

Uploaded Date	Channel	Video URL	Video Title	Description
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2023 06 19	Mick West	https://youtu.be/laYKUwawO20	Can we see the Bottle Drop Data Please	<p>For a few months now, I've been asking Brandon Fugal (the owner of Skinwalker Ranch) if I could work with a very small amount of data generated by one experiment - the helicopter bottle drop. Recently this was asked of both him and lead SWR scientist Erik Bard, and they suggested I might not fully understand it, or what to do with it.</p> <p>But I very much would, and this video is an attempt to demonstrate that, to help move the process along.</p> <p>I know that one bottle collected an NMEA track. I know how to convert that into an interactive 3D recreation with animation. I know how to analyze the data to demonstrate if the bottle did actually bounce off something in mid-air</p> <p>And I'm not asking for the data for just me. I'm asking for a public release, so I can't manipulate the data without anyone noticing.</p> <p>So, why not?</p> <p>Source of the question and Eric's response https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_8IWUIR38c&t=754s</p> <p>Poll on if the data should be released: https://twitter.com/MickWest/status/1649860293928030213</p>	Transcript Link
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2023 06 12	Mick West	https://youtu.be/AvhMhW-JNO	Some Thoughts on David Grusch - Alien Whistleblower	<p>I was invited on NewsNation to be the skeptical respondent to Dave Grusch's one-hour interview. Unfortunately, I only had a few minutes, and the questions were along the lines of "why do you think Grusch is lying".</p> <p>I'd made a lot of notes in advance, so I thought I'd take advantage of this prep and record my thoughts in a big brain dump! Turns out I would have needed 45 minutes to cover everything.</p> <p>The full Grusch interview and article/transcript: https://www.newsnationnow.com/space/ufo/we-are-not-alone-the-ufo-whistleblower-speaks/</p> <p>My response segment: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xER7WLaAw-E</p> <p>00:00 Background, Dave Grusch 01:25 Lack of Evidence 01:47 The Extraordinary claims 02:09 Aliens have murdered humans 02:33 Football Field sized Tardis? 03:12 Italy 1933/1944 Vatican 03:32 Vast Conspiracy 04:00 Agreement with the Aliens 04:27 Problem: This was all Cleared by DOPSR 06:55 Maybe it's not true? 08:00 The cover-up problem 10:19 Do the math on crashes 13:59 AARO don't see UFOS</p>	Transcript Link
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2023 06 08	Mick West	https://youtu.be/gKtusX7XY6g	Discussing the David Grush UFO Whistleblower Saga with Pete Dominick	This discussion is from episode #860 of Stand Up With Pete Dominick: https://standupwithpete.libsyn.com/860-mick-west-on-ufo-conspiracy-theories We discuss the current saga of the UFO Reverse Engineering "whistleblower" David Grusch, and what I really think about what's going on. Pete's Channel: https://www.youtube.com/@PetesBigMouthTV	Transcript Link
2023 05 24	Mick West	https://youtu.be/0fho4YyXWfE	Aguadilla - UFO Analysis with Lines of Sight	This is a presentation I gave at the Inaugural Limina Symposium, Feb 5, 2023. Analysis of 2D video presents the challenge that if the size of an object is unknown, then it can be at any distance. It is, however, constrained to a series of lines of sight. In this video, I discuss how lines of sight are extracted from video data, and how this can be used to determine various possible trajectories. With the Aguadilla UFO video, I demonstrate that there exists a traversal of the lines of sight that is an approximate straight line, and matches exactly the wind that day. This lends significant weight to the hypothesis that the object was something like a pair of wedding lanterns. 00:00 Introduction 01:26 Start of talk 01:37 What is a "Line of Sight"? 02:54 Why use LOS in UAP investigations? 04:54 Specifying Lines of Sight 13:22 Example #1 Hayle Beach 17:03 Example #2 Aguadilla 24:11 Other footage of wedding lanterns by the airport 24:35 Objections to the lantern hypothesis 25:40 Flame obscured by thin paper in IR. 26:03 SCU's analysis and mistakes 27:36 Review of Aguadilla UAP literature	Transcript Link

2023 05 23	Mick West	https://youtu.be/aEkRpXugZgo	Twenty-Nine Palms UFO - Flares Identified	A video of five lights over Twentynine Palms, California, videoed by military personnel, gives the illusion of a triangular craft. The illusion breaks down as the lights shift position.	Transcript Link
<p>A discovery by John Greenwald leads to video of what looks exactly like the lights from another angle. It seems like this mysterious UFO is just five flares.</p>					
<p>Original videos at the Weaponized podcast: https://www.weaponizedpodcast.com/news-1/mojave-triangle-uap Greenwald's discussion: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D_piRRyCCKM Greenwald's Tweet on discovering the flare video: https://twitter.com/blackvaultcom/status/1661052262981185536 The DoD flare video: https://www.dvidshub.net/video/791782/wti-assault-support-training-4-b-roll DoD flare video on YouTube (for date confirmation) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hr5Z2VyIryo Source of the "7 minutes" burn time for flares. https://www.dvidshub.net/news/136860/vmgr-352-lights-up-night-sky-battlefield-illumination-mission Another source: LUU-19B/B IR Flare, 7 minutes burnt time: https://towndock.net/files/LUU_Parachute_Factsheet.pdf</p>					
<p>Metabunk discussion: https://www.metabunk.org/threads/claim-the-mojave-triangle-uap.12967/ Reddit discussion:</p>					
2023 05 12	Mick West	https://youtu.be/OAR5yMfql4s	UFO Football - A Friendly Back and Forth	People often send me UFO videos that puzzle them. I'll usually take at least a quick look and give my initial impression. In this case, Mark sent me a video of a bright UFO arcing over a (British) football match as the final whistle blew. I quickly identified what it might be, but Mark disagreed, so I had to dig deeper. Quite a bit deeper! Eventually, after some friendly back and forth, it was resolved and a few lessons were learned.	Transcript Link
<p>Video Source: https://twitter.com/itvcalendar/status/1622663920098975759 Matching video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SqHOrxdKC9E&t=714s The kick. https://youtu.be/P94sp-Tapx8?t=587</p>					
2023 05 11	Mick West	https://youtu.be/OT-TYrv6WR8	Embossing the Truth at Skinwalker Ranch	A recent episode of The Secret of Skinwalker Ranch claimed that a shiny metallic orb was following close to the owner's helicopter. They even got Utah's Attorney General to endorse those claims.	Transcript Link
<p>But it wasn't following the helicopter, it wasn't even close to it. More significantly, it wasn't even a shiny sphere - that was just an artifact of the filter they used - the emboss filter. It was just a bit of random airborne clutter that just happened to drift into the frame for a few seconds.</p>					
<p>The scientists on the team should have known better.</p>					
<p>Original clip from Season 4, Episode 4: https://youtu.be/bLr97CzfTLY?t=374</p>					

2023 05 06	Mick West	https://youtu.be/o0RYJ3ngCT8	A Hunter's Close Encounter with a UFO - Spider Silk Lateral Highlights	This UFO video looked amazing. It was a flying saucer, invisible to the naked eye, hovering by some trees, with bizarre cycling bands of light.	Transcript Link
				But I quickly recognized it as something I'd only recently discovered - highlights on spider silk that form shapes just like this and are unexpectedly perpendicular to the thread.	
				Original Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=218n5y9WwWc	
2023 05 04	Mick West	https://youtu.be/P_oUEAuK9MM	Skinwalker Ranch Blob - Just a Reflection	In Season 4, Episode 3 of The Secret of Skinwalker Ranch, a mysterious blob appears on one camera when filming a rocket launch.	Transcript Link
				Described as something anomalous, the "blob" looks like an internal camera reflection of the rocket's bright exhaust. You can see the same reflection descend as the rocket rises; there are other examples with the same camera.	
				Unfortunately, the full video is not shown, possibly because it would be pretty obvious that it was just a reflection.	
				You can see most of the "Blob" segment here:	
				https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vw6oXQcu0Zk	
2023 03 24	Mick West	https://youtu.be/Sg_qGHCNTE0	Unidentified Submerged Object - Small, or Far Away	This looks like a large object moving under its own power, but I think it's actually small, close to the camera, and just drifting in the water. I identify other objects in the video doing the same thing. This was just the largest.	Transcript Link
				Original footage:	
				https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIQBbiukMsA	
				Original video and discussion from @TahoeDeep	
				https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O_Lg595f8II	
2023 03 16	Mick West	https://youtu.be/X3VmVbo8xJQ	UAPTF Briefing Slide Shows Only Stars	A slide in a presentation prepared by Jay Stratton to brief congress about UFOs contains only two stars. Yet it's labeled as UNK UAS (Unknown Unmanned Aerial Systems)	Transcript Link
				I demonstrate how you can prove this.	
				Original Mystery Wire image of the slide:	
				https://www.mysterywire.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/106/2021/04/NAVY_FILMED_PYRAMID_UAPs.jpg	
				Mystery Wire article: https://www.kxnet.com/news/national-news/mystery-wire-podcast-pyramid-shaped-ufos-swarm-above-navy-destroyer/	
				Quote from that article:	
				"	
				The new images were gathered by the Task Force and obtained by investigative filmmaker Jeremy Corbell, who confirmed their authenticity. Mystery Wire has independently confirmed that the visual materials are included in the briefing presentation prepared by the UAP Task Force.	
				"This (video) was taken on deployment from the USS Russell," Corbell said. "It shows what they described as vehicles. And they made a great distinction. They made sure in this classified briefing, they made a great distinction that this is not something that we own either a black project, this is not something of a foreign military, that	

2022 12 27	Mick West	https://youtu.be/HQbyw- Z4Oo Las Vegas Light Pillar Map	<p>Rare atmospheric conditions over Las Vegas created a map of the city out out light pillars in an ice cloud layer. But only above uplights.</p> <p>It's not a UFO, but it is actually quite extraordinary. A once-in-a-lifetime phenomenon called a Light Pillar Map</p> <p>Metabunk discussion: https://www.metabunk.org/threads/las-vegas-ufo-lights-in-clouds-above-the-north-strip-light-pillars.12817/</p> <p>Shenzhen light pillar map: https://www.express.co.uk/news/weird/1317598/China-UFO-mystery-lights-Shenzhen-Weibo-viral-aliens-sightings-latest-news</p>	Transcript Link
2022 12 21	Mick West	https://youtu.be/1 Xs2 A3-FqY Wisconsin Spotlight UFOs Solved!	<p>Videos of some UFOs in Wisconsin that looked like spotlights turn out to be spotlights from a local Christmas Lights display, despite being hyped as UFOs by the Daily Mail!</p> <p>Flanders Family Christmas Light Show: https://www.facebook.com/FlandersChristmasLightShow/</p>	Transcript Link
2022 11 11	Mick West	https://youtu.be/mUlxKaUYY9g High Speed Fly-By UFO — Solved!	<p>This UFO video is very unusual looking. They are filming out the plane window when suddenly a huge streak of light flies past at incredible speed. What the heck is it?</p> <p>People quickly noticed that the ground was moving way too fast. It's actually a time-lapse movie, running about 8 times as fast as normal. So the streak of light is probably the motion blurred lights of another plane, flying in the opposite direction.</p> <p>But which plane? Flarkey contacted the video owner and they gave him a flight number (Air France 179) and time, about 5:20 UTC on October 8th. This allowed him to track down a good candidate for the other plane: Fed EX 1273. The two planes cross at a shallow angle, and the FexEx plane is just 1000 feet above the Air France plane, which is perfectly legal, but looks odd when the planes are so close.</p> <p>I downloaded the ADS-B GPS tracks of both planes and dropped them into Sirec, my Situation Recreation software. I adjusted the video to play at 1/8th speed, and adjusted the view to match the lights from the cities seen in the video. Then, bingo, we got a match, it's the Fed Ex plane.</p> <p>So what are the lights? There's four visible, we can tell how long they flash for based on the motion blur, the length of the streak. This white one was a short flash of a bright white strobe. It's so bright it makes these reflections in the triple paned aircraft window.</p>	Transcript Link

2022 11 10 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/q8u1GHHz2Ko> Brazil UFO Flap Solved! (Starlink Again)

For several days now Pilots in Brazil have been reporting UFOs, which have also been caught on this Web Cam. It's looking South, and the objects are moving mostly from right to left.

[Transcript Link](#)

This is the same thing as in my last video, Starlink satellites. Not the bright Starlink launch trains, that's a different thing. These are deployed Starlink satellites, and you only see them when you look towards the poles (north or south) and where the satellites are low on the horizon and can just reflect the sun at a shallow angle.

Like last time, I teamed up with Flarkey to synchronize the video with actual Starlink data. We can identify three stars at the start of the video, and use that as an overlay in Stellarium. Since it was just yesterday I used the current Starlink data, and recorded several minutes in real time.

This was then synced with the video, and like last time we see a perfect correlation, where every flaring light matches a satellite. Time, position, speed, and direction. It's 100% Starlink.

So once again we're getting a lot of media attention, and a lot of distracted pilots, for something that's 100% explainable. Hopefully with all this attention, pilots will become familiar with phenomena. But I expect reports to continue, probably for several years. Airlines and aviation authorities really need to educate pilots on what they might be seeing in the sky.

2022 11 05 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/Ea8BCI2yVU0> These UFOs are Starlink Flares, 100%

Jimmy's original video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e-WDx7bylOk>

[Transcript Link](#)

About 1AM on August the 14th, 2022, Jimmy Church was on the second floor balcony of his house in Palmdale, California, using a night vision device to look for UFOs. He spotted some to the north, and started filming them.

On November 3rd, he shared the video on Twitter and someone (sorry I can't find who) suggested to me that it might be the same Starlink flares that pilots had been seeing and mistaking for planes flying in racetrack patterns.

A starlink flare happens when sunlight reflects off a flat surface on a starlink satellite. These particular flares are reflecting off the bottom of the satellite, which is parallel to the curve of the earth, and so the reflection mostly misses the ground - which is why, up until now, only pilots at high altitudes had reported them. But Jimmy's night vision device was able to see the much dimmer flares that were visible from the ground.

Over on Metabunk we'd noticed that these flares were mostly observed when looking north, towards the big dipper, with the sun directly below the satellites. Due to the tilt of the earth, there's always some satellites that are in sunlight in the summer, when viewed from Palmdale and similar latitudes.

2022 10 23 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/VmrRGln1XA> Why Racetrack UFOs are mostly Starlink Flares

Over the last few weeks there have been several sightings and videos by pilots, describing what have become known as "racetrack" UFOs.

[Transcript Link](#)

The pilots describe distant lights that seem to be orbiting in circles or a racetrack, a common type of holding pattern. These sightings are generally in the North, by the big dipper, and generally seem to go from left to right.

Multiple people have determined that the most likely explanation for these is Starlink satellites, simply because the lights don't go in circles, or a racetrack, they go in a perfectly straight line. They are also in the same place in the sky as some matching Starlink satellites, flying in the same direction, and at the same speed.

00:00 Introduction

00:13 A "racetrack" is a type of holding pattern

00:22 Multiple people say it's Starlink

00:42 Pilots disagree

01:04 Normal Starlink "trains" are different

01:30 How we can tell it's not circling

01:57 What's happening is the sun reflecting off the satellite

02:18 The flickering color looks like a star, or something in space

02:28 Why Starlink and not other satellites?

02:46 Using in-the-sky.org to find Starlink satellites

03:28 The sun is directly under the satellites

04:02 Eyewitness accounts that don't match the Starlink explanation

2022 09 08 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/DzzQpAyo8> How Metabunk Tracked Down the Kansas Tic Tac

A video cropped up of a white Tic-Tac UFO seen from a plane. Like most of these videos, the culprit was just another plane - too far away for the camera to make out the wings.

[Transcript Link](#)

But which plane?

Metabunk's "Skydentify" forum was up to the task, identifying the planes involved with limited and sometimes conflicting information.

I also demonstrate how the Sitrec tool can take the ADS-B tracks from the plane, and show exactly what one plane looks like from the other. Proving 100% that these were the planes in question.

Metabunk Thread: <https://www.metabunk.org/threads/explained-kansas-tic-tac-shaped-ufo-plane.12630/>

2022 06 18	Mick West	https://youtu.be/pbxtTEWczRk	The US Navy Thinks These Stars are Drones.	<p>A recently released video shows a Navy team leader videoing four lights, he describes them as possible drones. However, they were actually easily identifiable stars. Deputy Director of Naval Intelligence, Scott Bray, seems to repeat this in testimony to a congressional committee. Did the Navy, and the UAP task force never actually figure it out?</p> <p>Video with four stars: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ybakt2q2zQw Explanation of the Triangular shape: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-r2oaQWmqkk Video release to The Drive: https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/navy-releases-videos-from-mysterious-drone-swarms-around-warships-off-california More videos: https://www.youtube.com/c/MickWest/search?query=bokeh</p>	Transcript Link
2022 03 14	Mick West	https://youtu.be/gSEjV8DdSbs	Gimbal UFO - A New Analysis	<p>The "Gimbal" UFO is the poster child of modern UFO videos. Leaked in 2017, and officially released in 2019, it's considered by many to show a genuine anomalous craft, exhibiting flight characteristics beyond current human technology.</p> <p>But is it? There are four observables in the video, four things you can check yourself, that demonstrate that the most likely thing we are looking at is actually a camera artifact. It's probably an infrared glare, hiding the hot object behind it, and rotating only because the camera rotates when tracking the target from left to right.</p> <p>This does not mean it's not a "UAP", or that it's not unidentified, or that it's not an amazing craft - it just means it's not actually exhibiting any incredible behavior, and so this opens the door to more mundane possibilities, like a distant small jet, just flying away, the heat of the engines (viewed up the exhaust) creating a large glare in the thermal camera.</p> <p>Edward Current's analysis of possible target flight paths. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rGzJ9dx3n4o</p> <p>Simulator: https://www.metabunk.org/gimbal/</p> <p>00:00 Introduction 00:22 The Four Observables 01:18 What's going on 01:59 What I'm not Addressing</p>	Transcript Link
2022 03 05	Mick West	https://youtu.be/NneoVAGvm1w	Quick Debunk Arizona Light Streak UFO	<p>While these images might look like a giant streak of light in the sky above some mountains, they actually show something on the ground - the Solana solar power station in Arizona. It's hazy, so you can't see the ground, but the super-bright reflected sunlight shines through.</p> <p>Images source: https://youtu.be/OqZh-0oayqc?t=191 Solana power station: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solana_Generating_Station Location: https://www.google.com/maps/place/32%C2%B055'00.0%22N+112%C2%B058'00.0%22W/@32.9004007,-112.8968457,4883a,35y,280.5h,56.74t/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0x30b6cabc80e1c05d!8m2!3d32.916667!4d-112.966667?hl=en</p>	Transcript Link

2021 12 04 Mick West <https://youtu.be/r9YK11YiQMc> Three Row UFO over the South China Sea - Probably Flares! These "UFOs" consisting of three diagonal rows of appearing and fading-away lights looks very confusing at first. But if you compare it to existing video of flares, then it all makes sense. Probably just three military planes dropping flares. [Transcript Link](#)

Copy of original video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8A1tGBOK9k>

"Flares at Night" video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c5hunxT7MEU&t=36s>

Which I first saw posted on Reddit, by "comandante-marcos":

https://www.reddit.com/r/UFOs/comments/r8q34l/20211124_ufos_filmed_from_the_flight_deck_over/hn7b6e1/?utm_source=reddit&utm_medium=web2x&context=3

Similar "flares from invisible plane" video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8A7MW5q5KgQ>

2021 11 30 Mick West <https://youtu.be/gfOqiyChJal> César Escola's UFO is a Fly Small, or Far Away? Flies are often mistaken for something further away, and hence a big and fast UFO . But they are just flies. Here's a great example from César Escola. [Transcript Link](#)

Escola's Instagram Post:

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/CWzEPNEA8oe/>

2021 11 28 Mick West <https://youtu.be/ijEbGEp3vyY> Explained Black Triangle Near The Sun This video supposedly shows some alien spaceship orbiting the sun. The video was taken with the STEREO-A satellite's Extreme Ultraviolet camera, and shows a triangle shape that has been there for years. You can go to Helioviewer.org, select STEREO-A, and EUVI, and you can see this for yourself, and make timelapse videos of it moving. [Transcript Link](#)

It's actually a camera flaw, probably a speck of dirt on the sensor. We can tell this because there's other similar black dots that move in sync with the "triangle". Here's one. Here's another. This is simply the biggest one.

But why does it move?

We see that the speck moves with a regular pattern.

Over the course of a year it moves back and forth along this short arc. It repeats this every year.

This is because the sun's rotational axis, like the earth's, is tilted a bit, about 7 degrees.

The images from Stereo A are corrected to keep the axis vertical - otherwise it would swing left and right.

At the most the sun is tilted 7 degrees to the left, then six months later (since Stereo A has a one year orbit just like the Earth) it's 7

2021 11 23 Mick West

https://youtu.be/xDkqKa_NQAo

Utah Drone UFO - A Meta-analysis

Several people took a bash at analyzing the Beaver, Utah, drone video of a UFO that zips by the camera. Some nailed it immediately (not me!), some got it wrong, and then changed their minds as more information came in, and some just got it wrong, then left.

