on a question and relays only the question to the Sender. The Sender asks his or her etheric communicators to give the answer to the Receiver, and then tells the Receiver that a question has been sent. The Receiver conducts an EVP session and asks for the answer that he or she does not know to an unknown question, and then sends any resulting EVP to the Scribe. The Scribe makes the first determination as to what is said in the EVP, and then the group decides on the best response, and all information is included in a report. An example “hit” recorded by 4Cell Infinite is, **Question:** What are the names of Jim’s Montessori school teachers?” **Correct Answer:** “Vivian” and “Rosmund.” Class B answer: “*Vivian.*” Class C answer in same file: “*Rosmund.*” This is one of the better results, but the 4Cell experimenters are averaging around 69% correct or very meaningful responses.

EVP are “echoes of the past” or residual energy: The Quantum-Holographic hypothesis has been proposed to explain the origin of consciousness,²¹ meaning that the personality has a biological origin and the information being accessed via EVP and the other forms of apparent etheric-to-physical influences are either caused by the experimenter or some other physical agent, or a form of residual energy described by physicist David Bohm and neurophysiologist Karl Pribram as a field of energy that underlies all of reality.²⁴ This field of energy is thought to have three characteristics that might account for the observed etheric-to-physical phenomena. It is thought to behave according to quantum principles, especially that of entanglement which shows that, once certain objects have become associated in specific ways, influencing one object will have a similar influence on the other, even though it may be very far away.

The second characteristic is that this field exhibits the character of nonlocality, meaning that information in it is equally available from any place in the field. This characteristic is required to explain such phenomena as a remote viewer accessing information that is miles away and a medium supposedly getting information from discarnate entities. It is this nonlocality that requires holographic theory, since it is known that any part of a holographic representation of a scene can be used to reproduce the entire scene. In other words, the information is not local to any one part of the photographic plate. The third characteristic of this field is that it is formed of the residual energy of consciousness, and therefore contains all that was ever known, thought and experienced. It is this residual energy that provides the information psychically gathered.

There is growing evidence that some form of field exists, that it is of a subtle energy that is not detected by normal means and that it interconnects groups of life forms. Rupert Sheldrake²³ refers to this field as a “morphic field,” and Dean Radin²² calls it a “biofield.” However, the existence of a biofield does not assure that Bohm and Pribram’s field is proven to exist, or how such a field might be populated. This author is not aware of experimental evidence showing that residual consciousness does remain in a field. Conversely, the experimental evidence of EVP seems to show that consciousness is local, that it is self-aware and interactive.

Super-psi²⁵ is a second hypothesis designed to explain observed psychic abilities, but from the perspective of psychology. This hypothesis also depends on a vast reservoir of residual conscious energy which is accessible by people who exhibit the ability to access information that should not be available to them.

Both the Quantum-Holographic and Super-psi Hypotheses may provide important pieces to the puzzle which will eventually explain personal survival and EVP and should not be completely discounted—especially the concept of a biofield. However, neither hypothesis explains the evidence collected via EVP.

Conducting an EVP Experiment

Types of Recording

In controlled conditions recording, it is possible to control ambient noise and supply special forms of background noise. Auric energy is thought to accumulate in a “special” recording area, which is thought to help make contact. In field recording, it is difficult to control environmental conditions or supply background sound, but in known “haunted” locations, the energy helpful for contact may already be present.

EVP formed in an audio recorder by transforming available background sound is referred to as “transform EVP.” In this, it is sometimes possible to recognize the voice of the speaker. EVP Formed by sweeping a radio dial, or with a computer program such as EVPMaker, are referred to as “opportunistic EVP” because sounds for voice formation must be made available on an “as needed” basis. Radio sweep, and in some applications, EVPMaker, depend on the use of “live” voice. The AA-EVP will not use live voice examples for research because of the problem of undetected false positives. EVPMaker using synthesized voice is preferred for opportunistic EVP.

Environmentally stimulated speech synthesis is a relatively new and promising technique, but it should be noted that all speech synthesis approaches currently being tried do not support speaker recognition.

Recording Procedure

Recording Equipment—Digital voice recorders are recommended for transform EVP. Less expensive models produce more internal noise which is useful for voice formation. High quality units will probably require added background noise. A computer can also be used, but will probably require added noise.

Scheduling—Entities will speak at any time of day or night. In the beginning, however, it is advisable to record at a regular time and place. By doing this, the entities learn when there will be an opportunity for contact and expectation of the upcoming session helps focus attention on the process. Try to find a place that will be quiet and free of interruptions. Background sounds are okay, but it is important to be aware of these so that they can be distinguished from the EVP.

Background Sound Source—Research has shown that for transform EVP, the entities use sounds in the environment to help form the words. Most recording situations have some background sounds, but it may be necessary to add noise with something like a fan or running water. Some people use foreign language radio, crowd babble or audio tapes, but the AA-EVP discourages the use of radio static or live voice of any form.

