

Contributor Biographies

Michael Grosso obtained his PhD. in philosophy from Columbia University and has taught philosophy and the humanities at New Jersey City University, City University of New York, and elsewhere. An artist and independent scholar, he divides his time between consciousness research, miracle hunting, and painting. Among his many books are *The Man Who Could Fly: St. Joseph of Copertino and the Mystery of Levitation*, *Experiencing the Next World Now*, and *Soulmaking*.

Jack Hunter, PhD., is an anthropologist exploring the borderlands of consciousness, religion, ecology and the paranormal. He is an Honorary Research Fellow with the Alister Hardy Religious Experience Research Centre, and a tutor with the Sophia Centre for the Study of Cosmology in Culture, University of Wales Trinity Saint David, where he is lead tutor on the MA in Ecology and Spirituality and teaches on the MA in Cultural Astronomy and Astrology. He is also a lecturer on the Alef Trust's MSc in Consciousness, Spirituality and Transpersonal Psychology. He is a Research Fellow with the Parapsychology Foundation, and a Professional Member of the Parapsychological Association. In 2010 he founded *Paranthropology: Journal of Anthropological Approaches to the Paranormal*. He is the author of *Ecology and Spirituality: A Brief Introduction* (2023), *Spirits, Gods and Magic* (2020) and *Manifesting Spirits* (2020), and is the editor of *Sacred Geography: Conversations with Place* (2024), *Deep Weird* (2023), *Folklore, People and Place* (2023), *Mattering the Invisible* (2020), *Greening the Paranormal* (2019), *Damned Facts* (2016), *Strange Dimensions* (2015), and *Talking with the Spirits* (2014). He lives in the hills of Mid-Wales with his family.

Marianne Rankin is Director of Communications, Alister Hardy Trust. She has a BA in French and German (Leeds); MSt in the Study of Religion (Oxon); PhD (Warwick) and is the author of *An Introduction to Religious and Spiritual Experience* (Continuum/Bloomsbury, 2008). mariannerankin@icloud.com

Bob Rickard is the founder and editor of the UK magazine *The Fortean Times*, which debuted in 1973 under its original title *The News*. The magazine's express purpose is to continue the documentary work of Charles Fort on the strange, anomalous and unexplained. In addition to his editorial role, Rickard has written several books and hundreds of articles on a wide range of Fortean topics. In 1981, he was a founding member of ASSAP and is also the founder of the Charles Fort Institute.

Sarah Porch-Lee has earned a degree in Cultural Anthropology and a Masters by Research in Religious Experience. Her specialisation is in feminist anthropology and women's experiences with religion. She is based in Florida in the US, where she works in archaeology, educational resources, and her independent research in religious anthropology. Her local research has included work on the Seminole Wars and Fort King in Florida. Her research in religious anthropology has included medieval archaeology in South Yorkshire, UK, and her dissertation on women's religious experience in mediumship.

Mara Steenhuisen, PhD., is an anthropologist who has a life long interest in (states of) consciousness, exploring mediumship, the paranormal and spiritual experiences with anomalous light phenomena in digital imaging. She specifically research both the cultural and the spiritual implications of orbs during there studies at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David. She lives in the Netherlands.