[Transcript Link](#)

Here I look at the various analyses and how they eventually converged on the most likely explanation - that the UFO was something very small, like a bug or a seed, just meandering along in the in air, with most of the apparent speed coming from the drone itself.

Raw Footage: <https://tinyurl.com/637kuv20>

Spreadsheet: <https://www.metabunk.org/attachments/beaver-ufo-size-distance-speed-xlsx.48017/>

Point Consciousness Analysis:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sszECCzhDTs>

Jay Lamm's Analysis:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4bqTlwLwwA>

Propellerhead (Rob) Initial Analysis:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cFN7KofHpcY>

Propellerhead (Rob) Initial Analysis Math:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=scdK5xcbV-k>

Rob's "Another Way to See it":

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uahYDEPm5s0>

Rob's visit to Beaver:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E7Ya1CBH7Nk>

2021 11 16 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/4Dv3PImGlyA>

Donut UFO - Quick Explanation - It's Bokeh!

Out-of-focus stars (or other small lights) are a common source of "UFO" photos and videos. Sometimes they look like "orbs", and sometimes they have rings in them that make them look more "donut" shaped. Here I demonstrate how you can duplicate the effect with your phone.

[Transcript Link](#)

Diffraction rings explained: https://www.telescope-optics.net/diffraction_pattern_and_aberrations.htm

Good example of Venus out of focus:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydvsLzLYZMO>

2021 11 12	Mick West	https://youtu.be/97o71gBSiIs	Zac Cichy and Mick West discuss The DNI's Statements on UAPs	What's the significance of the Director of National Intelligence mentioning things coming "Extraterrestrially" while talking about UAPs? Is "UAP" a loaded term now? How should the government better talk about the UAP issue?	Transcript Link
				Yesterday Zac Cichy and I both watched the "Our Future in Space" talk at the Ignatius Forum. After a brief exchange on Twitter, we decided to have a recorded chat so we could explore our differences with a bit more nuance than tweeting allowed.	
				Audio file (mp3) version of this video. https://www.metabunk.org/f/Mick%20West%20Zac%20Cichy%20-%20UAPs%20and%20DNI.mp3	
				Zac is host of the Project Human podcast, currently on Hiatus, but lots of great guests and thoughtful conversation in previous episodes https://www.projecthuman.fm/	
				Gillibrand Amendment: https://www.congress.gov/congressional-record/2021/11/04/senate-section/article/S7808-1	
				OUR FUTURE IN SPACE: https://cathedral.org/event/our-future-in-space/ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UWyPk_f8aAA	
				Avril Haines' Comment on UAPs, 32 minutes into the above.	
2021 11 09	Mick West	https://youtu.be/AInFVWIOVx0	How To Identify Stars in a Photo With Astrometry.net or Stellarium	I got a few requests for more detail on how I tracked down the stars in the "Hyperspectral Mothership" video (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_JSPTYZuNf4) . So here's all the details. Warning: a bit technical.	Transcript Link
				The version of Stellarium I used: https://stellarium.org/ There's also a web version, which does the same thing, but with a different user interface. https://stellarium-web.org/ Astrometry: http://nova.astrometry.net/	
2021 11 07	Mick West	https://youtu.be/_JSPTYZuNf4	Hyperspectral Mothership - A Quick Debunk	Just because an expert tells you something is hyperspectral video of an alien mothership dropping off cargo, it does not mean that's probably what it is.	Transcript Link

2021 11 05	Mick West	https://youtu.be/j9zvcQ-QF6rE Investigating a UFO that (seems to) Zip Past a Plane Window	<p>This looks at first glance like a motion-blurred object streaking past a plane. But closer examination shows that this cannot be the case as it does not trace a contiguous line. So it's probably fake.</p> <p>Here's the Feb 3 2013 version https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rki8SkbxDHA</p> <p>HOWEVER there's also a Feb 2, 2013 version from a clickbait channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QTmpWKJjzk</p> <p>Found by @ufoofinterest https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FF6PYn4xHks</p> <p>Reddit Thread: https://www.reddit.com/r/UFOs/comments/qlluxf/ufo_flyby_passenger_reaction/</p>	Transcript Link
2021 11 05	Mick West	https://youtu.be/Vo_X2uys2NE Poltergeist Ghost Glass - A Replication Experiment	<p>A glass "mysteriously" glides across a table, live on TV? Ghosts?</p> <p>Of course there really isn't any great mystery here. You can google "glass moves by itself" and you'll find scores of examples and explanations. It's a glass table, so very smooth. Condensation drips down the glass forming a thin layer of water on the table, reducing friction - and a bubble of air can be trapped, which warms and expands, loosening the seal. Then any slight vibration and a very slight slope to the table does the rest.</p> <p>But giving the explanation is one thing, can we duplicate it? I give it a go in my bathroom, with mixed success.</p>	Transcript Link
2021 11 01	Mick West	https://youtu.be/nPGmUF6R3CY Tracking Down a Tic-Tac UFO	<p>The latest video of a Tic-Tac UFO (no relation to the Navy Tic-Tac) is actually a plane. In this video I show how I tracked down the actual plane and exact location.</p>	Transcript Link
2021 10 22	Mick West	https://youtu.be/vIHidsg-hUFE Dr Bartholomew Pulls No Punches With Havana Syndrome	<p>Dr Robert Bartholomew put it all on the line with his assessment that Havana Syndrome is mass psychogenic illness, a form of mass hysteria.</p> <p>Full video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xrQs-ZX-wv0</p>	Transcript Link

2021 10 22	Mick West	https://youtu.be/xrQs-ZX-wv0	TFTRH #56 - Robert Bartholomew Havana Syndrome and Mass Psychogenic Illness	Robert Bartholomew has a PhD in Medical Sociology, and is an Honorary Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychological Medicine at the University of Auckland in New Zealand. He's an expert in Mass Psychogenic Illness and the co-author with Rober Baloh of the book "Havana Syndrome: Mass Psychogenic Illness and the Real Story Behind the Embassy Mystery and Hysteria"	Transcript Link
				Havana syndrome is a loose set of fairly generic symptoms that are being blamed on some kind of attack. It started with personnel at the US embassy in Havana, but has since spread around the world. Dr Bartholomew thinks it's an example of Mass Psychogenic Illness - people are being asked to look for odd health events and strange sounds, and so of course they find them. But there really no good evidence of any kind of attack. Bartholomew thinks the intelligence community is largely aware of this, but an unbiased examination is being avoided for political reason.	
				Dr Bartholomew's website - https://rebartholomew.com/	
2021 10 12	Mick West	https://youtu.be/XtNRnMOeJvl	UFO Weather How to find wind direction for older UFO reports.	When evaluating a UFO video, especially one that might be a balloon, it's really useful to get the exact weather where there supposed UFO/balloon was. There's a number of ways you might go about this, but you need to understand the pitfalls and uncertainties before you just pick a number.	Transcript Link
				Weather Underground historic ground level weather: https://www.wunderground.com/history/daily/KTUS/date/2019-11-23	
				earth: https://earth.nullschool.net/#2019/11/23/1200Z/wind/isobaric/850hPa/orthographic=-110.66,29.79,4862/loc=-111.450,31.560	
				UWYO soundings: http://weather.uwyo.edu/upperair/sounding.html	
2021 10 08	Mick West	https://youtu.be/snwqUpQ6oSE	Mylar Balloon UFOs on Thermal Cameras - Hot or Cold	Mylar balloons often look unexpectedly hot or cold on thermal cameras. This is because they are highly reflective of heat. When you look up at them against the sky, they look "hot" because they are reflecting the ground and the sky in the background is very cold. When looking down, like in the "Rubber Duck" UFO video (which may or may not be balloons) then they look very cold because they reflect the very cold sky. In low resolution videos (like Rubber Duck), they look entirely cold.	Transcript Link

2021 10 07	Mick West	https://youtu.be/y5Q82LsMPjQ	DHS Rubber Duck UFO - Initial Analysis	This UFO video created a little buzz on UFO Twitter, but unfortunately it's not very impressive. It does give some interesting opportunities for analysis, so that's what I do.	Transcript Link
<p>Result: it seems to be a relatively slow moving object, like a drone or a bunch of balloons. Beyond that it's rather hard to tell. So it's an actual UFO, just not a very impressive one.</p>					
<p>Metabunk Thread: https://www.metabunk.org/threads/dhs-rubber-duck-footage.12054/ Full Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmbrRvd25G0 Falch Analysis with Lat/Lon for 1 minute: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xWXCMA2a8Sg&t=0s Slightly better video: https://www.theblackvault.com/casefiles/alleged-dhs-rubber-duck-uap-footage-november-23-2019/</p>					
<p>00:00 Intro 01:20 SPD is NOT the speed of the object, it's the camera ground track speed 02:00 What does the display show? 03:14 Ground track data 04:25 Extracting data 05:20 In Google Earth 06:50 Circling Plane 08:41 What is this? 09:04 Cold Temperature</p>					
2021 09 28	Mick West	https://youtu.be/FVBH MU-e6YM	Quick Debunk Dog Train Tracks Rescue	A viral video that appears to show a dog being rescued from an oncoming train is (as most people suspected) fake. There's a number of ways we can tell this, but it all boils down to shadows.	Transcript Link

2021 08 10	Mick West	https://youtu.be/VQgdgNG-rJg TFTRH #55 Avi Loeb and The Galileo Project	<p>What is a University professor doing investigating UFOs? Professor Avi Loeb of Harvard University heads the Galileo Project, which seeks (in part) to identify the nature of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena by establishing a network of telescopes and instruments with the goal of obtaining the first unambiguous clear photos of UFOs.</p> <p>We talk about the demarcation between science and pseudoscience, the rationale for the project, the challenges it will face, and how it all fits into Professor Loeb's personal philosophy.</p> <p>0:00 - Introduction 0:05 - A Professor Of Science 2:19 - Avi's articles and love of philosophy 4:28 - Philosophy of science. Demarcation 7:45 - Say I have a million dollars. Why should I give it to the project? 15:22 - How many telescopes, and where to put them 20:17 - Is photography the way to go? 25:21 - What existing data justifies the need for the project? 28:50 - The vagueness of the UAP report. 32:10 - Photos or Video? 32:50 - How will you know where to aim the telescope. 35:10 - Filtering on Motion or Images? 37:02 - Can you triangulate with two close telescopes? 40:16 - Triangulating with full-sky cameras 44:14 - The Space Fence and multistatic radar 45:55 - Private sector multistatic radar</p>	Transcript Link
2021 08 06	Mick West	https://youtu.be/FG49Tpb_los A Response to Dave Falch's debunking of the Gimbal Rotating Glare Theory	<p>Dave Falch has a go at debunking the Gimbal "rotating glare" theory in conversation with Chris Lehto. This is my response, explaining that they debunk nothing, because they don't really seem to get it.</p> <p>Original: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6PYPtjj01Qs&t=0s</p>	Transcript Link
2021 08 05	Mick West	https://youtu.be/hUhKdcdVGE TFTRH #54 - Mia Bloom and Sophia Moskalenko Pastels and Pedophiles	<p>Mia Bloom is Professor of Communication at Georgia State University with a PhD in political science from Columbia University. Sophia Moskalenko is a research fellow at Georgia State University and a researcher at the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism. Together they wrote the book Pastels and Pedophiles - Inside the Mind of QAnon.</p> <p>We discuss how the book came about, the historic roots of the QAnon conspiracy theory, how QAnon has changed with the "Save the Children" narrative to attract more women, and what tangible steps can be taken to help individuals and to help improve the overall situation.</p> <p>Pastels and Pedophiles: https://www.sup.org/books/title/?id=34673 Mia Bloom: https://twitter.com/MiaMBloom Sophia Moskalenko: https://twitter.com/sophiamoskalen1</p>	Transcript Link

2021 07 12	Mick West	https://youtu.be/4QFvgA79trg Debunking a Trivial UFO Takes Off! Video. - Why	Someone asked me to debunk this UFO video. It was obviously just the camera moving, and yet I decided to do a quick-take debunk anyway. I did this because it seemed like a lot of people thought it was an actual rapidly moving UFO. Also because the video contains some nice examples of common things that happen in other "UFO" videos.	Transcript Link
			Original video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d1MBdW5sIOk	
2021 07 03	Mick West	https://youtu.be/bfrjyklzF14 A fake TR-3B UFO in the woods	This video was created by a 3D artist who posts on YouTube as "VFX". It's been re-uploaded a few times as an actual UFO video, and fooled a few people - even people commenting on VFX's channel!	Transcript Link
			Original [REMOVED]: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aORjsg8pI6I	
			New video demonstrating car wireframe. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3QFlySuuX-8	
			Looking at the repeating textures in the road shows that it's a CGI fake.	
2021 07 03	Mick West	https://youtu.be/UPdrJiu9AKY UFO UAP LIVESTREAM W Kent Bye Vs. Mick West	A lively discussion (starting 6:28) where Kent Bye explains my lack of epistemological humility in the field of UFOs. It's the UCR show with host Luis Jimenez and co-host Michael Mataluni, along with Rather B. Squidding.	Transcript Link
			Original: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BawsgO9-kes	
			All UCR Social Media Links: https://linktr.ee/LuAngeles Kent's Slideshow: https://www.slideshare.net/kentbye/kent-bye-vs-mick-west-a-debate-on-uap-evidence-skepticism All Links for Singularity Lab: https://linktr.ee/michaelmataluni	
			Link for Kent Bye: http://voicesofvr.com	
			Link for Steven Greenstreet: https://linktr.ee/sgreenstreet	
			UCR Shows are streamed live on Mondays and Wednesdays at 4 pm PST and 1 pm PST Fridays.	
2021 06 30	Mick West	https://youtu.be/ZSsDZ8vePDc Quick Take on New UFO video from Corbell	A shaky video, of things that require a lot of magnification. So small or far away. Often out of focus. Low information.	Transcript Link
			My initial impression is that these look like distant planes, flying directly towards the camera (except that one). They have lights that seem to match. That's my #1 hypothesis. Matches with traffic in the area. But could also be military planes that don't show up on planefinder.net (ADS-B)	
			#2 is drones, but I hesitate there, as the lights look very plane-like.	

2021 06 26	Mick West	https://youtu.be/y6YE8E9toU	UAP UFO Report - Initial Assessment	I'm pretty happy with the UAP report. I think it gives a reasonable assessment of the situation - but you can't just read snippets of it. You've got to consider the whole thing.	Transcript Link
				Here I go through it, explain what it means, and what I think the implications are.	
				Report: https://www.dni.gov/files/ODNI/documents/assessments/Preliminary-Assessment-UAP-20210625.pdf	
2021 06 23	Mick West	https://youtu.be/FuVClipbh4	TFTRH #53 Jason Colavito - UFOs and the Invisible College, How Did We Get Here	Jason Colavito is an author and journalist with a focus on "alternative archeology" and, more recently, the UFO cultural phenomenon. In May 2021, he wrote the article: "How Washington Got Hooked on Flying Saucers" in the New Republic, describing how "a collection of well-funded UFO obsessives are using their Capitol Hill connections to launder some outré, and potentially dangerous, ideas."	Transcript Link
				Jason's historical research into the underpinnings of the current UFO/UAP flap is a vital component in understanding what is going on, and how we find ourselves in this situation. Going back to the 1960s and 70s, he traces a path from Jacque Vallée's extradimensional hypothesis and Hal Puthoff's paranormal research, through Robert Bigelow's wide-ranging involvement via Harry Reid, to the current efforts of Luis Elizondo and Chris Mellon.	
				How Washington Got Hooked on Flying Saucers - https://newrepublic.com/article/162457/government-embrace-ufos-bad-science	
2021 06 16	Mick West	https://youtu.be/wBD6m3lwMwQ	A Very Short Poltergeist Investigation	During my last interview, a bag fell off a shelf, all by itself! I joked about it being a poltergeist, but it was actually just a bag I'd moved about an hour earlier that was balanced right on the edge in a very unstable position.	Transcript Link
				I thought people might like this little behind-the-scenes.	
2021 06 15	Mick West	https://youtu.be/uwZU6RiTEAw	Alex Dietrich - The Nimitz Event Summary, Time Differences, and Other Accounts	An informal chat with Alex Dietrich, the second pilot present at the Nimitz "Tic-Tac" encounter (along with David Fravor and two WSOs). We discuss the "Event Summary" document, the differences between her perception/recollection and David Fravor's, and have a chat about the incident, my parallax theory, and UFO reporting in general.	Transcript Link
				The report we were discussing: http://www.nicap.org/reports2/2004_Navy%20event%20document%202004%20Nov%2014.pdf	
				We were originally just chatting on Facetime, then I realized the information Alex was sharing was of interest to other people, so we switched to Zoom - which is why the start is a mini recap.	

2021 06 07	Mick West	https://youtu.be/fBegP4z3rXo Response to F-16 Pilot Chris Lehto's De-Debunking of GoFast and Gimbal	<p>I disagree with Chris' analysis of my videos, and explain some of my objections here.</p> <p>I first discuss the issue of focus in Go Fast, and show it's quite possible to have things at 5 miles and 10 miles in focus at the same time - including with a 2000mm 1°FOV zoom lens.</p> <p>I don't delve too deeply into the accuracy of the RNG number. I think it's accurate because it's remarkably consistent all through the video. So I'd really need more evidence it's wrong. And the focus evidence does not hold up.</p> <p>The majority of the video is on the overhead "god's eye" diagram of the Gimbal. I re-create it as an interactive diagram in GeoGebra, and show that it seem like Chris was using a too high rate or turn at 3.0, and the reality is more like 1.5-1.6, putting the minimum distance to the object MUCH further away. (The intersection shown is a likely minimum distance)</p> <p>I'm open to corrections, and would be happy to talk to people, including Chris, about this.</p> <p>Twitter:</p> <p>Geogebra Interactive Diagram: https://www.geogebra.org/classic/pxjp7p8u</p>	Transcript Link
2021 06 03	Mick West	https://youtu.be/KEOuoTxpWU8 Discussion with Dr Brian Keating - Are UFOs Here	<p>Original Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HJtTgIKDUZw</p> <p>A great discussion with Dr Brian Keating, the Chancellor's Distinguished Professor of Physics at UC San Diego, on recent events in the world of UFOs</p> <p>Related videos from Brian Jill Tarter Searching for CONTACT https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O9K9O...</p> <p>Life on Venus? Sara Seager Venus Life: https://youtu.be/QPsEDoTU6k?sub_conf... Communication with Aliens? Noam Chomsky: https://youtu.be/laz6JlxDh6Y?sub_conf... Aliens are already here? Sarah Scoles: https://youtu.be/apVKobWigMw Arrival! Stephen Wolfram: https://youtu.be/nSAemRxzmXM</p> <p>Artwork by Sloan Sobie</p>	Transcript Link
2021 05 21	Mick West	https://youtu.be/VxgTqGRs6eY Green Pyramid UFO - How Fast Is it Going Plane Speed	<p>The green pyramid UFO looks like bokeh, out-of-focus plane lights. But how fast is it going, and is that speed consistent with a plane?</p> <p>Calculating speed in videos without reference points requires you know the angular field of view and either the size or the distance of the object. Since it's out of focus we can't tell the size, but we can estimate the distance using the average of air traffic in the area to see if the calculated speed matches that air traffic.</p> <p>And it does.</p>	Transcript Link

2021 05 15	Mick West	https://youtu.be/WAfiJgUHDg0	Omaha Sphere UFO - Initial Analysis - No sudden moves!	<p>The latest US Navy related UFO video is low resolution, and has some camera movements that make it look like the object is moving rapidly left and right. But stabilizing the video shows it's not making these sudden moves. It's really just sinking very slowly towards the horizon, with an a constant horizontal velocity.</p> <p>There are six minutes missing from this descent, which makes it look quicker than it actually is.</p> <p>When it gets to the horizon, it looks like it SHRINKS, rather than disappearing from the bottom up. This suggests it's a glare, much larger than the actual heat source.</p> <p>Ultimately there's not enough information to determine what it is, but we can tell that is not making any sudden moves.</p>	Transcript Link
2021 05 13	Mick West	https://youtu.be/xQT8vfWomvs	EXPLAINED Why Magnets Stick To Vaccination Sites (Or Your Nose)	<p>Viral videos showing magnets sticking to the skin near a vaccination site are just a new twist on an old carnival trick. Magnets, coins, and other smooth objects will stick to skin if it's just very slightly oily. Remove the oil, and the object will not stick.</p> <p>Some people have naturally oily skin, some people habitually use lotions, or you can just add a little yourself for the trick. Or use your nose.</p> <p>It's nothing at all to do with vaccines.</p> <p>Randi Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OTVWMY8EZCA</p>	Transcript Link
2021 05 11	Mick West	https://youtu.be/5stjbuE9Sg	Clarification of Just UFO Fans	<p>I referred to Marco Rubio and Harry Reid as "just UFO Fans" in an interview for The New Yorker, and it was recently repeated in Newsweek. This does not mean I'm dismissive of their interest in the UAP issue. Unidentified airspace incursions and unresolved pilot sightings are both very serious issues that deserve study.</p> <p>What I AM dismissive of is the idea that these are aliens. I don't think there's any good evidence to indicate that. I also think that Reid's, and, to a lesser extent, Rubio's entertaining of that aspect is partly down to them being UFO fans.</p> <p>UAPs represent a serious issue. Aliens, not so much.</p>	Transcript Link
2021 05 04	Mick West	https://youtu.be/WhcdlnB55W0	Explained Odd Looking Wide Angle Photo of Bidens and Carters	<p>Some people think this photo was fake, so I demonstrate why Joe Biden looks so much bigger than Mr Carter. It's just a wide angle lens, used because the room is small.</p>	Transcript Link
2021 04 22	Mick West	https://youtu.be/ZHrCE6t699Y	Pyramid UFO - Full Sky Traversal Stabilized	<p>For reference. The entire "pyramid" UFO video stabilized roughly against the stars and clouds. Showing the relatively small movement of the (plane-like) UFO across a portion of the sky.</p> <p>Full discussion: https://www.metabunk.org/threads/pyramid-ufos-in-night-vision-footage-maybe-bokeh.11695/</p>	Transcript Link

2021 04 16 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/-r2oaQWmqkk>

Pyramid UFO - NEW FOOTAGE. It's Just Bokeh, not a Pyramid

New reference footage from night vision monoculars (including the military standard PVS-14) demonstrates pretty conclusively that the supposed flying pyramid UFO actually looks exactly like a slightly out of focus light in the sky - quite possibly just a plane, as the ship was right under a flight path for LAX.