Preparation—Begin with meditation and a short prayer—to ask for only those intending the highest good and an invitation to friends on the other side to participate. *It is best to recording when personal energy is the highest.*

Recording—Vocalize your comments during an EVP session. The entities will often come through as soon as the recorder is turned on. These beginning messages may be the loudest, so it is a good idea to turn on the recorder and wait a few seconds before speaking. Questions should be recorded, and a period of time between each comment should be left for the entities to respond--about ten seconds. At the end, ask if the entity has something to say.

It may help to make an “appointment” with the intended entity the day before, during prayer or meditation. Some also provide feedback before the session so that the entities will know what worked in the last experiment. It is not necessary to record in the dark. People often try different devices and energy sources to help the entities communicate. Leaving written questions in the EVP experiment area the day before has worked for some.

Keep recording short. Recordings should be closely examined, at least until it is understood where to find the voices. A best practice for field recording is to use two recorders. As a rule, EVP will only occur on one recorder or sound track, making it possible to avoid mistaking local sounds for EVP (false positives).

Playback—In transform EVP, the voice is usually not heard until playback. Experimenters report that the voices tend to become stronger and clearer as the entities gain in experience, but at first the voices may speak in whispers. Voices may not be recorded in every session and it may take several sessions to discover the first voice. Hearing the voices is a learned ability. It might take thirty minutes to examine a three or four minute recording.

Classes of Voices—A **Class A** voice can be heard and understood over a speaker by most people. A **Class B** voice can be heard over a speaker, but not everyone will agree as to what is said. A **Class C** voice can only be heard with headphones

and is difficult to understand. Class B or C voices may have one or two clearly understood words. Loud does not equal Class A.

Keeping a Log—Maintaining a record of recording results is very helpful. Include the date, time, seconds into the recording, the message itself and the question asked. Be sure to label and save the audio file so that they can be found at a later time. Experimenters report that they feel weather may affect results, but this has not been well studied. The aaevp.com site has geomagnetic and solar reports. There is also a link for moon phase information.

Digital Voice Recorders

Digital voice recorders are recommended for EVP experiments. Today, all sound tracks—digital or analog—should be listened to in a computer and with a headset. Unlike tape recorders, the built-in microphone is usually satisfactory for EVP. There is a selection guide in the Techniques section of aaevp.com. The section includes a setup guide for Audacity, which is an effective audio management program that can be downloaded at no cost.

Computer Recording

A computer instead of a digital recorder can be used for recording EVP. It should have an audio input jack, speakers, headphone jack and sound player application such as Audacity. Most experimenters use the computer to analyze and store examples. If the recorder does not have a USB interface, it is possible to play the recording into the computer while recording with a recorder program. The Earphone jack of the recorder can be connected to the Microphone or Line 1 jack via a cable. The sound source should be set to the correct jack via the pull-down menu in Audacity. Recording with a sample rate of 11025, mono and 16 bit resolution is sufficient for EVP. Files should be edited as *.wav format, but shared as *.mp3.

Analyzing the Recording for EVP

Always use headphones when listening to the recording in a computer. The earmuff style that completely covers the ear is best, but also good are the soft rubber ear buds that are inserted in the channel of the ear.

Be sure to set up a method of saving your recordings in your computer that will allow you to easily locate examples. A good practice is to save the raw recording session in a dated folder and then also save clips containing the EVP in the same folder. Field recordings are saved under the name of the location and the date. It is helpful to keep a separate folder for your Class A examples for easy retrieval for demonstration to friends. The AA-EVP follows the labeling practice of: (c)lisa_butler2008-what_evp_says.mp3. The (c) symbol indicates the intention to protect rights to the example. Using first and last name helps sort many examples in the folder for easy retrieval. The underline and dash symbol with no use of capitals helps assure that computer systems and the Internet accept the name. A 200 kb audio file can be reduced to around 15 Kb when converted from a *.wav file to an *.mps file. This makes it easy for sharing files via the Internet.

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The AA-EVP Today

The AA-EVP offers several venues of support to its membership:

- Quarterly NewsJournal publication. See the table of contents for a recent issue at <http://aaevp.com/news.html>
- Address-sharing list for those who are interested in communicating with other experimenters. This list is known as the “Member Registry” list.
- Access to the AA-EVP Archive which contains the majority of quarterly AA-EVP newsletters published since May, 1982.
- Access to the AA-EVP Idea Exchange discussion board. Here you can hear and see examples and share your work while asking for help from other members.

In 1982, AA-EVP founder, Sarah Estep, introduced the phrase, “Established to provide objective evidence that we survive death in an individual conscious state,” which is now included in the AA-EVP NewsJournal. Current directors Tom and Lisa Butler have been careful to continue this view as a fundamental goal of the Association.

The AA-EVP averages around 500 members in 47 USA states and 22 countries including the US (current: 2007). Members understand that this “objective evidence” must be based on good science. As such, you will see that great care is taken by members to maintain an objective view of these phenomena. The evidence strongly indicates that the messages are nonphysical in origin; however, members also recognize that there are other possible explanations.

