

# **Nancy Zingrone, PhD**

## **Abstract**

### **Imaginary Companions and Psychic Experiences**

Two studies were conducted in 2009 by the authors while they were at the University of Virginia. One was a random survey of the population of Richmond, Virginia and the other was a web-based survey of English-speaking volunteers from all over the globe. Both surveys included questions on the phenomena of absorption, adult memories of childhood imaginary companions, life satisfaction, demographics (age, gender, occupation, religiousness, ethnicity and so on) and dream and psychic experiences.

Absorption is a disposition to enter different states of consciousness and involves attention immersion and other such experiences as synesthesia, augmentation in the vividness of perception, forgetfulness and dissociation, vivid memories, and the enhancement of the capacity to be alert and conscious. Childhood imaginary companions have been described as the experience of believing that one interacted with a person or a “character” during childhood who seemed real to the experimenter but was typically not visible to other children and adults.

In this presentation Dr. Zingrone will outline the findings in a broad way, comparing the responses from the random survey to those of the web-based survey. It will speak to the question of whether or not reporting having had childhood imaginary companions is related to the presence of absorption or dream experiences, to life satisfaction or, more importantly to us, to reports of such psychic experiences as the out-of-body experience, seeing apparitions, experiencing aura vision or having ESP experiences of various sorts.

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## **Abstract**

### **Designing a Curriculum for a Masters in Parapsychology**

The field of parapsychology has long needed a standardized curriculum underpinning the work we all do on the phenomena and their implications from our respective interdisciplinary perspectives. Unfortunately, the controversial nature of the field ensures that accrediting such a program — especially one that covers all the history, phenomena, methods and theory in full — is an exceedingly difficult task. This presentation will review what a masters in parapsychology should look like, why it is needed, how AU’s recent efforts to take a step forward in education in the field have hit that roadblock yet again, and what we can all do about it.



Nancy L. Zingrone has a Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Edinburgh, achieved doctoral candidacy in history at Duke University before she withdrew to return to psychology, and holds an MEd in higher education with a teaching speciality in psychology from Northern Illinois University. Her work has centered on survey research (on the psychological characteristics of those who report a variety of psychic experiences) and on the history, rhetoric and discursive aspects of the controversy surrounding scientific

parapsychology.

Zingrone is currently both the Director of Academic and Administrative Affairs and a faculty member at Atlantic University. Prior to holding that position she was an Assistant Professor of Research at the University of Virginia (2003-2010), and the Director of Publications at the Parapsychology Foundation in New York City (2000-2008). She is two-time past president of the Parapsychological Association (2000-2001, 2003-2004), has been a member of the American Psychological Association since 1984, and more recently became active in the International Society for Technology in Education as a docent in the virtual world, Second Life. She has had a lifelong interest in education in parapsychology, most recently expressed in efforts to expand the curriculum in the field at Atlantic University.

As an author and a co-author, Zingrone's scientific work has been published in the *Australian Journal of Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis*, *Ciencias de la Conducta*, the *European Journal of Parapsychology*, *Imagination, Cognition and Personality*, the *International Journal of Parapsychology*, the *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, the *Journal of Parapsychology*, the *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research*, the *Journal of Scientific Exploration*, *Luce e Ombra*, *Revista Argentina de Psicología Paranormal*, the *Revista de Psiquiatría Clínica*, and the *Revista Puertorriqueña de Psicología*, among other publications. Her book, *From Text to Self: Criticism and Response in the History of Parapsychology*, was published recently (Lambert, 2010).