[Transcript Link](#)

Some of the other lights are identified as Jupiter and some stars.

I don't think that means the Navy got it terribly wrong. This was initially unidentified (with the UAP Task Force Investigates), and they maybe even thought it was a triangle for a few minutes. But it's not. It's just some lights in the sky.

Thanks to Jesse and Stian for the footage, and Dylan_DTV for finding the astronomy match.

https://twitter.com/Dylan_DTV/status/1382067585059999744

2021 04 12 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/WPz5cVJMdPg>

Why aren't all the lights in the Pyramid UFO video triangular

UPDATE: Watch the new video with better footage and analysis: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-r2oaQWmqkk>

[Transcript Link](#)

This is a follow-up to the Pyramid UFO video to answer the most common question: if the triangle shape is just bokeh from a triangular aperture or lens cover, they why are ALL the lights not triangles.

Watch this if you've not seen the explanation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g256IPFoqMg>

Answer: They all ARE triangles, but low resolution and a bit of glare hides this at the start. Comparing the initial lights to the first appearance of the "flasher" shows they are the same.

The tiny points of lights are NOT stars. They are just single frame "scintillations" that happen AFTER the aperture, inside the image intensifier tube - basically just random electrons showing up as random pixels of light. Since they are after the triangular aperture, it does not affect them.

So there's nothing inconsistent with bokeh in the "pyramid" video.

2021 04 10	Mick West	https://youtu.be/g2561PFogMg Is This Pyramid UFO just Bokeh	UPDATE: Watch the new video with better footage and analysis: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-r2oaQWmqkk ----- -----	Transcript Link
			It moves like a plane, it flashes like a plane. But if it's a plane then why does it look like a "pyramid"?	
			Well, if it's a bit out of focus, it's possible for an effect called "bokeh" to make a small distant light (like a plane, or some bright stars) look like triangles.	
			I'm not sure this is what it is, but it's a possibility!	
2021 03 24	Mick West	https://youtu.be/NgRmS2g-XdM Betting on Disclosure in the 180 Day UAP Report	Ryan (@Postdisclosureworld) thinks that the upcoming UAP (UFO) report will have something interesting in it that will point to an off-world or exotic technology origin of the UFO sightings reported by the US Military.	Transcript Link
			I disagree, but it's not clear exactly how, so we try to formulate a friendly wager to nail this down.	
2021 03 21	Mick West	https://youtu.be/E7LtFIVZ-T4 Explained Dr. Moncef Slaoui Reptile Eyes	A relatively common motion compression artifact can make people look like they have double-lidded eyelids. But going back to the original video footage will always reveal they do not.	Transcript Link
			The original video can be found here: https://www.cnbc.com/2020/12/02/trump-covid-vaccine-czar-says-us-should-be-able-to-immunize-nearly-third-of-population-by-end-of-february.html	
			A similar case with Justin Bieber, with more technical details. https://www.metabunk.org/threads/debunked-justin-biebers-reptilian-eyes-shapeshifting-in-court.3047/	
2021 03 21	Mick West	https://youtu.be/KXCCFACnCrq Biden and the Dead Cat - Part 2	Some people still don't get it, so I spent another morning trying to figure out how to explain where Biden's hands are relative to the two microphones. I did a live-action three-camera setup, and then another with a small posable wooden figure.	Transcript Link
			Think people. Where are the hands? Where are the microphones?	
			How does he get on the helicopter?	
			I will waste no more time on this, and suggest you do likewise.	

2021 03 17	Mick West	https://youtu.be/w_QQ2xi-nwQ	Explained Why This Video of Biden and a Dead Cat Looks Fake, but Isn't.	<p>*** See Part 2 here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KXCCFACnCrg</p> <p>A video of Biden talking to reporters from March 16, 2021 has several very large microphones bobbing around at the bottom of the frame. Because the large grey microphone (which has a wind cover on it called a "dead cat") is bigger than you expect, people think that Biden's hand is superimposed on top of it.</p>	Transcript Link
2021 03 11	Mick West	https://youtu.be/EozxtHnP4	TFTRH #52 - Luis Elizondo UFOs, UAPs, AATIP, and TTSA	<p>Luis Elizondo is a former senior intelligence official, a disclosure advocate, a national security expert, and the former director of the Pentagon's UFO/UAP Program (AATIP). We talk about his work in those capacities and also discuss the history and analysis of the three US Navy "UAP" videos.</p>	Transcript Link
				<p>Episode Web Page: https://www.tftrh.com/2021/03/11/episode-52-luis-elizondo-ufos-uaps-aatip-and-ttsa/</p> <p>Apple Podcast: https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-52-luis-elizondo-ufos-uaps-aatip-and-ttsa/id1462120258?i=1000512604191</p>	
2021 03 09	Mick West	https://youtu.be/VuSKFwhXhoY	How to Duplicate the GIMBAL UFO rotation in 60 seconds	<p>The "GIMBAL" UFO video looks like it's the glare of some jet engines rotating as part of the camera system rotates. This can be difficult to explain, so I hit upon a simple way of demonstrating it with a slightly smudged cell-phone camera.</p> <p>The glare is relative to a part of the camera system, like the front cover glass. The overall system keeps the horizon at the correct angle, but if the glare-producing part of the camera system rotates, then the glare will rotate relative to the horizon.</p>	Transcript Link
				Give it a go.	
2021 03 09	Mick West	https://youtu.be/H9R4xNiUxJ0	TFTRH #50 Alex - Raised By Conspiracy Theorists	<p>Alex was raised by conspiracy theorists. This makes him different from most people who end up down the rabbit hole in that assuming nefarious plots were going on was never a surprise to him. Indeed, it was the default.</p> <p>We talk about growing up in a conspiracy theory family, how his perceptions shifted when he went out into the real world, and how he ended up going even deeper down the rabbit hole before he finally found his way out.</p> <p>Alex also read my book, Escaping the Rabbit Hole, and his reaction to my 9/11 debunking was rather surprising.</p>	Transcript Link
				Episode site: https://www.tftrh.com/2021/03/08/episode-50-alex-raised-by-conspiracy-theorists/	

2021 03 07	Mick West	https://youtu.be/a6QBvXb39PY	TFTRH #049 Georgina A QAnon Friend in the UK	QAnon is a very American conspiracy theory, focussing upon a supposed plan by a mysterious entity named 'Q' who was working with Donald Trump to rid the US of a corrupt elite. But despite this American focus, it has adherents around the world. One of those adherents is a friend of this episode's guest, Georgina.	Transcript Link
				Georgina and her friend were both fans of documentaries about cults, but despite what you might think of as inoculation against mind control, Georgina's friend still fell deep down the QAnon rabbit hole.	
				This episode was recorded on Jan 5th, the day before the storming of the Capitol.	
2021 03 05	Mick West	https://youtu.be/er1mh90wN-k	Hovering Boats are Usually Not Mirages, they are beyond False Horizons	Perfect images of boats hovering in the sky are not mirages. Mirages distort and invert images. Even non-mirage refraction effects like looming will not create this effect (as they raise up the water as well as the boat).	Transcript Link
				It's a false horizon. The surface of the water is just taking on the color of the sky because of a combination of lighting, clouds, the calmness of the water surface, and a little haze.	
				In this video, I show how to use my refraction simulator to see what's going on with mirages, and why this is not a mirage.	
				Refraction Simulator: https://metabunk.org/refraction/ Metabunk discussion: https://www.metabunk.org/threads/debunked-fata-morgana-or-mirage-hovering-boat-images-false-horizon.9112/ Similar thread on "floating cities" https://www.metabunk.org/threads/floating-cities-are-generally-not-fata-morgana-mirages.6922/	
2021 03 04	Mick West	https://youtu.be/hOi9ZNwHnR4	Duplicated a UFO video from the VCR Era	There's some old VHS or Betamax video of objects hovering and then rapidly accelerating that has been presented as being impossible to fake because there was no digital editing back then.	Transcript Link
				This is my 20-minute attempt at replicating the effect - showing that it's really not that hard to fake at all - just needs a modicum of thought, and poor video quality to hide the trick.	
2021 02 20	Mick West	https://youtu.be/s4-D_v6sWWo	Interview with Patrick PJ Hughes regarding the 2004 Nimitz UFO Incidents.	Patrick "PJ" Hughes was an aviation technician onboard the USS Nimitz in 2004, during the famous "Tic-Tac" encounter. Before he became aware of Commander Fravor's intercept of a strange object, he had an unusual encounter himself, where hard-drives containing recordings related to the incident were unexpectedly removed.	Transcript Link
				PJ has been interviewed several times regarding his experience, and what happened over those days. He's also a member of UAP Expeditions, a UAP/UFO research group with other people from the Nimitz Encounter.	
				We've talked a few times on Twitter, and have a variety of disagreements. But we both agree it would be good if people could sit down and figure things out. So that's what we tried to do here.	

2021 02 15	Mick West	https://youtu.be/tv9iKw_Q9xQ	Kevin Day's Recollections of the Nimitz Encounters	<p>TURN ON SUBTITLES [CC]!</p> <p>The audio quality here was unfortunately low, but if you are interested in the details of the 2004 Nimitz UFO encounter, then this is an interesting interview.</p> <p>Kevin day was the Air Intercept Controller on the USS Princeton (part of the Nimitz Carrier Group) in charge at the time of the Fravor and Underwood UFO encounters on Nov 14, 2004. He also saw the slow-moving radar returns from Nov 4th to Nov 15th.</p> <p>His recollections here go into more detail about the formations of five (or more) objects he observed, one of which was the target that he vectored Fravor to intercept.</p> <p>Some of his descriptions don't seem to match what Fravor and Underwood described, and he's interested in getting this resolved with follow-up discussions</p> <p>Different people will pick up on different things here - I'm not intimately familiar with everything that was discussed - so if there's a point you think needs more discussion, then please post a comment with a timestamp.</p> <p>The interview was conducted on Feb 13, 2021. It is largely unedited except near the start where I removed some repetition. Minor audio edits were made to resolve crosstalk (usually muting me).</p>	Transcript Link
2021 02 03	Mick West	https://youtu.be/NbExcSwsEol	TFTRH #48 – Accidentally Dating a Conspiracy Theorist	<p>My guest this week thought all was well when she started dating a handsome intelligent man. But then a few things he said, particularly about “the Jews” started to seem like something more than just the jokes she initially took them for. Here she describes how her relationship with a conspiracy theorist got started, and how it turned out. Along the way, we discuss toxic masculinity, incels, and the importance of teaching history and critical thinking.</p> <p>Episode Web Page: https://www.tftrh.com/2021/01/29/episode-48-accidentally-dating-a-conspiracy-theorist/</p> <p>Subscribe on Apple: https://www.tftrh.com/feed/podcast/ Subscribe on Android: https://subscribeonandroid.com/www.tftrh.com/feed/podcast/ Google Podcasts: https://podcasts.google.com/feed/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cudGZ0cmguY29tL2ZlZlZlZWQvcG9kY2FzdC8</p>	Transcript Link
2021 01 14	Mick West	https://youtu.be/cThB1zfynHQ	Explained Wingless Tic-Tac UFOs Moving Erratically Behind Trees	<p>This Is NOT about the Navy UFO videos.</p> <p>Videos of "Tic-Tac" UFOs are usually (but not always) planes. Things moving oddly behind trees are usually the result of camera motion.</p> <p>Both these things are demonstrated.</p>	Transcript Link

2021 01 04	Mick West	https://youtu.be/iwOlzoBpdwQ	Leak and Suitcase myths Debunked by Georgia Secretary of State's Office	<p>I synced the videos found at https://securevotega.com/ to the explanation given by Gabriel Sterling of the Georgia Secretary of State's Office at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IrUdSl4uvaM</p> <p>The most significant claim being debunked by this video was made by Trump in the conference call with Raffensperger, where Trump said:</p>	Transcript Link
<p>" Late in the morning, they went early in the morning they went to the table with the black robe, the black shield and they pulled out the votes. Those votes were put there a number of hours before the table was put there. I think it was, Brad you would know, it was probably eight hours or seven hours before and then it was stuffed with votes.</p>					
<p>They weren't in an official voter box, but they were in what looked to be suitcases or trunks, suitcases but they weren't in voter boxes. The minimum number it could be because we watched it and they watched it certified in slow motion instant replay if you can believe it but slow motion and it was magnified many times over and the minimum it was 18,000 ballots, all for Biden."</p>					
2020 12 29	Mick West	https://youtu.be/tSCUfLAtimA	Debunked Nashville Missile Trails and Other Evidence	<p>No, these things are not evidence of missiles being used. It's a rather far-fetched theory anyway, but it's also a far-fetched theory backed by zero evidence. The explosion is on the correct side of the street (the center is just behind the dust cloud), and the trails don't show up until THREE seconds after the initial blast.</p>	Transcript Link
<p>Discussion of the trails: https://www.metabunk.org/threads/debunked-missile-strike-caused-nashville-explosion.11518/</p>					
<p>Discussion of the "wrong side of the street" https://www.metabunk.org/threads/debunked-nashville-explosion-was-across-the-street-from-the-rv.11516/</p>					
2020 11 14	Mick West	https://youtu.be/BU4uJt9TJg	Dr. Shiva's Graph Debunked	<p>Dr Shiva Ayyaduria claimed that a linear downward slope in a graph indicated voter fraud.</p> <p>So I set up a tool to duplicate the situation in the graph, and found that a downward slope was not only expected, it was inevitable.</p> <p>You'd get a downward slope for Biden votes too, for the same reasons. The amount of slope is determined by the ratio of split votes.</p> <p>The tool used is an interactive web page you can use yourself. here: https://www.geogebra.org/classic/peacpfm6</p> <p>More Details: https://www.metabunk.org/threads/dr-shivas-scatterplot-analysis-of-michigan-precincts.11451</p>	Transcript Link

2020 11 06	Mick West	https://youtu.be/ycMw6xhP8Cg	How To Calculate Wisconsin's Voter Turnout	<p>It's 72.5%. It's not 89%. It's not the highest it has ever been.</p> <p>But don't trust some random page on the internet when the stakes are high. Fraud is being claimed, and people are quick to quote numbers without verifying them or explaining them. I show you quickly in this video how you can calculate it for yourself.</p> <p>Basically you download the spreadsheet from https://elections.wi.gov/elections-voting/statistics/turnout then you just need to add in the actual number of people who voted. To do that just add up all the votes received by all the candidates from https://www.google.com/search?q=2020+election+results+wisconsin stick it in the spreadsheet, and copy the percentage formula from the line below.</p> <p>Then go and debunk.</p> <p>More discussion here: https://www.metabunk.org/threads/debunked-wisconsin-turnout-89-impossible-high-actually-72.11444/#post-242510</p>	Transcript Link
2020 10 19	Mick West	https://youtu.be/nwa-yCEGEc	Analyzing Official UFO Videos - Live Talk at UBC Vancouver	<p>This is a live virtual talk I gave for the Physics & Astronomy Department Colloquium series at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver on October 1, 2020.</p> <p>I discuss how I got into analyzing videos, and then discuss the three US Navy videos in the context of two older cases, the Los Angeles Mystery Missile, and the Chilean Navy UFO.</p> <p>UBC Vancouver Physics & Astronomy Department: https://phas.ubc.ca/ Original Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KrySRAuk-WQ&feature=youtu.be</p>	Transcript Link
2020 09 14	Mick West	https://youtu.be/k5-J2iP_zWk	A Motion Perception Experiment.	<p>Motion detection can be hard in the absence of depth and position cues. Here are two videos that look like they show something moving. But they might also look like the camera is moving. Which is it? Object, camera, or both? Can you tell by examining the videos?</p> <p>(The object is rotating a little, and the camera can rotate to track the object - so ignore rotation - we are just interested in if it moves so as to change location)</p> <p>Here I'll show the videos, let you think about it, and then I'll reveal the answer.</p> <p>Please comment with what you first thought for each video, and how you arrived at that conclusion.</p>	Transcript Link

2020 09 09	Mick West	https://youtu.be/fT1uRf5_dF4	Response to David Fravor debunking me on Lex Fridman	Command David Fravor is the pilot who famously observed the "Tic-Tac" UFO (although he did not get any video). He was recently on the Lex Fridman podcast and was asked about my various hypotheses regarding his encounter and the three Navy UFO video (FLIR1, GIMBAL, and GOFAST).	Transcript Link	
				I was quite hopeful there would be some interesting objections. But it turned out that he's not really familiar with what my hypotheses actually were - seemingly only vaguely knowing the ideas second hand. So he mostly went off on irrelevant tangents. It was all rather disappointing, but not without interest.		
				Here's the Lex Fridman interview: https://youtu.be/aB8zcAttP1E?t=9001		
2020 08 30	Mick West	https://youtu.be/ri_vlLaCkNM	The Dumbing Down of Architects and Engineers for 9 11 Truth	Architects and Engineers for 9/11 Truth is a group that promotes the idea that the World Trade Center was destroyed by pre-planted explosives on 9/11 and that the plane impacts and fires were just a cover.	Transcript Link	
				After years of telling people that they should believe them because they are architects and engineers, they have changed tactics. They now promote the idea that it's OBVIOUS that explosives are used, and that anyone can see this. They promoted this idea over the last month with a series of increasingly silly memes.		
				This prompts a question: if it's so obvious, then what was the point of AE911Truth? What was the point of funding a complicated study of World Trade Center Building Seven for \$316,000? What are all those long technical documents on their web site for? Why collect supposed experts if the answer is so obvious?		
				Of course, the superficial "obviousness" of the collapses looking odd has long been the foundation of 9/11 "Truth". AE911 has simply shed the veneer of science that they couched this in. They never really had a deep understanding of the events of 9/11, they started out thinking it was obvious, and then tried to concoct a series of increasingly bizarre hypotheses to shoehorn in all the things they did not understand. Debris trailing white smoke? Nanothermite rockets! Can't see the top of the building? It has turned to dust!		
2020 08 29	Mick West	https://youtu.be/d9myjAPfB7A	TFTRH #46 Ryan - Growing Out Of 9 11	Ryan became a conspiracy theorist at age 15. He spent five years solidly down the 9/11 conspiracy rabbit hole, believing that the World Trade Center buildings were destroyed with pre-planted explosives. As he grew older he eventually encountered other conspiracy theories that he recognized as being not well-grounded in evidence. Questioning these theories led him to question his own beliefs about 9/11, and eventually to escape from the rabbit hole.	Transcript Link	
				We talk about the factors that led to his conspiracism, his experiences as a conspiracy theorist, and how he got out.		
				Podcast Episode https://www.tftrh.com/2020/08/29/episode-46-ryan-growing-out-of-9-11/		

2020 08 17	Mick West	https://youtu.be/Sgg4AsQch6g Did the FLIR1 UFO actually make sudden moves (Underwood Response)	<p>In an interview with Chad Underwood, the Navy pilot who filmed the "FLIR1" UFO video, Jeremy Corbell again asks the wrong questions, eliciting some correct answers (no the plane was not banking) that are irrelevant.</p> <p>But Chad Underwood also thinks that he did not lose lock on the target until the end, and also thinks that particular loss of lock was due to a motion of the object. This is something that HIS OWN VIDEO disproves, as you can quite clearly see lock being lost multiple times due to camera movements, with lock being reacquired in all instances except the last one. And in all those cases, it moves to the left.</p> <p>I have confirmed all this with an interview with an Avionics System Technician familiar with similar systems (transcript coming soon). However, you don't even need that. Just look at the video, and see where the bars widen.</p> <p>Corbell/Underwood video: https://youtu.be/xPXFcFyZma0?t=262</p>	Transcript Link
2020 08 17	Mick West	https://youtu.be/q3Oeat9eX0 What I mean by Glare (vs. Flare, vs. UFO)	<p>"Glare" and "Flare" mean different things in different contexts, and this confuses some people when they watch my explanations of the "Gimbal" UFO video. I think that's a "rotating glare". But what does that mean?</p> <p>By "glare" I mean the spread of light directly around a very bright light source.</p> <p>I don't mean lens flare. I don't mean reflections off glass or water. I don't mean the hazy "veiling" glare. I don't mean sensor spread.</p> <p>This glare, the spread of light around a bright source, also occurs in infrared camera systems. I think that's what we are seeing with the gimbal video. I think it's a glare that's obscuring the plane, and the rotation is actually an artifact from some rotation in the camera system.</p>	Transcript Link
2020 08 15	Mick West	https://youtu.be/5OVtSkhCdw A response to DOES THE GIMBAL UFO CRAFT SELF ROTATE (ATFLIR Tech)	<p>Jeremy Corbell released a video interviewing John Ehrhart, an electro-optics specialist who has done some work on the ATFLIR system. Corbell asks him about the "rotating glare" hypothesis of the GIMBAL video. Unfortunately, he presents it as just "could the derotation mechanism make something rotate", which is a bit of a simple strawman version of the hypothesis, ignoring what ACTUALLY makes the glare rotate (it's not the derotation). So Ehrhart quite correctly says that the "dero" would not do that.</p> <p>But the actual issue is if a rotation of something in the optical path could rotate the SHAPE of a glare relative to the horizon - which it could. And then the derotation levels the horizon, and the glare looks like it's rotating.</p> <p>Corbell's "DOES THE GIMBAL UFO CRAFT SELF ROTATE?" video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fefUZAGtCO4</p>	Transcript Link

2020 06 04 Mick West

https://youtu.be/5ekbk0aiX_U Can you burn Iron on a Wood Fire (9 11 related)

A couple of years ago I gave a talk on how there's lots of ways of making iron-rich microspheres, and hence the claim that finding them in building dust is evidence of explosives being used is pretty specious.