AA-EVP members are today experimenting with a wide variety of devices, testing many different concepts. The most common experimental approach is the use of a digital voice recorder or tape recorder and optional background sound source. An approach that is gaining wide acceptance is recording with a computer, rather than a tape recorder. Interestingly, telephone-based devices such as answering machines are also used. Video cameras and computer-based video editing software are gaining popularity as well. Virtually any device that can record information can be used to capture Electronic Voice Phenomena (EVP) or Instrumental TransCommunication (ITC).

Grief Management: Many AA-EVP members are learning to use EVP for grief management. A medium may reassure a person that a loved one is okay on the other side by delivering a message from that loved one. In a similar way, hearing an EVP recording that has a (sometimes) recognizable voice of a loved one speaking an evidential phrase will do wonders for someone grieving a loss.

Sharing Ideas: AA-EVP members are generally happy to share their ideas about recording techniques and what they have received. Some approach EVP from a very technical and research-oriented view, while others simply like to work with one technique and do their experimenting by analyzing the information they receive.

Interestingly, several AA-EVP members are research scientists. Their titles are not shown on our member lists, however. Just as you may be harboring doubt about these phenomena, many institutions feel that a “true scientist” would not be associated with such organizations. Therefore, the Association takes great care to follow the privacy wishes of its members, and it is for this reason that the Idea Exchange is also restricted to members.

Best Practices Development: The AA-EVP has begun the Etheric Studies initiative to help establish a culture of research ideals and practices amongst all groups associated with these phenomena. The initiative is explained at <http://etheric-studies.aaevp.com/>. A second aspect of this initiative is a public viewable wiki which allows collaborative editing. The objective is to have the community (not just AA-EVP members) develop articles that represent the Best Practice for working with these phenomena. This is referred to as Best Practices Development at http://etheric-studies.aaevp.com/best_practices_development/

Sarah Estep Research Fund: AA-EVP Founder, Sarah Estep, made her transition in 2008, and to memorialize her, the Sarah Estep Research Fund was established with the help of a substantial contribution from daughter, Becky Estep. (See http://aaevp.com/research/research_sarah_estep_research_fund.htm) The first research funds granted by the SERF is to [Windbridge Institute](#) for Applied Research in Human Potential to conduct a research project titled **Real-time EVP Conversations: A Pilot Study**. The study officially began on June 2, 2008.

The AA-EVP welcomes prospective new members; see the Membership page (<http://aaevp.com/membership.htm>) for more information. Tax-deductible donations to support the work of the AA-EVP are also welcomed and appreciated.

AA-EVP Membership Form

The AA-EVP is an association dedicated to research that will lead to the understanding of Electronic Voice Phenomena, improvement of communication techniques and the dissemination of information about EVP to the public. You are invited to join us in this work.

As an AA-EVP member:

- You will receive the quarterly NewsJournal containing information about EVP researchers around the world.
- Your name can optionally be included in the Member Registry, which is an address sharing list for members.
- You will be able to participate in a members-only discussion board to share your ideas and examples with others.
- You will have access to an archive that contains many of the past newsletters.

You can also submit a membership form online at aaevp.com using PayPal.com or credit cards!

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AA-EVP Membership Form for New Members

Membership Registration (Please print or type)

- Member** \$30/year All services for one year
- International Member not using Email** \$40/year All services for one year *
- Sustaining member** \$100/year Member + name listed in NewsJournal

* If you live outside of the USA and do not receive the AA-EVP NewsJournal via email as a PDF file, \$10 USD is required for the additional postage.

The AA-EVP is a 501 (c)(3) organization. Funds in excess of dues are tax deductible in the USA. In addition to my annual dues, I am enclosing a DONATION of \$_____ to support the ongoing work and programs of the Association. (<http://aaevp.com/donate.htm>) **Please make checks payable to AA-EVP.**

Name _____ Email Address (Optional) _____

Address _____ Phone Number (Optional) _____

City/State/Zip code _____ Country _____

Do you wish to be in the Member Registry? _____ Do you wish to include your physical address? _____

Do you wish to include your email address? _____ **[We require at least City, State and Zip address]**

Do you wish to receive the newsletter via postal service? _____ or via email? _____

On the other side, tell us a little about yourself, and if you record, what techniques you like to use and how you found us.

Member Profile: (Please check what best describes your interest in EVP)

- I record on a regular basis.
- I plan to begin recording.
- I joined because of the loss of a loved one.
- None of the above, however, I have a general interest in EVP and its evidence for survival.

By indicating that I want to share my name and address with others through these lists, I realize they are private and I agree that other names on the list will not be given to anyone who is not on the list, used for commercial purposes or the furtherance of personal causes. I also understand my membership will be terminated if I violate this agreement.

I certify that I am twenty-one years of age or older.

I understand that the AA-EVP is not liable for the results of EVP/ITC experiments that I might conduct, and that the Association is also not liable for damages due to the use of information it publishes on the Internet or in literature such as the NewsJournal. Officers of the AA-EVP reserve the right to refuse membership to anyone.

Signed

Date