[Transcript Link](#)

Architects and Engineers for 9/11 Truth (who think that explosives were used on 9/11, and the iron-rich microspheres in the dust were evidence of that) finally issued a rebuttal. A good part of this was focussed on the experiments I did based on the old Robert Hooke experiments, friction sparks and burning small specks of iron.

Their objection was that I used a really hot flame (a candle, which can apparently melt steel) whereas the flames in the World Trade Center were cooler, and could not melt steel. Regardless of the temperature, this all misses something pretty fundamental. The steel is not being melted, it's being burnt, similar to how you can burn steel wool.

And we know this because the exact same thing happens with a flame from burning wood or paper as it does with a candle. The small pieces of iron combust well before they melt.

Metabunk thread: <https://www.metabunk.org/threads/ae911s-response-to-mick-wests-iron-microspheres-talk.11261/>

2020 05 30 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/5eaStZfEoIE> TFTRH #45 Brandon Fugal - The Owner of Skinwalker Ranch

Brandon Fugal is a prominent business leader based in Utah and is the current owner of the mysterious Skinwalker Ranch, which is the focus of a wide variety of reported strange phenomena, from supernatural visitors to cattle mutilations and UFOs. The ranch is now the subject of a History channel show: The Secret of Skinwalker Ranch. I've been doing a little debunking of a few of the claims in the show. We talk about how he discovered the ranch, why he bought it, what he's been doing with it. We also discuss some of the issues with the show - is it science or showmanship? Maybe a little of both.

[Transcript Link](#)

Podcast Web Page: <https://www.tftrh.com/2020/05/29/episode-45-brandon-fugal-the-owner-of-skinwalker-ranch/>

Apple Podcast: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-45-brandon-fugal-the-owner-of-skinwalker-ranch/id1462120258?i=1000476228836>

2020 05 15 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/gXlhhdGIWg> TFTRH #44 - Steven Hassan Cults and Conspiracies

Steven Hassan is an expert on cults. A former high ranking member of the Unification Church, aka the "Moonies", he's been helping people escape the rabbit hole since his own escape in 1976. Now he's a mental health professional who's the author of four books on cults and teaches at Harvard Medical School.

[Transcript Link](#)

We discuss cults, the intersection between cults and conspiracy theories, and his controversial new book: The Cult of Trump.

- Freedom of Mind: <https://freedomofmind.com/>
- Steven on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CultExpert>
- Steven on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/cultexpert/>
- Combating Cult Mind Control: <https://www.amazon.com/Combating-Cult-Mind-Control-Best-selling/dp/0967068827>
- The Cult of Trump: <https://www.amazon.com/Cult-Trump-Leading-Explains-President-ebook/dp/B07MGS7LZS/>

2020 05 08 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/Ncpggq41XRl> TFTRH #43 - Tim McMillan The Challenges of UFO Investigations

Investigating UFOs presents a number of challenges, many of which are not immediately obvious, but swiftly rear up to impede progress. There are straightforward issues, like military secrecy and people being afraid to talk because of ridicule. But there's also the issue of "UFOs" being things that are so far outside our common experiences that it's difficult to establish a shared baseline for conversations, leading often contentious and frustrating outcomes. Especially on Twitter.

[Transcript Link](#)

I talk to investigative Journalist Tim McMillan about these challenges, and in particular how they apply to the recent Navy UFO cases: FLIR, GIMBAL and GOFAST.

Notes:

- I talk about the 1910 form listing UAPs as drones, balloons, or aircraft. The actual verbiage is "UAV, Balloons, and other UAS". UAV (Unmanned aerial Vehicle) would be military style drones (planes). UAS probably refers to "Unmanned Aerial Systems" - encompassing civilian style drones (quadcopters)
- I said US Navy Spokesman said something similar, and was talking about airspace incursions. I was probably remembering the quote from NBC News <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/navy-confirms-videos-did-capture-ufo-sightings-it-calls-them-n1056201>

2020 05 03 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/U1di0Xla9RQ> Nimitz FLIR1 Tic-Tac UFO Video - No Sudden Moves!

It's claimed that the Nimitz FLIR video from 2004 shows an unusual flying craft performing a series of high-g maneuvers, culminating with it shooting off at an inhuman rate at the end of the video.

[Transcript Link](#)

But I think it actually shows an ordinary-seeming craft moving with a constant velocity, making no sudden moves.

To help demonstrate this I made a version of the video overlaid with a timecode and larger versions of relevant information in the display. I corrected the zoom indicator changes (between 1 times and 2 times) so they happen on the actual frame of the zoom change and not a few frames later as they do in the original. I added indicators when there's some kind of lens change or a gimbal adjustment, or other events that cause apparent motion.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pPN49cY_sF0

The number at the top shows the heading of the camera in degrees relative to the front of the plane. This goes from 4 degrees right, to 8 degrees left. The horizon indicator in the middle shows that the plane is not turning, so this means the object has an apparent angular movement to the left. The indicator gets a bit squirrely around zero, probably due to gimbal lock issues, but if we take the 7 degree of motion from the start of 1 degree left at 44:15 to the start of 8 degrees left at 1:12:27, that's 7 degrees in 29 seconds, 12 frames, or about 4.2 seconds per degree of leftward motion.

2020 04 27 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/Q7jcBGLIpus> Explained New Navy UFO Videos

Today the Navy officially released three videos of UFOs. They are called FLIR, GIMBAL and GOFAST. The internet immediately took this as meaning that aliens are real. But the videos are not actually new. They were internally declassified back in 2017, and immediately released by Tom DeLonge's To The Stars Academy. I started writing about them in December 2017. With the help of others, I quickly arrived at likely explanations for all three videos.

[Transcript Link](#)

The FLIR video is most likely a distant plane. The video was taken well after the famous encounter with a hypersonic zig-zagging tic-tac by pilots from the NIMITZ. This object doesn't actually move on screen - except when the camera moves, and it resembles an out of focus low-resolution backlit plane. I don't know what the pilots saw, but this video does not show anything really interesting.

The GIMBAL video is also probably of a plane. It's not rotating. What you see is the infrared glare of the engines, larger than the plane. It looks like it is rotating because of an artifact of the gimbal-mounted camera system. This is all a bit confusing, so I made several videos explaining it.

Oh, and the "AURA" around the plane, that's just image sharpening. It happens all the time in thermal camera footage. It's not an alien warp drive, it's just the unsharp mask filter.

The GO-FAST video probably shows a balloon. It's not moving fast, it's not skimming the water, and you can verify this yourself because all the information you need is in the numbers on screen. It's just an

2020 04 18	Mick West	https://youtu.be/rL-sG2kOgdI	TFTRH #42 - Flat Earth and Coronavirus	<p>Does a Flat Earther react to world events differently to other people? When you think the world is flat, then you think that the mainstream view of the world is very wrong. Does this carry over to other topics?</p> <p>I interview a Flat Earther who thinks she has good arguments for the Earth not being a spinning ball in space. She has some questions about Coronavirus but feels a little unable to get them answered, for a variety of reasons.</p>	Transcript Link
2020 04 11	Mick West	https://youtu.be/x79SlmMN15U	Internal Reflections at Skinwalker Ranch	<p>Skinwalker Ranch is the supposed location of various strange events. Unfortunately, when the History Channel went there to film them, nothing happened.</p> <p>So they were forced to cobble together a show around the banalest incidents. In this example, they make the common mistake of misidentifying a lens reflection as something mysterious.</p> <p>It's an understandable mistake for someone to make in the field if they have no experience with optics or your typical array of ghost and UFO images. But the fact that the producers left it in there, as if it was something significant, is rather telling about the level of actual evidence they have.</p>	Transcript Link
2020 04 08	Mick West	https://youtu.be/9e0SP53tCqw	Debunking Correlations Between 5G deployments and Coronavirus	<p>There's a false theory that there's some correlation between the location of deployments of 5G networks and outbreaks of the COVID-19 coronavirus, at that location.</p> <p>To demonstrate that this theory is false, I'm going to use the COVID-19 tracker on bing.com, and the Ookla 5g deployment map on speedtest.net. This will allow us to identify areas of high and low density for both 5G and COVID-19.</p> <p>Let's start at the starting point, Wuhan, in Hubei province in China. There's a huge difference between Hubei and the rest of China with Coronavirus. Is this reflected in 5G coverage? No, in fact, there's plenty of other provinces and cities with similar or higher deployments of 5G, and hardly any COVID-19. So no correlation there.</p> <p>Just over the ocean, there's South Korea. They have WAY more 5G deployments than China, and yet South Korea has been a Coronavirus success story, only 200 fatalities, and flattening curve. So no correlation there.</p> <p>Next people think about Italy, and then Spain, both countries having suffered terribly with over 17,000 deaths in Italy, 14,000 in Spain, and still growing rapidly after more than a month. Is there lots of 5G there?</p> <p>Let's have a look. There's a big concentration around here, 893, - but</p>	Transcript Link

2020 03 24	Mick West	https://youtu.be/f9lkspThboM	How To Geolocate and Identify a Typical Tic-Tac UFO	A common "UFO" type is a white blob, often longer than it is tall, slowly moving across the sky. Described as a "Tic-Tac" or "Cigar" shaped white object, what these things most frequently turn out to be are planes. At a high altitude or long distance away it's hard to make out details. The underside of the wings is not in sunlight like the fuselage, so they do not stand out.	Transcript Link
				<p>Here I go through the process of identifying one of these planes. You need to find three things:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Where is the video taken from? 2) When was the video taken exactly, and what's that in the UTC timezone used for tracking planes? 3) (Optional but useful) What direction is the camera pointing in? <p>With those three things in hand, it's a relatively simple matter of plugging then into FlightRadar24.com, and running a replay of the air traffic at the right time and place.</p> <p>In this case, I was able to easily identify the plane as Air Moldova Flight 834</p>	
2020 03 09	Mick West	https://youtu.be/g-uTulnQAm4	TFTRH #41 Johnny Orbital - Former Flat Earther	Johnny Orbital is a rare breed – a former genuine believer in the Flat Earth theory who is willing to talk about his experience. When I was writing my book Tales From the Rabbit Hole, I had to look far and wide for such a person. Even now, it's rare to find people who once were flat-earth believers and now are not.	Transcript Link
				<p>Johnny talks about how he got convinced of the Flat Earth, how he got out, and now, how (and why) he spends time helping people who are still down that particular rabbit hole.</p>	
2020 03 08	Mick West	https://youtu.be/XdNhfYe1gQ	Flat Earth and Refraction with Oil Platforms Hillhouse and Habitat	<p>Oil rigs off the coast of Santa Barbara give us some great opportunities to view the curve of the Earth. But they also provide great opportunities for refraction to confuse the issue. How do we know it's not just refraction on a flat earth that just LOOKS round? I've added the oil-rigs to my refraction simulator, so people can experiment with what refraction is capable of doing. Also to demonstrate that you can't actually make a Flat Earth look round with refraction.</p> <p>https://www.metabunk.org/refraction/?~(p~%27Platform*20Hillhouse*20and*20Habitat*20Oil*20Rigs*20*28CLEAR*20DAY*29)_</p> <p>Image Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OgA_7-bHvyo</p> <p>Related 3-hour discussion: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bcfEhoJ4doo</p> <p>See also Walter Bislin's simulation http://walter.bislins.ch/blodge/index.asp?page=Simulation+of+Atmospheric+Refraction&demo=OilPlatforms#App</p>	Transcript Link
2020 02 26	Mick West	https://youtu.be/msxp77Plp20	Ghost Doll Reflection - Mistakes Were Made	A reflection in this odd photo looked to some people to be a girl doll - which wasn't there! This prompted some to think it might be a ghost. I immediately figure out an explanation and posted it. But I was wrong.	Transcript Link

2020 02 22 Mick West <https://youtu.be/A7ZF2TEO61U> TFTRH #40 - Jeremy Rys Alien Science and 9 11 Conspiracy Theories Jeremy Rys has gone by “Alien Scientist” for over ten years. His primary interest is in independently researching exotic technology like anti-gravity and warp drives. Some people speculate that such technology exists and comes from visiting aliens. While Jeremy does not discount this theory, he thinks it’s more likely that if aliens were visiting us, they would not be leaving evidence. [Transcript Link](#)

Jeremy is also a long time member of the 9/11 Truth community and thinks that some explosives were used to destroy the World Trade Center, and the planes were probably flown into the towers by remote control. But he draws the line there and also spends some time in debunking the more extreme 9/11 conspiracy theories, and other things like chemtrails.

Worcester University release on WTC7 corroded metal. Metal removal via slag attack of the steel from building 7 of the world trade center—Some observations - <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1361/154770206X129006>
Alien Scientist - <http://www.alienscientist.com/>
Falcon Space - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqkHVDO55Lj4w-DTO762HhQ>
Hover Brothers - <http://hoverbrothers.com/>
Apple Podcast - <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-40-jeremy-rys-alien-science-9-11-conspiracy/id1462120258?i=1000466331659>
Podcast Web Page - <https://www.tftrh.com/2020/02/21/episode-40-jeremy-rys-alien-science-and-9-11-conspiracy-theories/>

2020 02 17 Mick West <https://youtu.be/V6A-Cw8jVBk> Crazy Contrails during LAX Ground Stop All traffic was stopped at LAX for a while, due to bad weather. This meant many of the planes heading for LAX had to fly in circles for a while. This led to some pretty crazy looking contrails, including some over my house - which were so big they were visible from space! [Transcript Link](#)

Resources:
- FlightRadar24, used to view flight history: <https://www.flightradar24.com/>
- RAMMB GOES-16 and 17 viewer of full-disc satellite images: <https://rammb-slider.cira.colostate.edu/?sat=goes-17>

2020 02 13	Mick West	https://youtu.be/8g6CXoMzaOs	TFTRH 39 – DJ Thermal Detonator 9 11 History and Change	DJ Thermal Detonator was heavily involved in the Los Angeles 9/11 Truth scene in the late 2000s. At that time, local activism centered around the We Are Change group. DJ attended meetings, helped out with a variety of things, and saw the shift of the organization into even more extreme theories, like Sandy Hook being faked, and chemtrails. He even helped Michael J. Murphy with his popular chemtrails film "What In The World Are They Spraying" in 2010.	Transcript Link
				But the Shift into these more unusual theories in part led to both the disintegration of the local group, and to a change in DJ himself. Once going as far as totally believing the Chemtrail theory, as well as most of the mid-level 9/11 theories (controlled demolition, no plane hitting the Pentagon,) he eventually realized that most of them were without any foundation.	
				Now he focusses mostly on the people behind 9/11, working on a book exploring a complex web of connections, money, and related events.	
				We chat about the early days of 9/11 activism in Los Angeles, how it changed, and what he's doing now.	
				DJ on Twitter: https://twitter.com/djthermald	
2020 02 09	Mick West	https://youtu.be/Kilu_Y1itJg	TFTRH 37 - Michael Alien and UFO Experiencer	Michael posts on Twitter as "UFO Today". For most of his life, he's had experiences that seem to him to be some kind of alien visitors. We talk about these, starting with his first experience of lost time when he fell off a slide. I compare them to some experiences I've had myself, which I don't think are due to aliens.	Transcript Link
				This is the first part of a two-part video, with the next episode focussing on Michael's experiences with the QAnon topic.	
2020 02 09	Mick West	https://youtu.be/iDMri7f2yZ4	TFTRH 38 - Michael Part 2 QAnon and Predictions	Part 1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kilu_Y1itJg In this second part of my chat with UFO experiencer Michael, we talk about his interest in the QAnon theory. He firmly believes we are on the verge of a storm of arrests of people currently running the "deep state". I try to narrow down what this means and arrive at some testable predictions we can check next year	Transcript Link

2020 01 22 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/8EbRv2xUinI> TFTRH #36 - Gary Voorhis Tic-Tac UFO Witness

Gary Voorhis was a computer technician on the USS Princeton during the 2004 "Tic-Tac" UFO incident (commonly referred to as the "Nimitz Incident" after the aircraft carrier heading the strike group.) Gary first saw "UFOs" as slow-moving radar targets on the ship's SPY-1B radar, which he helped maintain. He also saw lights in the direction of those targets. Initially, the radar targets were thought to be radar clutter (false targets) but after a couple of days, planes were sent out to take a look. Gary saw some video from that "interrogation" and remembers a longer and more impressive video than the one that was later leaked to the public. He thinks what he saw was some kind of advanced technology, possibly alien technology.

[Transcript Link](#)

I think a more likely explanation is some kind of series of radar glitch and unrelated visual observations of some sort – all possibly confused in memory by the passage of time. We discuss our different interpretations and try to figure out how to resolve them.

Gary is also the Vice President of UAP Expeditions, a non-profit organization set up by a group of former servicemen from the Nimitz Incident, along with other interested parties. The mission of UAP Expeditions is to provide a free public service field-testing UAP (UFO) related technologies. We chat briefly about that mission, and how they plan to return to the region of the original 2004 sighting to see if they can observe something again.

Podcast Web Page - <https://www.tftrh.com/2020/01/21/episode-36->

2020 01 18 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/SufzsmKXo8w> TFTRH #35 Mike Santangelo 9 11 Truth vs. B.S.

Mike is a member of the 9/11 Truth community. He thinks there might have been explosives used on 9/11 to cause the collapse of the World Trade Center buildings. He does NOT think that a cruise missile hit the Pentagon, and considers that, like some other common 9/11 beliefs, to be "B.S."

[Transcript Link](#)

We talk about how you decide what is B.S. and what is not. We also discuss the current state and possible future of the 9/11 Truth movement. We delve into the weeds of Mike's beliefs about the physics of the collapses, and I give him my take on those weeds.

Note: We were having connection issues so switched from Skype to Phone after a few minutes, so much of this video is a still image.

9/11 TAP (Truth Action Project) - <https://www.911tap.org/>

Dr T-Ruth article on Disinformation and infighting. -

<https://www.911tap.org/dr-t-ruth/1057-dr-t-ruth/762-mis-information-and-dis-information>

Purdue News: 1 Gallon of Gas = 83 sticks of Dynamite -

<https://www.purdue.edu/uns/html3month/1999/990604.Kingman.gasoline.html>

FBI's overview of their 9/11 Investigation -

<https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/911-investigation>

Podcast Web Page: <https://www.tftrh.com/2020/01/18/episode-35-mike-santangelo-9-11-truth-vs-b-s/>

Apple Podcast: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-35->

2020 01 11	Mick West	https://youtu.be/klnr7CzsuQc	TFTRH #034 Stian Arnesen Debunking, Censorship, 9 11, and UFOs	Stian is someone who has been quite deeply involved in the 9/11 Truth community and the UFO community. He also just read my book: Escaping the Rabbit Hole, and has a few questions for me about my approach to debunking. We also cover the slippery slope of internet censorship, the sometimes useful role of conspiracy promoters, how to find common ground, and what I think about the Tic-Tac UFO.	Transcript Link	
				<p>0:00:49 - Defining the Term "Debunked"</p> <p>0:08:27 - French Wikipedia's Misleading Metabunk References, and "teams"</p> <p>0:12:30 - I don't have a monolithic following</p> <p>0:13:41 - The term "conspiracy theorist" - a bad thing?</p> <p>0:21:05 - The "explosives theory" of 9/11, can we separate that from the "conspiracy theory"?</p> <p>0:23:25 - "Plausible" vs. "Probable"</p> <p>0:25:14 - "False Balance" in chemtrails and 9/11</p> <p>0:28:25 - Science by debate or by demonstration?</p> <p>0:34:28 - Who decides what is science, and what can be discussed or debated?</p> <p>0:36:05 - The "slippery slope" of content shaping, suppression, and censorship.</p> <p>0:37:43 - Violent extremism as a rationale for YouTube suppressing conspiracy theories.</p> <p>0:41:02 - Finding common ground with extremists, and the dangers of the marginalization of budding extremists</p> <p>0:43:05 - Is the censorship of Alex Jones, on balance, a net positive</p>		
2020 01 04	Mick West	https://youtu.be/FbdOITMdoiY	TFTRH #33 - Anthony Magnabosco Street Epistemology and Conspiracy Theories	Anthony Magnabosco is the most well-known practitioner of the craft of "Street Epistemology", which he defines as: "a dialog where you use questions to explore somebody's claim to see how they concluded that it's true." While commonly associated with atheism (the term comes from the book "A Manual for Creating Atheists" by Peter Boghossian) Street Epistemology can be used to explore any kind of belief. There's actually quite a bit of crossover with how to talk to conspiracy theorists.	Transcript Link	
				<p>Anthony and I discuss our mutual experiences with talking to people, how our approaches are similar, and how they differ. It's a fascinating conversation, and while we go for the full hour, we were actually cut short by a minor emergency, and I hope to continue in the future.</p>		
				<p>Podcast Web Page: https://www.tftrh.com/2020/01/03/episode-33-anthony-magnabosco-street-epistemology-and-conspiracy-theories/</p> <p>Apple Podcast: https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-33-anthony-magnabosco-street-epistemology-conspiracy/id1462120258?i=1000461512786</p>		
				<p>Cass Sunstein and Adrian Vermeule. "Conspiracy Theories" (Crippled Epistemology) - https://chicagounbound.uchicago.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1118&context=law_and_economics</p> <p>Phil Plait at TAM in 2010: Don't Be A Dick. - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrFRbGjUtJk</p>		

2019 12 29 Mick West <https://youtu.be/FI8Ek9Vwciw> TFTRH 32 - The Skeptic of the North Former Conspiracist, Current Skeptic Phil is a former conspiracy theorist in Northern Ireland who got into conspiracy theories aged 18, around 14 years ago. Going to university exposed him to a variety of people and to new ways of thinking, which over the course of a year gradually pulled him out of the rabbit hole. [Transcript Link](#)

Now Phil has started a YouTube channel as "The Skeptic of the North" to share some of his thoughts on the topic, and specifically on the conversational method of discussing epistemology — how people know what they think they know. We discuss this subject and our mutual experiences talking to conspiracy theorists.

Podcast Web Page: <https://www.tftrh.com/2019/12/28/episode-32-the-skeptic-of-the-north-former-conspiracist-current-skeptic/>
Skeptic of the North's YouTube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdXjtMizwBmqgCFvjaP3KPA>

2019 12 18 Mick West <https://youtu.be/IB6NWdBNjvw> TFTRH #31 Professor Elizabeth Loftus – Memory and Conspiracy Elizabeth Loftus is an expert on memory. A Distinguished Professor in several fields*, her work focusses on false memories, how they can be accidentally created and how they can be deliberately manipulated. We discuss many aspects of memory and how it sometimes relates to the world of conspiracy theories. We touch on UFOs, Chemtrails, 9/11, Jeffery Epstein, and the moral panics of the 1980s. [Transcript Link](#)

*In my introduction, I mangled together the various departments where Professor Loftus is a professor. The correct list is:

Psychological Science;
Criminology, Law and Society
Cognitive Science
Law

Links to topics discussed

Loftus' talk at TAM (The Amazing Meeting) 2014 -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TyFyUXvvUeE>

"Lost in the Mall" technique. -

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lost_in_the_mall_technique

Ted Talk with Bad Example of False Memory -

<https://www.metabunk.org/ted-talk-when-a-memory-expert-get-it-wrong.t780/>

Correlation of confidence and accuracy in recall (recent work) -

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2019.00703/full>

2019 12 14 Mick West <https://youtu.be/gg-xxf35PzY> TFTRH 30 Tom – 9 Tom has dabbled in a few conspiracy theories over the years, and still thinks there are some significant questions that have never been answered about why the World Trade Center buildings fell down the way they did on 9/11. We talk about how he came to believe what he does, how it has changed over the years, and what evidence it make take for him to feel the question is resolved. [Transcript Link](#)

Episode Web Page: <https://www.tftrh.com/2019/12/14/episode-30-tom-9-11-why-we-believe-and-change/>
Apple Podcast: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-30-tom-9-11-why-we-believe-and-change/id1462120258?i=1000459617222>

Judith Miller's Source - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judith_Miller#Refusal_to_disclose_source
Donahue's 2002 show - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donahue_\(2002_talk_show\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donahue_(2002_talk_show))
Report on Donahue being too anti-war - <https://web.archive.org/web/20030401140941/http://www.allyourtv.com/0203season/news/02252003donahue.html>
Hans Blix and WMDs - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hans_Blix#Iraq_disarmament_crisis_\(2002%E2%80%932003\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hans_Blix#Iraq_disarmament_crisis_(2002%E2%80%932003))
The Times and Iraq (2004) - <https://www.nytimes.com/2004/05/26/world/from-the-editors-the-times-and-iraq.html>

2019 11 08 Mick West <https://youtu.be/eju0mvJds8U> TFTRH #29 Geoff – Everything is a Hoax, The Earth Might Be Flat Geoff says that six years ago he was "as normal as everyone else," but when he was caught up in the manhunt for the Boston Marathon bomber (Dzhokhar Tsarnaev) he took an interest in the events and eventually came to believe it was all staged. This led him to research other topics and now he feels nearly everything we see is staged, and that the world is run by an organization of Freemasons, Jesuits, and the Vatican. He also thinks that the earth is not a globe and that it's possibly flat. [Transcript Link](#)

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev manhunt in Boston. - <https://www.bostonmagazine.com/news/2013/08/27/dzhokhar-tsarnaev-manhunt-photos/>
Robbie Parker's grief - (See section " Why aren't the adults sadder") - https://www.salon.com/2013/01/18/your_comprehensive_answer_to_every_sandy_hook_conspiracy_theory/
"LOL Guy" at Pulse Nightclub Shooting press conference. (Grins for 4 seconds of a 10-minute briefing) - <https://abcnews.go.com/US/video/police-approximately-20-killed-orlando-nightclub-pulse-shooting-39790608>
"I love you" sign language is actually closer to the "horns" hand sign (with the thumb extended) than the "WP" or "666" hand sign. - <https://www.dictionary.com/e/emoji/love-you-gesture-emoji/>

- 2019 11 08 Mick West <https://youtu.be/dRPh1CsvRI4> How I Read Twelve News Sites Simultaneously Tired of hopping between different news sites, I set up twelve of them all on one page. This gives a great instant overview of how the news of the day is being reported differently by different sites. [Transcript Link](#)
- <http://news.metabunk.org>
- This only works in Chrome and requires you to install the "Ignore X-Frame Headers" Chrome add-on:
<https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/ignore-x-frame-headers/gleekbfjekiniecknbkamfmkohkpodhe?hl=en-US>
- You can then edit the settings at:
<chrome://extensions/?id=gleekbfjekiniecknbkamfmkohkpodhe>
- You can simply allow site access to all sites, or add the sites manually if you are concerned about excessive permissions.
- www.nbcnews.com
www.cnn.com
www.bbc.com/news
www.npr.org/sections/news
www.nytimes.com
www.zeit.de/index
reuters.com
www.xinhuanet.com
www.foxnews.com
www.breitbart.com
- 2019 11 02 Mick West <https://youtu.be/Yk9C4XkCMD8> THTRH #28 Brian Dunning Skeptoid, Conspiracies Declassified, and Science Friction Brian Dunning is a prolific skeptical podcaster with his award-winning show "Skeptoid" coming up on its 700th episode. He's also a writer, with his most recent book Conspiracies Declassified: The Skeptoid Guide to the Truth Behind the Theories, explaining the facts behind 50 different conspiracy theories. He's also a documentary producer, currently working on Science Friction, a documentary about scientists who get misrepresented by the media. We discuss all these topics and more. [Transcript Link](#)
- Skeptoid Media - <https://skeptoid.com/>
Conspiracies Declassified (Amazon) - <https://amzn.to/339atyp>
Science Friction Documentary - <https://sciencefriction.tv/>
Flat Earth: The History of an Infamous Idea (Amazon) - <https://amzn.to/2WCXaE7>
- Podcast Web Site: <https://www.tftrh.com/2019/11/02/episode-28-brian-dunning-skeptoid-conspiracies-declassified-and-science-friction/>
Apple Podcast: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-28-brian-dunning-skeptoid-conspiracies-declassified/id1462120258?i=1000455768385>
- 2019 10 21 Mick West https://youtu.be/icLNtF_ehwo Shockwave Shadow and Refraction Spikes When I sat in the exit row of a plane from Sacramento to Denver. I saw what looked like a glitch in the matrix. A weird spike in the fabric of reality! Turns out it was refraction, the high-pressure shockwave over the wing was acting as a lens and distorting a bit of the image, as well as projecting sunlight in a streak on the wing. [Transcript Link](#)
- (The second leg was from Denver to New York)

2019 10 21 Mick West <https://youtu.be/xnhci9y-xOw> Duplicating an old Pendulum UFO Video The videos of Billy Meier are widely agreed to just be model, often suspended on strings. Some people still say they are real UFOs, because they can't figure out how to duplicate them. So I spent a few hours looking into it. Turns out it's not that hard. [Transcript Link](#)

The string has not been digitally removed, it's fishing line, and is invisible in the original footage, with this early morning light.

2019 10 10 Mick West <https://youtu.be/PvrHXOgRRMs> TFTRH #27 Michael Shermer Conspiracies and Conspiracy Theories — The Great Courses Dr Michael Shermer is founder of The Skeptics Society, and editor-in-chief of its magazine Skeptic. He's written several books on science and skepticism and his latest work is an audio-only 12-part course, for Audible and The Great Courses, called Conspiracies & Conspiracy Theories: What We Should and Shouldn't Believe—and Why. We cover the full spectrum of conspiracies, their history and context, their social and psychological causes and their very real effects. We discuss real and false conspiracies, and how to tell the difference. We then finish up with UFOs, the Intellectual Dark Web, and the Skeptical Movement. [Transcript Link](#)

Conspiracies & Conspiracy Theories can be found on Audible or via Amazon.

<https://www.audible.com/pd/Conspiracies-Conspiracy-Theories-Audiobook/B07XH3YSD7?>

<https://www.amazon.com/Conspiracies-Conspiracy-Theories-Shouldnt-Believe/dp/B07XH2H2TP>

Skeptic's Society and Magazine - <https://www.skeptic.com/>

Michael Shermer on Facebook -

<https://www.facebook.com/Michael.Brant.Shermer/>

Michael Shermer on Twitter - <https://twitter.com/michaelshermer>

Episode Web Page - <https://www.tftrh.com/2019/10/09/episode-27-michael-shermer-conspiracies-and-conspiracy-theories-the-great-courses/>

Apple Podcast - <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-27-michael-shermer-conspiracies->

2019 10 03 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/l1mpwyAsBwY>

TFTRH #26 UFO Jesus – Disclosure, the Nimitz Tic-Tac, and UFO Evidence

UFO Jesus is a popular advocate of UFO “disclosure”, the belief that the US Government is close to revealing that it knows that some UFOs actually are the result of alien visitors. We talk about this and our different interpretation of the evidence used to support this case. In particular, we focus on the 2004 case of the USS Nimitz, where, over several days, unexplained sightings and radar returns culminated in two fighter planes observing what one pilot, Commander David Fravor, described as a “white Tic-Tac shaped craft” performing impossible maneuvers. A later video was also taken, which I think shows a distant plane, and UFO fans think is this Tic-Tac. There are rumors of a higher-resolution longer video that shows more.

[Transcript Link](#)

UFO Jesus closes with six prophecies, and I’m a bit skeptical. But he gives a nice short timeframe of six years, so we’ll see.

UFO Jesus on Twitter @PostDisclosure -

<https://twitter.com/postdisclosure>

UFO Jesus on Youtube – Post Disclosure World -

<https://www.youtube.com/postdisclosureworld>

The USS Nimitz UFO Incident (Wikipedia) -

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Nimitz_UFO_incident

Accuracy of Memories of 9/11 -

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/911-memory-accuracy/>

Episode Website: <https://www.tftrh.com/2019/10/03/episode-26-ufo-jesus-disclosure-the-nimitz-tic-tac-and-ufo-evidence/>

2019 09 28 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/jutBcs2VFkl>

TFTRH #25 - Jason Bermas Producer of Loose Change, Shade, Invisible Empire

Jason Bermas is a producer, writer, and YouTuber, best known for conspiracy documentaries such as Loose Change, Fabled Enemies, Shade, and Invisible Empire. Loose Change was a seminal documentary for the 9/11 “Truth” movement, and I’ve often heard people cite it as a big part of why they got interested in the various 9/11 conspiracy theories.

[Transcript Link](#)

We talk about the topics in his films: 9/11, geopolitics and corruption, chemtrails, But we also talk quite a bit about UFOs, video games, and quantum computing.

I deeply disagree with a lot of Jason’s positions, particularly on 9/11 and his New World Order theories (and chemtrails, of course) but people can always find common ground. We both enjoyed playing Tony Hawk’s Pro Skater, we find quantum physics fascinating, and we both agree there’s lots of harmful corruption in the world. By having a civil discussion founded on that common ground we were able to advance our mutual understanding, and hopefully move everyone a bit closer to reality.

Jason Bermas on Twitter - <https://twitter.com/JasonBermas>

Jason’s Infowarrior YouTube Channel -

<https://www.youtube.com/infowarrior>

YouTube channel with Enhanced WTC Videos -

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtMf006J-WL-7r1T6guszjw>

Ron Insana’s recollections of Sept 12, mentioning WTC7 and

“Controlled Implosion” - <https://www.metabunk.org/debunked->

2019 09 27 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/k3iPZXrifso> TFTRH #24 Nick Pope – Area 51, UFOs and UFOlogy

Nick Pope is a journalist and media commentator who writes and talks a lot about the UFO phenomenon. He is perhaps best known for a role he undertook for the British Government from 1991 to 1994 which involved investigating reports of UFO sightings. We talk about his recent trip to view the storming of Area 51, his history of investigating UFO sighting, the current state of UFOlogy research and culture, and interaction with people on the internet

[Transcript Link](#)

Nick's web site: <http://www.nickpope.net/>

Nick on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/nickpopemod>

Nick on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nickpopeofficial>

Podcast Website: <https://www.tftrh.com/2019/09/26/episode-24-nick-pope-area-51-ufos-and-ufology/>

Apple Podcast: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-24-nick-pope-area-51-ufos-and-ufology/id1462120258?i=1000451387435>

2019 09 24 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/a-DadyW-LR4> More Serious (Technical) Problems with the Hulsey WTC7 Draft Report

This is a follow-up to "Some Problems with the UAF/Hulsey/AE911Truth WTC7 Draft Report" published on Sept 7th 2019. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7OClxCTdDw>

[Transcript Link](#)

In that video, I noted that Hulsey was using static analysis where he should have been using dynamic analysis and that his dynamic analysis was suspiciously simple.

It has since emerged that he has not actually done ANY real global dynamic analysis, despite several figures in the report being labeled as dynamic analysis - they are actually just simply box physics, set up to look like a particular result based on the static analysis.

The static analysis is also problematic in that it is linear, and the large deformations seen are non-linear.

But perhaps most seriously, there are TWO VERSIONS of the static analysis being presented - one in the report and one in the presentation. These were presented on the same day. The one shown by Hulsey shows a model that will not collapse, and requires the manual removal of columns to force a result. The one in the report is different and has no manual removal. So if they are using two very different models, which one is correct? How do we know EITHER of them is correct? What criteria is used to validate the model? Why is Hulsey using the manually adjusted model in his presentation? Why are there horrific glitches in the geometry in his final result diagram?

2019 09 23 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/gwWVlnhF1M> TFTRH #23 Ian TheoryQED UFOs, Government Cover-ups, and Alien Visitors.

Ian goes by the name TheoryQED on Metabunk and his YouTube Channel, where he posts about UFOs. Unlike me, and definitely unlike my last guest (Seth Shostak), Ian thinks there's something highly significant to the UFO phenomenon, maybe even alien visitors. Like most Americans, he also suspects the government is not telling us everything it knows.

[Transcript Link](#)

Some of our disagreements have been about three videos that have been in the news recently: "Go Fast", "Gimbal," and "Flir1". The latter is particularly interesting as there are a large number of eyewitnesses from the Nimitz Carrier strike group who report a variety of odd events and sightings surrounding that videos - like Commander Fravor's "Tic-Tac" incident.

We also have a nice chat about UFOs in general and the possibility (or probability) of visiting aliens.

Ian's Channel: TheoryQED:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCasXZDcPWqRMQNNjFor8TUQ>

Chilean Navy UFO (Solved): <https://www.metabunk.org/explained-chilean-navy-ufo-video-aerodynamic-contrails-flight-ib6830.t8306/>
Five Observable Characteristics of UFOs:

<https://www.history.com/news/ufo-sightings-speed-appearance-movement>

Plane flying towards me from Sacramento, as a UFO:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6e7cw4bYvM0>

2019 09 21 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/d5DjhbMZlOk> Orbs on Infrared Cameras Are Often Just Dust

Security cameras have bright infrared lights that are invisible to the naked eye. When a mote of dust drifts near the camera it shows up as a bright out-of-focus speck that looks like a mysterious orb that people think is a ghost or something similarly strange.

[Transcript Link](#)

Here I show a few examples and demonstrate how to replicate the effect by ripping a tissue in front of an infrared camera.

2019 09 14	Mick West	https://youtu.be/Wh8d6Esi268	TFTRH #22 Seth Shostak SETI Senior Astronomer ETs, UFO Disclosure Area 51	Seth Shostak is the Senior Astronomer for the SETI Institute and former Director of Center for SETI Research. A popular science communicator, Seth has hosted SETI's weekly radio show (and now podcast) Big Picture Science since 2002. We discuss the work of SETI, and some of the more interesting developments. We also talk about the UFO "Disclosure" conspiracy theory, which suggests the US government is covering up evidence of extraterrestrial encounters and is (perhaps) on the verge of disclosing this information. We also discuss the related cultural phenomenon, Storm Area 51.	Transcript Link
<p>0:56 - The evolution of SETI 2:13 - Astrobiology 3:37 - Fast Radio Bursts 6:20 - Would aliens even use radios? 7:57 - Storm Area 51 10:04 - The Femi Paradox 13:05 - Could Aliens Hear our TV signals? Probably can pick up Radar. 15:00 - The Drake Equation, does it predict UFOs? 17:00 - Is the Drake Equation useful? 18:40 - Can you make SETI-type observations of other Galaxies 19:45 - What's the closest star that's is interesting? 21:00 - Tabby's Star - Alien Megastructure, or dust clouds? 22:45 - Seth Shostak's interaction with the UFO community 24:00 - Types of mistakes that UFOlogists make. 24:20 - "Disclosure" - The US Government covering things up. 26:32 - To The Stars Academy</p>					
2019 09 10	Mick West	https://youtu.be/ezHc9x75808	TFTRH #21 Donald Friedman - After 9-11 An Engineer's Work at the World Trade Center	[Audio only] Donald Friedman, P.E., F.ASCE, is a professional engineer with more than 30 years of experience in the investigation, analysis, and restoration of landmark buildings. He has taught engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and Columbia University; he has spoken at numerous conferences including the fourth and fifth ASCE Forensics Conference; he is the author of After 9-11: An Engineer's Work at the World Trade Center, based on his work at the World Trade Center site, starting September 12, 2001.	Transcript Link
<p>We talked about his experience at the 9/11 WTC site, and how what he saw relates to the various conspiracies regarding the collapses of the World Trade Center Buildings. We specifically discuss the recent University of Alaska study that Professor Leroy Hulsey carried out for Architects and Engineers for 9/11 Truth. We close out with a discussion of how New York structural engineers view the 9/11 controlled demolition conspiracy theories</p>					
<p>Podcast Web Page: https://www.tftrh.com/2019/09/09/episode-21-donald-friedman-engineer-at-the-world-trade-center-after-9-11/ Apple Podcast https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-21-donald-friedman-engineer-at-world-trade/id1462120258?i=1000449210314</p>					

2019 09 08 Mick West <https://youtu.be/yZUVIXTKhS8> TFTRH #20 - JM Talboo Debunker of 9 11 Debunkers JM Talboo runs the web site <http://911debunkers.blogspot.com> subtitled "Debunking the Debunkers of the 9/11 Truth Movement". His focus is on debunking people like me, i.e. people who debunk 9/11 conspiracy theories. But he also debunks 9/11 Truthers when he sees them make mistakes, and recently added another subtitle to his blog: "Refuting the Hollow Arguments of the So-called 9/11 Debunkers & Truthers"

We talk about how he got into 9/11 Truth and blogging, how his beliefs have changed over time, and wander into the weeds of a variety of 9/11 related topics. We also venture further into the conspiracysphere, touching on JFK, Chemtrails, False Flags, and other topics.

JM's Source list: <https://911debunkers.blogspot.com/2019/09/mick-west-discusses-911-and.html>

Podcast web page: <https://www.tftrh.com/2019/09/08/episode-20-jm-talboo-debunker-of-9-11-debunkers/>
Apple Podcast: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-20-jm-talboo-debunker-of-9-11-debunkers/id1462120258?i=1000449022971>

Correction at 31:30 I say NIST used Abaqus for the local model, but they actually used ANSYS

[Transcript Link](#)

2019 09 07 Mick West <https://youtu.be/7OClxCTdDw> Some Problems with the UAF Hulsey AE911Truth WTC7 Draft Report On September 3, 2019, Architects and Engineers for 9/11 Truth finally released the report on the study that they had contracted Professor Leroy Hulsey to carry out. The claimed result of the report was what they had originally set out to demonstrate, that fire could not have caused the collapse of World Trade Center Building 7. However, there's a number of problems with the report that I think need to be clarified.

This video is simply my initial reaction to the report, and will undoubtedly be refined as I understand more and get input from other people. But I've read the report, I've watched the accompanying videos, and I've watched Professor Hulsey's presentation. So I wanted to get my initial thoughts out there to prompt some discussion, and hopefully some clarification from professor Hulsey and the AE911Truth team.

In brief, the five questions I have are:

- 1) Why does figure 4.16 not show dynamic analysis of the SAP2000 model?
- 2) What is the justification for static linear analysis in figure 4.14??
- 3) What is the animation in 4.24 derived from, because it looks like it was done by hand.
- 4) Why do you continue to confuse NIST's ANSYS model with their LS-DYNA model, as in Figure 2.5? (pages 29 and 30)

[Transcript Link](#)

2019 09 04 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/luplz1zMU7g>

NIST vs. Reality vs. Hulsey

More detailed analysis here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7OClixCTdDw>

[Transcript Link](#)

Modeling complex events is hard. Here's a comparison between the NIST simulation of the collapse of WTC7 (left), the actual collapse (center) and a new simulation from Professor Hulsey and his students at the University of Alaska. Notice how NIST is far more accurate in the initial phases of the collapse.

The penthouse on the left is the most obvious difference. With NIST (left) the penthouse folds inwards, the sides pivoting at their bases, this matches reality. With Hulsey (right) the East penthouse (on the left) performs a weird pivot, the base spreading outwards. Very different from reality.

Then when the longer west penthouse collapses, NIST and reality both show it deforming as it collapses. Hulsey's model just slides into the building with zero deformation.

Then when the exterior collapses the NIST model deforms far more than reality, but the Hulsey model hardly deforms at all. NIST also shows a huge amount of interior detail. Hulsey does not seem to show ANY damage, and only shows the top 2/3 of the building. More discussion here: <https://www.metabunk.org/sept-3-2019-release-of-hulseys-wtc7-draft-report.t10890/>

2019 09 01 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/dYSvV4nrYKE>

TFTRH #19 Mike Rothschild
Decline of QAnon, Death of Epstein, and other Conspiracies.

Mike Rothschild is a writer who is an expert on a variety of conspiracy theories, in particular QAnon. We discuss the drawn-out decline of the QAnon theory, prosperity scams, and the theories around the death of the Jeffery Epstein. We also discuss Mikes upcoming book, The World's Worst Conspiracies.

[Transcript Link](#)

Podcast Website: <https://www.tftrh.com/2019/08/31/episode-19-mike-rothschild-decline-of-qanon-death-of-epstein-and-other-conspiracies/>

Apple Podcast: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-19-mike-rothschild-decline-qanon-death-epstein/id1462120258?i=1000448266542>

Spotify:

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/4axhpwDWIiPzFBNZWkeyr7>

Feed: <https://www.tftrh.com/feed/podcast/>

Mike on Twitter: @rothschildmd - <https://twitter.com/rothschildmd>

QAnon (Wikipedia) - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/QAnon>

Comey not getting prosecuted -

<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/justice-department/department-justice-declines-prosecute-comey-over-leaked-memos-n1047706>

Iraqi Dinar Scam - <https://www.cnbc.com/2015/01/15/inside-a-24-million-investment-scam-buy-the-iraqi-dinar.html>

Hyoid Bone Fractures with suicide and age. -

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20973326>

Clinton Body Count (Snopes) - <https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/clinton-body-bags/>

2019 08 25 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/vM7tC4RfC-k>

TFTRH 18 - Paradigm Shift – A Student With Questions about 9 11 and the Possibility of Explosives

“Paradigm Shift” is the name used by a poster on Metabunk. Paradigm Shift had made many posts about 9/11, and the need, as he sees it, for a new investigation to look into the possibility of explosives being used to bring down the twin towers. Online discussions can be slow-moving and fractious, so I asked him to come on the podcast for a more detailed and direct conversation about what we believe, and why we believe it.

[Transcript Link](#)

Plane Crash into Empire State Building - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4i_uH49B08
NIST Reports of 2005 (WTC1 & WTC2) and 2008 (WTC7) - <https://www.nist.gov/engineering-laboratory/final-reports-nist-world-trade-center-disaster-investigation>
Video of WTC7 Fires - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XW7CACDE-oU>
Windsor Tower Fire and Partial Collapse - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eKvgD9Nyl4>
Mick West Debating Tony Szamboti - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u1CZmtR8gno>
Operation Paperclip (German Scientists Recruited Post WWII) - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Paperclip
Operation Mockingbird (CIA’s infiltration of the Media from the 1950s to 1970s) - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Mockingbird

2019 08 10 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/Fd4Nxl3-v0I>

TFTRH #17 Willie - Rabbit Hole Escapee (ETRH - Preface)

Willie was one of the first people that I interviewed for my book Escaping The Rabbit Hole. He's a former believer in theories from 9/11 being an "inside job", to chemtrails. His story forms the preface to ETRH, and sets the tone for the whole book. No matter how deep you are down the rabbit hole, or how long you've been down there, there's always the possibility of escape.

[Transcript Link](#)

We had this follow-up chat 2-years to the day after the first one and discuss his story, lesson learned, and what has changed since then.

Ballast Barrels in Planes - <https://www.metabunk.org/debunked-chemtrail-plane-interior-ballast-barrels.t661/>
Ip Man quote "Greet what arrives..." - <https://www.azquotes.com/quote/858658>
Penn Jillette on Skepticism vs. Cynicism - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WIWzu4tkdOg>
The "Illusion of Understanding" (and being able to explain things) - <https://meaningness.com/understanding>
Paper: The Illusions of Explanatory Depth, Rozenblit and Keil - <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3062901/>
High Bypass Jet Engines - <https://www.metabunk.org/debunked-high-bypass-turbofans-do-not-make-contrails-actually-they-make-more.t3187/>
The "Gettier problem" of knowledge defined as Justified True Beliefs

2019 08 04 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/XXvrJH MpVYg> TFTRH 16 Adam Taylor – Retired 9 11 Truth Activist

Adam Taylor was very active in the 9/11 truth movement for ten years from 2007 to 2017. He’s still very much in favor of a new investigation and thinks there are many unanswered questions about the events of 9/11. But he no longer spends time advocating, and instead is focusing on living a normal life. We talk about how he got into 9/11 “truth” activism, why he eventually retired from the movement, the role of debunkers, and his thoughts on the “truth” movement as a whole

[Transcript Link](#)

Podcast Web Page - <https://www.tftrh.com/2019/08/04/episode-16-adam-taylor-retired-9-11-truth-activist/>

Apple Podcast - <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-16-adam-taylor-retired-9-11-truth-activist/id1462120258?i=1000446120527>

Adam Taylor’s Blog and Essay - <https://adamtaylor42.blogspot.com/Active-Thermitic-Material-Paper-by-Jones->

<https://benthamopen.com/contents/pdf/TOCPJ/TOCPJ-2-7.pdf>

Preliminary Response by Millette -

<https://www.metabunk.org/attachments/millette-progress-report-on-the-analysis-of-red-gray-chips-in-wtc-dust-pdf.37907/>

Third Study that did not happen - <https://archive.fo/fmIVH>

NIST’s reports on The World Trade Center -

<https://www.nist.gov/engineering-laboratory/final-reports-nist-world-trade-center-disaster-investigation>

AE911Truth and The University of Alaska Study on WTC7 -

<http://www.wtc7evaluation.org/>

2019 07 29 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/MBnnc LwSMNg> TFTRH #15 Brad – Mathematics vs. Conspiracy Theories

Brad is an electrical engineer and an expert in mathematics. He also likes to consider that an idea might be true before rejecting it, no matter how extreme. This led him very briefly down the rabbit hole of checking to see if the earth was actually round like a ball, or might it possibly be flat. His strong grounding in mathematics very quickly put an end to that – but what about the people who don’t really understand the math? Is there hope for “flat earthers” who don’t really understand geometry?

[Transcript Link](#)

Zermelo–Fraenkel Set Theory Axioms

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zermelo%E2%80%93Fraenkel_set_theory

Kahn Academy <https://www.khanacademy.org/>

Discord <https://discordapp.com/>

Bobs Burger “Pecking Order”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=amsG_6u16JQ

Euclid’s Five Postulates

<https://mathcs.clarku.edu/~djoyce/java/elements/bookI/bookI.html#posts>

Euclidia App (lots of fun!) <https://www.euclidea.xyz/>

2019 07 21	Mick West	https://youtu.be/Fzylq9FhwoE	TFTRH #14 Rory – Flat Earth Debunking and Spiritual Journeys	Rory has an extensive series of videos on YouTube debunking Flat Earth, focusing on simple ways of demonstrating that there's a curve. But he's also got a very interesting life story as a traveler, both around the world and in a spiritual sense. This exploration has eventually given him a great perspective on why people believe in things when the evidence is against them, but at times led him to entertain a number of conspiracy theories and other esoteric beliefs. He's still a little esoteric, but as he's got older he's become a bit more grounded. We talk about his journey from "bliss ninny" to "pain-in-the ass debunker"	Transcript Link
				<p>Rory's Essay: "My Brief Flirtation with the Rabbit Hole" https://www.metabunk.org/my-brief-flirtation-with-the-rabbit-hole.t10185/ Rory on Youtube - https://www.youtube.com/user/rubsley/playlists</p>	
2019 07 14	Mick West	https://youtu.be/LVAXh39hlog	TFTRH #13 Professor David Keith – Geoengineering Research and the Chemtrails Conspiracy Theory	David Keith is Gordon McKay Professor of Applied Physics and Professor of Public Policy at Harvard University. He is also executive chairman of Carbon Engineering. Because he's a well-known expert in the largely theoretical field of geoengineering (deliberately modifying the Earth's climate) he has become an often demonized target for conspiracy theorists who think that the climate is actually being secretly modified using "chemtrails."	Transcript Link
				<p>At 31:15 we discuss the actual state of Geoengineering research (just starting to do very small scale tests), the plausibility of doing it secretly (almost none), and Professor Keith's experiences with the chemtrail theorists over the last decade.</p>	
				<p>The Keith Group at Harvard University - https://keith.seas.harvard.edu/ Carbon Engineering - https://carbonengineering.com/ David Keith on Twitter - https://twitter.com/DKeithClimate</p>	
				<p>Podcast Web Page: https://www.tftrh.com/2019/07/13/episode-13-professor-david-keith-geoengineering-research-and-the-chemtrails-conspiracy-theory/ Apple Podcast: https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-13-professor-david-keith-geoengineering-research/id1462120258?i=1000444395750</p>	
2019 07 12	Mick West	https://youtu.be/ka_bX9Hx1H0	Gimbal UFO Why Does the Glare Rotate When the Horizon Does Not	<p>With the explanation of the Gimbal "UFO" as a rotating glare where the rotation is caused by the camera rotating, a frequent question is why does the glare rotate when the horizon is not rotating? This is quite a reasonable question - after all, if the camera was rotating, you would expect the entire scene to rotate. But instead, only the glare is rotating.</p> <p>The answer is not that complicated but does require a little effort to follow. The rotation is UNWANTED rotation caused by the gimbal mounting. As explained in the ATFLIR patent, there a "derotation" mechanism that removes this rotation.</p> <p>That stops the horizon from rotating, but because the shape of the glare is a function of the camera, the glare still rotates.</p> <p>In this video, I show how you can demonstrate this for yourself.</p>	Transcript Link

2019 07 06 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/yK2B09z-2UU> TFTRH #12 Paul - Escape from Planet X

Paul is a former promoter of the Planet X conspiracy theory, which is also known as the Nibiru cataclysm. Planet X (or Nibiru) is a supposed rogue planet that some people claim they can observe near the sun. Supposedly the existence of this planet is being covered up by the government because it's about to cause the end of the world. There's a wide variety of versions of this theory. [Transcript Link](#)

Paul discovered the Planet X theory back in 2013 and became very interested in it. He started posting lots of YouTube videos promoting the theory and warning of the impending apocalypse. He teamed up with two other people, and they created lots of YouTube content as a team. For a long time, he simply ignored all attempts by "debunkers" to explain things to him, but eventually he recognized that the weight of the evidence was against him. This realization came about in large part due to the efforts of one debunker who posts on YouTube and Facebook as "Dazza the Cameraman." Dazza would patiently and politely explain things to Paul.

Paul eventually lost his belief in Planet X and split with his YouTube partners, who immediately branded him a traitor, all of which was very difficult for him. He's now moving on with his life and leaving conspiracy theories behind, but he contacted me because he wanted his story to be told.

"Paul" is not his real name, his voice is altered, and he does not appear in the YouTube version. While anonymity is difficult to keep on the internet, Paul did not want any more footage of himself out

2019 07 06 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/u4hQTFVU8wE> Go Fast UFO Raw Footage

This is an upload of the raw footage that was claimed to be cleared by the military. It was briefly publicly available on Chris Mellon's web site. While it is lower resolution than later releases, this is still the best quality, as the later releases are just scaled and re-encoded version of this file. [Transcript Link](#)

The Youtube version is provided for easy reference, but it has also been re-encoded. Detailed analysis should only be done on the raw file, linked below.

Original Files:

Nimitz/Flir1 https://www.metabunk.org/attachments/flir1_981-mp4.37653/

Gimbal - https://www.metabunk.org/attachments/gimble_vid-_492-mp4.37654/

Go Fast - https://www.metabunk.org/attachments/gofast-_737-mp4.37655/

Discussion Threads:

Nimitz/Tic-Tac <https://www.metabunk.org/2004-uss-nimitz-tic-tac-ufo-flir-footage-flir1.t9190/>

Gimbal: <https://www.metabunk.org/nyt-gimbal-video-of-u-s-navy-jet-encounter-with-unknown-object.t9333/>

<https://www.metabunk.org/go-fast-footage-from-tom-delonges-to-the-stars-academy-bird-balloon.t9569/>

2019 07 06 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/oCt837R2Sbs> Gimbal UFO Raw Footage

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Gimbal - https://www.metabunk.org/attachments/gimble_vid-_492-mp4.37654/

Go Fast - https://www.metabunk.org/attachments/gofast-_737-mp4.37655/

Discussion Threads:

Nimitz/Tic-Tac <https://www.metabunk.org/2004-uss-nimitz-tic-tac-ufo-flir-footage-flir1.t9190/>

Gimbal: <https://www.metabunk.org/nyt-gimbal-video-of-u-s-navy-jet-encounter-with-unknown-object.t9333/>

Go Fast: <https://www.metabunk.org/go-fast-footage-from-tom-delonges-to-the-stars-academy-bird-balloon.t9569/>

2019 07 06 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/nd7K5LafDF8> Nimitz Tic-Tac Flir1 UFO Raw Footage

This is an upload of the raw footage that was claimed to be cleared by the military. It was briefly publicly available on Chris Mellon's web site. While it is lower resolution than later releases, this is still the best quality, as the later releases are just scaled and re-encoded version of this file. [Transcript Link](#)

The Youtube version is provided for easy reference, but it has also been re-encoded. Detailed analysis should only be done on the raw file, linked below.

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Gimbal - https://www.metabunk.org/attachments/gimble_vid-_492-mp4.37654/

Go Fast - https://www.metabunk.org/attachments/gofast-_737-mp4.37655/

Discussion Threads:

Nimitz/Tic-Tac <https://www.metabunk.org/2004-uss-nimitz-tic-tac-ufo-flir-footage-flir1.t9190/>

Gimbal: <https://www.metabunk.org/nyt-gimbal-video-of-u-s-navy-jet-encounter-with-unknown-object.t9333/>

<https://www.metabunk.org/go-fast-footage-from-tom-delonges-to-the-stars-academy-bird-balloon.t9569/>

2019 07 01 Mick West <https://youtu.be/4Btms91W5J8> Gimbal UFO New Footage Proves Glare Rotation Is the Gimbal UFO actually rotating? It looks like it is, but it also looks like a rotating glare. I just found there was a higher quality version of the Gimbal UFO video on the New York Times site. I downloaded it and used it to pull out details in the background that show conclusively that something in the camera system is rotating, and that this rotation exactly matches the rotation of the "UFO". Hence, this proves the rotating flying saucer is just an optically rotating glare off something hot, like a jet engine. [Transcript](#) [Link](#)

Higher Quality footage used here :

https://vp.nyt.com/video/2019/05/24/80888_1_24vid-UFO_wg_hd_synd.mov

UPDATE: HQ Gimbal footage without the dark lower half:

https://vp.nyt.com/video/2017/12/15/75000_1_16_ufo-vid-2_wg_hd_synd.mov

The contrast enhancements were done in Photoshop

The lower contrast change was a Brightness/Contrast adjustment layer with

Brightness +25

Contrast +82

The more dramatic one used the camera raw filter (convert video layer to smart object first)

Exposure +1.15

Whites +34

Blacks -26

2019 06 30 Mick West <https://youtu.be/RPgDVhKVuRs> TFTRH #11 Jim Lee – Chemtrails, Geoengineering, Conspiracies, and Semantics Jim Lee used to be a fairly hardcore conspiracy theorist, deep into things like Chemtrails and doomsday comets. Now he's less deep down the rabbit hole, but has managed to create one of his own. He's convinced there's something going on involving chemicals in the air or modifying contrails. Not exactly chemtrails, but still something nefarious. He spends a lot of time researching what it might be. He's also concerned about the effects of potential future geoengineering, pollution, and nuclear leaks, and his large website Climate Viewer, is where he educates people on those issues, and other things he finds important. [Transcript](#) [Link](#)

Unfortunately a lot of people in the chemtrail community think of him as a supporter of the conventional chemtrail conspiracy theory, even though he thinks that's implausible, and prefers his own version. He still uses the language of "chemtrails", even though he will qualify it later in the article. I think he's wrong about a secret geoengineering plot, but even if he was not, I think he's not helping with pandering to the hardcore chemtrail folk.

We discuss all those things.

Jim's web site: <https://climateviewer.com/>

2019 06 29 Mick West <https://youtu.be/s1oTg0kxZDs> Is the Nimitz UFO Video Just a Plane
The Nimitz video has become a cornerstone of the idea that there are strange crafts using advanced technology flying around the skies. Here I put forward the case that it might be something much simple — just a regular plane, blurred and low resolution. [Transcript Link](#)

Metabunk Nimitz thread: <https://www.metabunk.org/2004-uss-nimitz-tic-tac-ufo-flir-footage-flir1.t9190/>
Metabunk Gimbal thread: <https://www.metabunk.org/nyt-gimbal-video-of-u-s-navy-jet-encounter-with-unknown-object.t9333/>
Metabunk Chilean Nay case: <https://www.metabunk.org/explained-chilean-navy-ufo-video-aerodynamic-contrails-flight-ib6830.t8306/>
Metabunk Go Fast thread: <https://www.metabunk.org/go-fast-footage-from-tom-delonges-to-the-stars-academy-bird-balloon.t9569/>

2019 06 26 Mick West <https://youtu.be/4X1PRDbtiFO> Explained Gimbal UFO rotation caused by ...a Gimbal!
The Gimbal UFO video seems to show a rotating flying saucer. However, the shape really just looks like the IR glare of a distant jet engine. But why is it rotating? The reason seems to be to do with the ATFLIR camera system which is mounted in a way that restricts rotation and forces the field of view to rotate when tracking left to right. This is then "derotated" internally. But this rotation of the optical system causes optical effects, forcing the shape of the glare to rotate when the horizon does not. This rotation problem gets far worse at very shallow angles, so it's particularly noticeable in the Gimbal case as that's just 2° down. The fact that the artifact is caused by the camera's gimbal system is probably why the military called the video "Gimbal" [Transcript Link](#)

2019 06 26 Mick West <https://youtu.be/r119JWl04Ls> Explained The Gimbal UFO's Glow Aura is Just Image Sharpening
The white glow that appears around black-hot "UFO" objects in thermal camera footage has puzzled some experts. But it turns out it's not that uncommon. It's just to do with the way the camera boosts the contrast gradients to highlight edges. [Transcript Link](#)

So it's not actually evidence of alien warp drive technology.

[CORRECTION] In the video I say the halo effect is a result of applying an optional unsharp mask. In some thermal cameras (particularly older cameras with a BST array), this effect is not optional and is actually a side-effect of the technology used (a rotating "chopper" disk modulates the incoming radiation, and the combined effect is essentially something that incorporates an unsharp mask)
I suspect that the FLIR video, being from 2004, would be more likely to use a BST array. The Gimbal video here is newer. But I'm not sure about the sensors used in either case. Thanks to @MrVipitis for pointing this out.

Sources of Thermal Camera Footage

- Dog and Man (inverted, added Unsharp Mark): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4uwwpE-l3ho>
- Girl Dancing, Man in Parking Lot, (inverted): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kW3lkRmY2iA>
- Two Jets flying together (unchanged) : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jWjpnCKcj8M>

2019 06 24	Mick West	https://youtu.be/sF9we7rMhWA	TFTRH #10 Jen Senko Director of The Brainwashing of my Dad	Jen Senko is the director of the documentary film The Brainwashing of my Dad, released in 2016. The film tells the story of how her father had a drastic change in personality after slowly getting sucked into a rabbit hole of conservative talk radio. This was very interesting to me, not simply for the whole rabbit-hole aspect, but also because partisan media often traffics in conspiracy theories (like Obama being a Muslim.) Jen does a great job of examining the history of right wing media, going back to Goldwater, Nixon, and Roger Ailes.	Transcript Link
				While her perspective might seem too left-wing for many people, I encourage you to give it a go. It features several people who tell their own stories – some about their friends and relatives, and some who were sucked in themselves, and eventually escaped.	
				The last third of the documentary covers the tactics of disinformation used by partisan media, which should be of interest regardless of your politics.	
				The Brainwashing of my Dad is available on most major streaming services and on DVD. http://www.thebrainwashingofmydad.com/	
				Podcast Web: https://www.tftrh.com/2019/06/23/episode-10-jen-senko-director-of-the-brainwashing-of-my-dad/ Apple Podcasts: https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-10-jen-senko-director-of-the-brainwashing-of-my-dad/id1462120258?i=1000442496199	
2019 06 23	Mick West	https://youtu.be/PLYEO0jNt6M	Explained Go Fast UFO Video - Not Low and Not Fast - Like a Balloon!	The "Go Fast" UFO looks like it's going really fast, but a simple analysis of the data available in the video shows that it is not. So, the History Channel's "Unidentified" show was wrong and "To the Stars Academy" was wrong. Not only that, but they are either the worst 3D analysts in the world, or they knew it was wrong a year ago and just kept going with it because it's more interesting that way.	Transcript Link
				Metabunk "Go Fast" analysis thread: https://www.metabunk.org/go-fast-footage-from-tom-delonges-to-the-stars-academy-balloon.t9569/ "Not So Fast" video, explaining the parallax illusion in depth. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YYqVa59VRRc 3D recreation with a NON-MOVING object, demonstrating the extent of parallax. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j1O4iBke2vo	
				Nimitz/FLIR analysis: https://www.metabunk.org/2004-uss-nimitz-tic-tac-ufo-flir-footage-flir1.t9190/ Gimbal analysis: https://www.metabunk.org/nyt-gimbal-video-of-u-s-navy-jet-encounter-with-unknown-object.t9333/	

2019 06 18 Mick West <https://youtu.be/kW6c2eUGpsM> TFTRH #9 Joe – Former Chemtrail Conspiracist, Current New World Order Conspiracist Joe is someone I've known online for nearly ten years, back when he was a believer in the chemtrails conspiracy theory. Over a few years, I managed to talk him out of that one. He's dabbled in a few other conspiracy theories since then, like JFK, 9/11, and Birtherism (Obama being supposedly born in Kenya), but didn't really think they had much to them. [Transcript Link](#)

Joe is politically right wing, a Tea Party Republican who expressed some support for the Oregon militia standoff of 2016, and is very critical of what he sees as left-wing media bias regarding social issues like race and immigration. The conspiracy he currently thinks is real is that leftists and globalists like George Soros, combined with a "Deep State", are attempting to use those social issues to manipulate society towards open borders and a one world government. This is not a fringe view, and variations of this belief are actually shared by a significant number of people.

Joe joking referred to himself as a "deplorable", a term used by Hillary Clinton to refer to Trump supporters, and then adopted by those supporters as a badge of their perceived oppression by the liberal establishment. To a liberal like myself, Joe's positions do seem rather disappointing and I disagree with most of his political and social beliefs. But, just like with the more extreme or eccentric conspiracy theorists, I think it's important to keep the channels of communication open.

Podcast page: <https://www.tftrh.com/2019/06/17/episode-9-joe->

2019 06 11 Mick West <https://youtu.be/-flmkPyQIs0> TFTRH #8 Sasha Chatting with a Flat Earther I met Sasha at the Flat Earth conference a couple of weeks ago. During the debate she asked an interesting question about the moment that made us commit to the Earth being flat (or, in my case, a globe). Afterwards she approached me and asked a few more questions, and we ended up talking for quite a while. I found her fascinating, as she was a very nice, normal seeming, intelligent person. She's certainly not stupid, and does not seem to be crazy, and yet she thinks there's a good chance that the Earth actually is Flat. I tried explaining a few things to her, particularly the fact that distant mountains seem to be hidden behind the horizon just like the Globe model predicts. She didn't think this was good evidence though, as there seemed to her to exist other possible explanations, like "perspective" hiding the bottom of the mountain. So was frustrated and intrigued. I invited her on my Podcast, and we have a fascinating conversation, where I again fail to get my explanation across, and she quite eloquently speaks about the need for both questioning of assumptions, and communication between diverse groups. [Transcript Link](#)

Podcast Page: <https://www.tftrh.com/2019/06/11/episode-8-sasha-chatting-with-a-flat-earther/>

Apple Podcast: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-8-sasha-chatting-with-a-flat-earther/id1462120258?i=1000441149520>

2019 06 01 Mick West <https://youtu.be/3GQY7EVbHp8> TFTRH #7 - Flat Earth Exit the Matrix Expo [Transcript Link](#)

In this episode, I report back from my trip to the "Exit the Matrix" Flat Earth Expo in Las Vegas, where I gave a talk, had a debate, and talked to a lot of Flat Earth believers.

It was an experience that was unusual, revealing, and entertaining. The flat Earth folk were, on the whole, very nice and fun to talk to. I came away with the sense that their lack of understanding was very genuine, that they were in many cases not trolling. I also found that communication was possible. Of course, they are very resistant, and individuals vary, but people were not automatically rejecting what I said. I didn't convert anyone that I know of, but I think I at least made them think about a few things. I will follow up with the people I met, and hope to have some on future podcasts.

Note: at 3:30 I mention that "IPS" uses the name "Tim Osman" the same as the person I interviewed last week. This is not the same person, just the same name (ironic use of the name of a CIA agent who supposedly pretended to be Osama bin Laden).

Podcast: <https://www.tftrh.com/2019/06/01/episode-7-flat-earth-exit-the-matrix-expo/>

iTunes: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-7-flat-earth-exit-the-matrix-expo/id1462120258?i=1000440308743>

2019 05 29 Mick West <https://youtu.be/gfM4crQtTsg> TFTRH #6 Tim Osman, Debunker and Conspiracist [Transcript Link](#)

I first became aware of "Tim Osman" from his work debunking the Flat Earth theory. He's done some amazing work there with highly visual demonstrations of the curve of the Earth using drone footage. But when I asked if I could use some of that footage he declined, and later berated me on his channel. It turned out he did not like my debunking 9/11 conspiracy theories, because he is a 9/11 conspiracy theorist (although he disputes the term.)

I asked him for an interview, and he agreed, with no video, and with him live-streaming it to his channel. It starts out a bit adversarial and the first half is largely him grilling me about my beliefs. But we eventually agree on a little common ground, which is always a great first step in genuine communication.

Tim's Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKatLuiGyZv4txRBRwonpgg>

Tim's version of the talk, with extra commentary from him at

1:17:10 https://youtu.be/TMPSadKv_I4?t=4630

Tim debunking Flat Earth: <https://youtu.be/OJVcqDQmlvs>

Podcast version: <https://www.tftrh.com/2019/05/28/episode-6-tim-osman-debunker-and-conspiracist/>

iTunes: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-6-tim-osman-debunker-and-conspiracist/id1462120258?i=1000440016953>

2019 05 28 Mick West <https://youtu.be/gluJ2vAnNaw> Catalina Island Being Obscured by the Curve, from Huntington Beach

While I was attending a Flat Earth convention I was given five photos of Catalina Island taken from Huntington Beach, about 32 miles away. The photographer (Nathan Gonzales) asked me to explain what he was seeing, so when I got back I made this video. The photos show about what is expected, around 400 to 500 feet of the island is hidden behind the curve of the Earth.

Nathan used a full-spectrum Nikon P900, which improves the contrast. But I'd recommend adding a 760nm filter for similar photos, as the results are much clearer

Here's the Google Earth setup I used in the video.
<https://www.metabunk.org/f/Nathan%20G.%20Catalina%20from%20Huntington%20Beach.kmz>

Nathan's Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvD6H9axq8F0Mn4wLjUhyw>

[Transcript Link](#)

2019 05 22 Mick West <https://youtu.be/SoGcMwlar14> Response to Dr. John Accusing me of Faking an Image

I was accused of manipulating an image by YouTuber "Dr. John D", and his accusations are false. I don't normally get into tit-for-tat video discussions, but here there's a potential for confusion if I don't address it, and potential for increasing understanding if I do. Basically, John did not realize you can zoom in to as much as 1° FOV (2000+mm) in Google Earth. So he moved the camera instead. The result was a very different image, and so he assumed I'd faked mine somehow, maybe with increasing the terrain height. In fact, the image is just a zoomed in image using the Photo trick in Google Earth

Dr. John's Accusation:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7uxoImpTJ5U>
His Original video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6VqCWgkCm5A>
My video critiquing him, which is where he says I faked the image of the cliff, which I did not.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9fJBrCs6VXM>
Google Earth file of my zoomed-in image:
<https://www.metabunk.org/attachments/worthing-to-beach-head-detail-kmz.37305/>
My Email exchange with Dr. John from before he made his video, where I show him that it's using a photo overlay. I include screenshots with all the information.
<https://www.metabunk.org/f/Dr.John%20Email%20Explaining%20Zoom.pdf>

[Transcript Link](#)

2019 05 21 Mick West <https://youtu.be/9AgkaAibh58> Debunked The Coin on a Table Flat Earth Model of Sunset

If you slide a coin away from you on a table it will vanish from the bottom up. But ONLY if the camera is a bit below the top of the table, or if the table bows up a bit in the middle. Yet this observation is often used to try to explain Flat Earth sunsets.

[Transcript Link](#)

If you do the experiment on something that's ACTUALLY flat (like a 48" carpenter's level), and you keep the camera above it (like you are above the surface of the earth), then you will see nothing vanishes.

And of course, the sun does not glide away from you while touching the ocean. It's high in the sky at noon, and then sets behind the horizon. If it were moving away from you it would get smaller, and closer to the horizon, but would not actually get there.

2019 05 20 Mick West <https://youtu.be/UWgkESC6e0I> TFTRH #5 Dan, Former Apocalyptic Prepper

Dan used to be convinced that some kind of drastic collapse of society was just around the corner. He was prepared for this, stockpiling food and supplies, and watching all the latest prepper/survivalist videos on YouTube, as well as making his own videos about what was going to happen. When Obama came to power he received and initially believed dire warnings that some kind of society "reset" was imminent. But then nothing happened, and he gradually realized that probably nothing was happening, and all the worrying about it was a waste of time and having a bad effect on his life. So he stopped, deleted all his videos, and stopped consuming conspiracy theories. He's a lot happier now.

[Transcript Link](#)

Podcast: <https://www.tftrh.com/2019/05/20/episode-5-dan-former-apocalyptic-prepper/>

iTunes: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-5-dan-former-apocalyptic-prepper/id1462120258?i=1000438847581>

2019 05 17 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/9fJBrCs6VXM>

Demonstrating the Curve of the Earth with observations of Beachy Head from Worthing

In this video a Flat Earther called "Dr. John" shares his observations of the coastline from the Southern English town of Worthing. He correctly identifies some landmarks along the way, but then it all goes wrong when he claims to be able to see the cliffs of Beachy Head, and then claim this "disproves the globe"

[Transcript Link](#)

A clue to what he is doing wrong is that the "Beachy head" looks like a little white dot, where as Seaford head looks like giant white cliffs. This is odd, because if the Earth was Flat, then Beachy Head would also look like giant white cliffs.

He also does some calculations, showing that 92 meters of the cliff should be hidden behind the curve, and hence he concluded that he has disproved the globe.

Bold claim, and wrong. Luckily he zoomed in enough on one shot that we can use this to fit the skyline to the actual view, and see what is going on. He's actually seeing the cliff that's behind the lighthouse! This cliff is 106m high, and a little further away, but the top 10 meters would be visible as white dot just like we see in Dr. John's video.

So instead of disproving the globe, it looks very like Dr. John has actually proved it.

Dr. John's video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6VqCWgkCm5A>

2019 05 15 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/kyWi7miH5LE>

TFTRH #4 Stian Arnesen, the 9 11 Alaska Report and the Science of 9 11

In this second part of my extended conversation with Stian Arnesen we delve deeper into 9/11. Firstly we discuss the Alaska report on World Trade Center Building 7. This is a report by Prof. Leroy Hulsey ,paid for by Architects and Engineers for 9/11 Truth, a group that promotes the conspiracy theory that the World Trade Center was destroyed with pre-planted explosives. The report is intended to prove that fire alone could not be responsible for the collapse. Stian has been corresponding with various members of AE911Truth for a while, and has something of an inside perspective on what to expect.

[Transcript Link](#)

Following on from this we discuss why it's so hard to get serious scientists to look into the science behind conspiracy theory claims. I relate my experience with doing a study of scientist's beliefs about Chemtrails.

In the second half of this episode Stian brings up a number of questions he still has about how the World Trade center collapsed the way it did. I try to explain.

First part: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J9KQUQxyxv0>

<https://www.metabunk.org/towards-a-replicable-physical-model-illustrating-aspects-of-the-collapse-of-the-wtc-towers-on-9-11.t7396/>

<https://www.metabunk.org/use-of-scale-model-or-full-sized-models-for-investigating-9-11-collapses.t3828/>

2019 05 14	Mick West	https://youtu.be/Jr1cfpos6vo	Explained GIMBAL UFO Video - The IR Glare Hypothesis	<p>New footage of a small jet taken with a FLIR camera appears to show a similar shape to the "Gimbal" UFO video. Combine this with what we know about rotating glares, "aura", and parallax, and it seems like a very good explanation for the Gimbal video is just a distant jet.</p> <p>The rotation is caused by the gimbal system in the camera needing a de-rotation step to keep the horizon constant. That's probably why the Navy labeled this video "Gimbal" to explain what it showed</p> <p>Dave Falch Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JuyQWiD5HU Metabunk GIMBAL discussion: https://www.metabunk.org/nyt-gimbal-video-of-u-s-navy-jet-encounter-with-unknown-object.t9333/ Metabunk Glare discussion: https://www.metabunk.org/the-shape-and-size-of-glare-around-bright-lights.t10596/ Dave Falch discusses his interpretation and comparison to the Gimbal video. https://www.extraordinarybeliefs.com/news-3/ufos-flir-analysis</p>	Transcript Link
2019 05 14	Mick West	https://youtu.be/bIA-x0QGBp0	How to test if Satellites are real	<p>Some people think space, and hence the existence of satellites, is fake.</p> <p>The most obvious refutation of this is that you have to point your satellite dish exactly at the right satellite in the sky for it to work. There's no way of faking this. There's nothing else up there. But how to test this without throwing your dish out of alignment. Here I hold up a metal object at 45° in front of the dish, the signal is lost, which shows the signal is coming from space.</p>	Transcript Link
2019 05 13	Mick West	https://youtu.be/J9KQUQxyxv0	Episode 3 Stian Arnesen, 9 11, Crop Circles, and Debunkers	<p>Stian Arnesen has been involved in the 9/11 Truth community for a number of years, and in the last year or so has been questioning some of the underpinnings of that community. Stian has also been very interested in topics such as crop circles and UFOs.</p> <p>We discuss how Stian's thinking has evolved over time, and examine the parallels between the various communities – in particular we look at the effects of questioning the group consensus, and how it can lead to exclusion from a group unwilling to move forward.</p> <p>Stian also questions me about my debunking, and some things I've said in the past, and I try to explain.</p> <p>TFTRH: https://www.tftrh.com/ Apple Podcast version: https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/tales-from-the-rabbit-hole/id1462120258 Other Subscription options: https://www.tftrh.com/subscribe-to-podcast/</p>	Transcript Link

2019 05 05	Mick West	https://youtu.be/hr3pz--UJgE TFTRH #1 Introduction & The Ex Conspiracy Theorist	In this first episode of Tales from the Rabbit Hole, I give a brief introduction and then talk to my first guest, Jon, an ex-conspiracy theorist Podcast Link: https://www.tftrh.com/2019/04/19/tftrh-001-ex-conspiracy-theorist/	Transcript Link
			Tales from the Rabbit Hole is an interview-style podcast focusing on people whose lives have been affected by the conspiracy theory rabbit hole. Guests include both former and current believers in a variety of conspiracy theories, as well as debunkers, skeptics, and the investigators of those theories.	
			I'm Mick West, a debunker. I wrote the book Escaping the Rabbit Hole – How to Debunk Conspiracy Theories using Facts, Logic, and Respect. This book came from my experiences running Metabunk – a debunking Forum. Over the years I realized simply presenting corrections to people is not enough. We need effective communication, and we can't do that if we don't listen and talk with each other. I'm hoping this podcast will help bridge that gap.	
			EX CONSPIRACY THEORIST My first guest is Jon, an ex conspiracy theorist who runs the Facebook Group "The Ex Conspiracy Theorist." Jon talks about how he became a conspiracy theorist, and how it relates to his religious past as a Mormon. He discusses the things that initially convinced him, like Glenn Beck theories about Obama's "Czars", the "New	
2019 04 11	Mick West	https://youtu.be/JO-o2iLTUA Weird Thing Out of Context UFO Contrail!!!	I saw something over the trees today, and it made me think that if I'd seen it 30 seconds after I first did then my perception might have been very different, especially if I was not familiar with this sort of thing. Context is very important, but often if a first impression gives the result people are looking for, then they just go with the first impression. This is being dishonest to yourself. Seek the wider context, and keep an open mind.	Transcript Link
2019 04 09	Mick West	https://youtu.be/ookTfBP5sUU Why Flat Earth Laser Tests are Misleading Nonsense	When you shine a laser beam across the surface of a lake, it is very prone to refraction, but often this is ignored, and the result is declared a victory. Laser tests are a very poor choice of a test of curvature, when much clearer (and easier) tests are available, such as looking at large objects (like mountains) over water.	Transcript Link

2019 03 07 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/ISJ81C0cULo> Aliens vs. Golf Carts - Denbigh UFO Analysis

"Footage of spooky spinning UFO in Wales declared GENUINE by expert" says the Daily Star. They then show this shaky footage of some lights moving over some houses. They quote the expert, Jason Gleaves, talking about the footage. He did some analysis, including finding a photo taken from the same window as the sighting, which he overlaid it onto a single frame of the video.

[Transcript Link](#)

Jason concluding various things including:

That it was something rotating, like the lights were rotating around a central disc.

And that it was ABOVE the treeline, hence some kind of flying craft, a flying, rotating saucer type thing.

I thought I'd do a bit more analysis. The original video was very shaky so I took it into After Effects and ran an image stabilization using two lights as reference points.

This immediately showed that it didn't really look like it was rotating, it was a bunch of lights traveling in one direction at fairly constant speed, with varying brightness and visibility.

Then I wanted to align the daylight image a bit better, so I took fifty frames or so from the stabilized video, and did a photo stack using a median stack mode which removes the noise. This can then be overlaid on the stabilized video bring out the detail. Using this more

2019 02 25 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/S8t--wVwxzc> Quick Tip Checking for horizon curvature on a Phone

In the flat earth scene, you often see photos from high altitudes where it looks like there's a curve, but some people insist it is flat. Here's an easy way to check this on your phone:

[Transcript Link](#)

Just expand the image to fill the screen, and then scroll it so the middle of the horizon just touches the edge. You should see the curve to the sides (if there is one), and you can then take a screenshot and sent it to your Flat Earth friend.

2019 02 20	Mick West	https://youtu.be/bw2IUO3Yy8 Drone Zip-by UFO Video Recreations	<p>Over the last few years, there's been several "UFO" videos that looked something zipping by a drone. Some people interpreted these as large fast alien spacecraft. But I think these are actually very small slower objects, like birds or insects, that are quite close to the camera, and they just look big and fast because we interpret them as being far away. I call them drone zipbys.</p> <p>Some people have done computer simulations to show how this illusion can happen, and I plan on doing some myself later. But I always like to do a physical recreation if possible.</p> <p>I don't have a drone so I started out by throwing some rocks at my camera, and then from behind the camera. Neither of these were very useful as the motion was mostly vertical.</p> <p>Next, I tried throwing a paper plane on my camera. It was really hard to get close, so I switched to the other side, and after a few goes I finally got one. I played it in reverse. And then sped it up to typical drone speed. I then compared it against the Utah video.</p> <p>Wanting more control, I tied some fishing line to my gate post and then to my fence below, and made a UFO out of some card and a pen tube. This slid down at about 7 miles per hour. I was able to get it fairly consistently flying by the camera.</p> <p>Speeded up to 28 miles per hour it's not a bad match for the Utah video.</p>	Transcript Link
2019 02 19	Mick West	https://youtu.be/oGMklqAidK4 How do you unbend a Laser	<p>After doing a variety of experiments with my fish tank full of sugar water, it was starting to get a bit disgusting looking. So for a final experiment, I recorded what happens when you mix up the liquid. This destroys the density gradient, unbends the laser, and drops the image of Toronto back down behind the horizon.</p> <p>To see how I got here, have a look at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KLufSkz-et0</p>	Transcript Link
2019 02 11	Mick West	https://youtu.be/1mUXhNhij0Q Refraction Simulator - TECHNICAL explanation	<p>This is a highly technical explanation of how the Metabunk refraction simulator works. You will need a basic understanding of 2D vector math and code in order to follow it. It is intended for a technical audience.</p> <p>I'm posting it partly so people, if they wish, can verify the correctness of the simulator, and maybe suggest/implement some improvements.</p> <p>Link to Metabunk Refraction Simulator: https://metabunk.org/refraction</p> <p>Discussion thread: https://www.metabunk.org/simulating-atmospheric-refraction.t7881/</p> <p>The simple explanation of how to use it https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8zzEWy5SGKg</p>	Transcript Link

2019 02 10	Mick West	https://youtu.be/8zzEWy5SGKg	Metabunk's Refraction Simulator Explained	<p>A "how-to" videos that shows what the refraction simulator does, and how to use it.</p> <p>Link to Metabunk Refraction Simulator: https://metabunk.org/refraction</p> <p>Discussion thread: https://www.metabunk.org/simulating-atmospheric-refraction.t7881/</p> <p>Technical explanation: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1mUXhNhij0Q</p>	Transcript Link
2019 02 10	Mick West	https://youtu.be/J73iTIp3sQY	Invisible Plane Explained!	<p>Nighttime footage of a "UFO" looks like the landing lights of a plane. But why can't you see the plane? Is it invisible?</p> <p>The answer seems to be frame-to-frame persistence which is used to magnify the light from the stars in the astronomical camera. Here I simulate this with the "Echo" effect in Adobe Aftereffects, showing how it can duplicate both the trails, and seeing stars through the "Invisible" plane</p>	Transcript Link
2019 02 09	Mick West	https://youtu.be/DhNZP2KgMLw	Looking Along a Curved Laser	<p>If a laser beam is bent, and you look along that beam, then in theory your line of sight should be bent the same, and this should make the laser look straight.</p> <p>But in practice the camera is always going to be some distance from the beam, so you will always be looking at it at an angle, and through a different refractive medium.</p> <p>To solve this, you can use a half-silvered mirror (or, like here, a glass microscope slide) to align your viewpoint with the laser beam. When you are correctly lined up, the curve of the laser vanishes and you just see a dot. This shows that your line of sight is curved just like the laser (also demonstrating that refraction works the same in both directions).</p>	Transcript Link
2019 02 07	Mick West	https://youtu.be/KLufSkz-et0	Refraction Explained with Lasers and Sugar	<p>Atmospheric refraction often makes things visible when they should be hidden by the curve of the Earth. This can be tricky to understand (and hence tricky to explain.) So I set out to devise an experiment to show refraction in action, and explain how the bending of the light beams (as demonstrated with a laser) allows you to see past the horizon.</p> <p>Metabunk Discussion: https://www.metabunk.org/demonstrating-how-refraction-helps-you-see-over-the-horizon.t10437/ Refraction Simulator: https://www.metabunk.org/refraction/?~(p~%27Toronto*20Sugar*20Aquarium*20Laser)_</p> <p>Demonstration that the curved base of the tank has nothing to do with the curve of the laser. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hy083wKOPFQ</p> <p>Could this type of refraction make the earth look round by hiding things? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YwQ0138c15g</p> <p>How does a laser perpendicular to the temperature gradient get bent? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y8YaFKx03bk</p>	Transcript Link

2018 12 16 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/hrDeC-nWnl> Escaping The Rabbit Hole

Escaping the Rabbit Hole by Mick West is a guide to helping friends, family, and loved ones who have fallen down the rabbit hole of conspiracy theories.

[Transcript Link](#)

Amazon Hardcover: <https://amzn.to/2PhqdYm>

Amazon Kindle: <https://amzn.to/2xk3pkJ>

Audible: <https://goo.gl/H8axNS>

Barnes and Noble: <https://goo.gl/pgMw76>

Preview in Google:

<https://books.google.com/books?id=JDeCDwAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false>

We all know someone, maybe they think 9/11 was an inside job with remote control planes and pre-planted explosives. Maybe they believe in the chemtrails theory. Maybe they think that all the recent mass shootings were faked. Maybe they even think the Earth is flat and the government is covering this up!

How do you talk to your conspiracy-minded friend? How can you understand why they think what they do, and how can you help them? That's what Escaping the Rabbit Hole is all about. I look at the full range of conspiracy theories, the psychology behind how people fall into them, and how you can help them out.

A core part of the book is the interviews with six former conspiracy

2018 12 13 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/afqU-kGekgM> Wildfire Conspiracists Stumped by Hole in the Ground!

Some people think the recent wildfires were started by lasers that targeted houses, but left trees alone, except, apparently, for some trees that were singled out and reduced to holes in the ground.

[Transcript Link](#)

These holes were actually just the remains of old tree stumps. After a few years in the ground tree stumps (especially softwoods, like pine) rot away, leaving air gaps and desiccated wood that easily burns away completely.

I have a pine stump on my property, and here I demonstrate what the wood is like, and how it burns.

Where's all the ash? This video was taken after several inches of rain fell on Paradise, washing it all away, and eroding the hole some more.

One thing I forgot to mention in the video — the stump that did not burn completely was actually a live tree in the street view images from 2012. So it was simply a fresher stump, so not so easy to burn.

Metabunk discussion thread:

<https://www.metabunk.org/trees-burnt-down-to-the-roots-in-wildfires-old-stumps.t10261/>

Link to the location in Google Maps:

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/1940+Hillpark+Ln,+Paradise,+CA+95969/@39.7354638,->

2018 12 11	Mick West	https://youtu.be/YYqVa59VRRc	UFOs Filmed from Helicopters and Planes. Not So Fast!	<p>There are a few UFO videos that are shot from a moving helicopter (or plane) where the camera tracks what seems to be a fast-moving object.</p> <p>The best demonstration of this effect now comes from Tom Churchill of Churchill Navigation with this video of a mylar balloon filmed from a helicopter. After the cameraman starts tracking the balloon it looks like it's moving incredibly fast over the background, but we can see it's just a balloon drifting in the wind, and the apparent motion comes from a combination of the helicopter motion, and the magnified movement due to the zoom factor.</p> <p>With just a little math we can find out where the balloon is relative to the helicopter, and discover that it's not actually moving very fast at all!</p> <p>Thanks to Churchill Navigation for permission to use this video! https://churchillnavigation.com/earthscape/</p> <p>See the original Earthscape video here, in the interactive viewer: https://public.earthscape.com/videos/16309</p>	Transcript Link
2018 12 10	Mick West	https://youtu.be/5vHa4IdQAXE	Explanation overload What will it take to convince the UFO holdouts	<p>I thought I had a perfectly reasonable explanation of the "UFO" that was created by a water drop on the lens of a camera. But not everyone was convinced. So I made an EVEN MORE reasonable video demonstration.</p> <p>This raises the question of how far you need to go when explaining things. Clearly simply finding the explanation, and telling people what it is, is not enough. Even a simple demonstration does not convince people. I'm sure there will still be holdouts even after this video. Partly it's people who just don't watch the video. Partly it's people who don't comprehend my demonstration. Partly it's something else - a resistance to the simple explanation (a distorted light), and a preference for the complex interesting one (a UFO).</p> <p>However, I still think it's a useful exercise. Often "debunk" videos don't go far enough in both detail and clarity, so we miss some people that we could have helped.</p>	Transcript Link
2018 12 09	Mick West	https://youtu.be/X9FjI2rGL_c	Recreating Starlite on Tomorrow's World	<p>In 1990 a material called "Starlite" was demonstrated on the BBC's Tomorrow's World. It had what seemed like impressive fire-resisting properties, most famously protecting an egg from a butane blowtorch.</p> <p>But was it really all that amazing? I set out to try to make my own Starlite, and to recreate the BBC demo as closely as possible, in real time.</p> <p>It turns out Starlite is perhaps not quite as impressive as it seems.</p> <p>https://www.metabunk.org/how-to-make-starlite-the-miracle-insulating-material-of-maurice-ward.t10228/</p>	Transcript Link
2018 12 09	Mick West	https://youtu.be/BelAzXQVHd8	Unexplained Green Light - Still think it's not a drop of water	Additional proof that the "mysterious" green light was just a drop of water.	Transcript Link

2018 12 08	Mick West	https://youtu.be/OqY3l4Bteco Explained Unexplained Green Light During Thunderstorm That Baffled Scientists	<p>See also: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BeIAzXQVHd8 It's a drop of water on the lens. First identified by UFOOfInterest here: https://twitter.com/ufoofinterest/status/1070696646604935168</p> <p>Close up you can see the light refracted through the drop change shape as the phone moves. I put a drop of water on my own lens and replicate the effect in my garage.</p> <p>Escaping the Rabbit Hole: https://amzn.to/2PhqdYm</p>	Transcript Link
2018 12 07	Mick West	https://youtu.be/zHWMYtdTLyc Color Temperature - Correct Exposure vs. iPhone	<p>Both videos here show the same temperature probe, the display of which is inset. All videos are in sync.</p> <p>Here we see the correctly exposed video on the left has a very good match with the color temperature chart, but the wider angle iPhone video overestimates it by as much as 300°C, and even looks molten at the start.</p> <p>This is the important information from my video on color temperatures of red hot to white hot metal in videos. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VzcodRCLOE8</p>	Transcript Link
2018 12 07	Mick West	https://youtu.be/VzcodRCLOE8 White Hot - How Accurate is Estimating Temperature From Color in Images	<p>Just the results: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zHWMYtdTLyc</p> <p>The colors given off by a "black body" like a piece of iron are well known, ranging from dull red through orange and yellow, to bright white. We know that specific colors correspond to specific temperatures, and this knowledge has been used by blacksmiths for centuries.</p> <p>It works great by eye. But problems occur when you try to translate this to images or video of hot objects. If the image is exposed for the entire scene (as it usually is) then small hot regions that glow a little can seem to be several hundred degrees hotter than they actually are. It can even look like steel is melting when it's really just orange hot - the temperature of an ordinary fire.</p> <p>Metabunk discussion: https://www.metabunk.org/white-hot-the-accuracy-of-color-temperature.t10237/ Color/Temperature chart: https://www.metabunk.org/sk/Incandescent_colors_printable.jpg</p>	Transcript Link
2018 12 04	Mick West	https://youtu.be/6e7cw4bYvM0 Crappy Video of Slowly Rising UFO is Often a Plane.	<p>When you see a slowly rising bright light off in the distance you don't immediately think that it's a plane. When planes are flying directly towards you and are a long way off (over 50 miles) they appear almost stationary, just rising very slowly. So they often get tagged as "UFOs"</p>	Transcript Link

2018 12 03	Mick West	https://youtu.be/-dzNW7Hcmhw	Explained Flashes of Light During the World Trade Center Collapse	Escaping the Rabbit Hole: https://amzn.to/2wkVsKF People who think that the World Trade Center was demolished with pre-planted explosives sometimes point to flashes of light that you can see in some videos of the collapses. They say that these flashes are evidence of explosives going off.	Transcript Link
				This NBC video of the South Tower collapse is maybe the best example of this.	
				You see one flash here, near the corner of the building, then another larger flash on the left side here. Both of these flashes exist for only one frame, so they lasted for less than a thirtieth of a second, so we know they are not something like a puff of smoke.	
				But as we continue though, we see a whole load more of these flashes, including a bunch of them over on the left side that flash in mid-air, so are clearly not attached to the building.	
				I suppose if you are being imaginative you'd say these mid-air flashes are explosives going off late. But a much simple explanation has been given numerous times over the years - that these flashes, ALL of these flashes, are just the sun, reflected off falling pieces of window glass.	
				The flashes do occur ahead of the main collapse wave, but there is falling debris below them, so it's quite possible they are pieces of	
2018 11 13	Mick West	https://youtu.be/JQR6Zeualmg	Explained Unknown Brewing Company UFO	It's an in-lens reflection, a type of lens flare. You often see with bright lights. Most commonly the sun. The positions of the reflections are mirrored about the center of the image.	Transcript Link
				Metabunk Discussion: https://www.metabunk.org/explained-unknown-brewing-company-ufo.t10134/	
2018 10 31	Mick West	https://youtu.be/p62NS-g57vQ	Why the Atmosphere Does Not Fly off into Space	<p>Escaping the Rabbit Hole: https://amzn.to/2PhqdYm</p> <p>Simulator: https://www.metabunk.org/gas/</p> <p>We think that air will rush to fill a vacuum, so why doesn't the atmosphere fly off into space? It makes a lot more sense if you think of it in terms of individual molecules of gas bouncing around. Gravity pulls them all downwards, but they end up bouncing off each more and more, creating air pressure. The pressure is a result of the air being pulled down, so there's actually no force at all that would "pull" it into space.</p>	Transcript Link
				Discussion Thread on Metabunk: https://www.metabunk.org/why-does-the-atmosphere-not-fly-off-into-the-vacuum-of-space.t10098/	

2018 10 28	Mick West	https://youtu.be/hyFIHZwMm4w Debunking 9 11 Microsphere Myths	<p>There's a lot of misunderstanding about what iron microspheres are, how they are made, and what their presence in the World Trade Center dust indicates. Many people who think that explosives were involved in 9/11 also think that microspheres are evidence of the use of high-temperature incendiaries.</p> <p>But it turns out there are many ways of making microspheres and pretty much all of them were present on 9/11 — without the need for any nano-thermite.</p> <p>This does not mean that 9/11 was not a controlled demolition. Nor does it prove that the buildings were brought down by impacts and fire alone.</p> <p>My goal here is not to convince you of that.</p> <p>All I want to do is to get you to think about this one claimed piece of evidence. It's been around for a decade. But it's wrong.</p> <p>If this is wrong, then maybe something else is wrong too. Maybe you should check.</p> <p>So don't change your mind about 9/11 just because of this one thing. But consider that not everything that you've accepted for all these years is correct.</p> <p>Maybe it's time to take another look?</p>	Transcript Link
2018 10 25	Mick West	https://youtu.be/enePoDBch-E How to Punch out Multiple Candles - Final Cut	<p>Extinguishing a line of candles with a single punch is very hard to do. So for a bit of fun I devised a slightly easier way of doing it.</p> <p>I took two "punches" because my aim was not very good. One could also do this fake technique in a single (unedited) take if you have someone standing behind you with the cannon.</p> <p>I could also have spliced the two blow-outs together into one. But I thought the two stages added a bit more "realism".</p> <p>Here's a spliced version: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=chIp1gPD0f8</p>	Transcript Link
2018 10 13	Mick West	https://youtu.be/QiFxm16-MQ0 WTC7 Collapse. Wide Angle Composite Video. 4K	<p>The most commonly shown video of the WTC7 collapse is zoomed in on the upper visible portion. This gives the misleading impression that it's quite a wide, squat building. Really it was relatively tall and slender.</p> <p>Here I've overlaid the collapse video with a later segment in the same video with a wide angle view of the whole street. (the camera has hardly moved, so they line up very well.)</p> <p>It gives a much better sense of the scale of the event.</p> <p>Source Video for both clips: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FX-70GtMrsU</p>	Transcript Link

2018 08 21 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/it1s7gFRgDE> Explained DEW Energy Beam Starting Forest Fires - Dirty Lens

There's a variety of reasons you get beams of light in photos. In this photo a beam of light happened to line up with a forest fire (well, with the smoke, but close enough). This was explained away as a "lens flare", but it's not really a lens flare. It's a light streak caused by very fine streaks of grease on the lens. These streaks typically occur when people clean their lens (really the lens cover) with a finger. The light streak is at right angles to the grease streaks, and can vary quite a bit.

Discussion: <https://www.metabunk.org/explained-dew-energy-beam-starting-forest-fires-dirty-lens-light-streak.t9931/>

[Transcript Link](#)

Do you have a friend who has got a bit too far down the rabbit hole of conspiracy theories? You might be interested in my new book: Escaping The Rabbit Hole — How to Debunk Conspiracy Theories with Facts, Logic, and Respect. Published by Skyhorse Publishing, September 2018.

<http://escapingtherabbithole.org/>

Advance Reviews:

“The subtitle says it all: Mick West demonstrates with exquisite

2018 08 16 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/vml2gMw8j2c> UFOs — A Cautionary Tale

I was out in my backyard when I saw a mysterious flashing light hovering between two trees. What could it possibly be?

[Transcript Link](#)

If I only had a cell phone camera the mystery might never have been solved. I might have zoomed in digitally, perhaps "enhanced" the footage, maybe theorized about a few possible explanations, and then decided it was an unidentified flying object.

Luckily I had a bigger camera with a good zoom, so I got closer. I zoomed all the way in. But still the mystery was unresolved. A flashing light hovering.

Now you might have guessed what this is because of the context. But suppose the same thing had appeared while you were looking up. Against the backdrop of the sky you might have imagined it was something very different, a mysterious flashing light, high up in the sky.

But, I finally got the focus right, and the mystery was revealed, it's a leaf, dangling on some spider silk, illuminated by the setting sun. Like all UFOs if you can zoom in close enough you can tell what it is. But if I didn't have my big camera, or if I didn't figure out the focus, or if the spider web snapped and the leaf vanished, then it might have forever remained a mystery, another piece of evidence in the UFO database.

But it was just a leaf. Unidentified does not mean aliens, or advanced

2018 08 13 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/uh3BmK7NzDc> Demonstrating the Refractive Properties of Air

Don't just take the word of scientists who tell you that light bends towards dense air. You can actually check it for yourself!

[Transcript Link](#)

While this is a fun science experiment, it's also of relevance to believers in the "Flat Earth" conspiracy theory. Observations of distant objects are often affected by refraction, so a discussion of this will go better if you (and they) have some practical experience of how refraction in air works.

Transcript:

Science tells us that light bends towards air that is more dense. When looking towards the horizon this generally bends the light down because air is less dense as you get higher.

If there are large changes in temperature then this can change things. Low cold air bends the light down more, low warm air will bend the light upwards, sometimes creating mirages.

But how can you demonstrate this for yourself? It's actually easy to do with common items. Take a laser pointer and bounce it off a mirror at the other end of the longest room you have (about 30 feet here). This makes the position of the dot very sensitive to small bends at the start of the laser beam.

Then take a flame and put it next to the laser. Heating up the air makes it expand, which makes it less dense. So the laser bends away

2018 07 28 Mick West

<https://youtu.be/MO9pFD8oPi8> Is this Glowing Orb a Chinese Sky Lantern

This video of a mysterious glowing orb was caught by Chris Miller on his infrared security camera in West New York State on July 21st 2018.

[Transcript Link](#)

One theory is that it's a sky lantern (or Chinese lantern) that randomly blew across his yard. It didn't trigger the motion sensor until it got quite close, so it kind of looks like it started there.

But why is it so bright? A sky lantern uses a flame for light, but does it really glow like that? What does a sky lantern look like on an infrared security camera?

Sky lanterns are illegal in California, so I made a simple model using a gas lighter and a white plastic bin. Now this flame is a lot smaller than the flame in a sky lantern, but let's take a look.

In normal video it's not that impressive, although it does glow in the dark. But if we switch to infrared you can see it glows very brightly. Not only that but it illuminates the surroundings and casts shadows, just like in the orb video.

So given that an actual sky lantern would be a lot brighter than this, I think it's a very good possibility.

Source video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7M_HMGeF9Tk
Metabunk Discussion: <https://www.metabunk.org/what-is-this->

2018 05 21	Mick West	https://youtu.be/w057C2ippc	Why Do Most Plane Crashes Look Different to 9/11 Plane crashes	It's a common thing in 9/11 conspiracies to compare the results of relatively low speed plane crashes with the high speed 9/11 impacts into the Twin Towers, the Pentagon, and the Shanksville field. Why do they look different? they ask. The reason is fairly straightforward, but perhaps it's not really coming across because they are not really thinking about what's going on in the crashes. So I'm taking a little gamble here, and trying to illustrate some of the concepts using an imperfect scale model (an egg) to hammer home that different circumstances lead to different results.	Transcript Link
2018 05 07	Mick West	https://youtu.be/Cwl-VIXx1Fw	Santa Monica Bay Fata Morgana - Full Video	This shows a rapidly evolving Fata Morgana mirage across Santa Monica bay from Santa Monica Pier on May 4 2018, at 1:45PM. https://www.metabunk.org/fata-morgan-as-a-possible-source-of-ufo-sightings.t9693/	Transcript Link
2018 05 07	Mick West	https://youtu.be/4w3nW45F3Fw	Distant UFOs Decloaking — is just a Fata Morgana	Zoomed in video across Santa Monica Bay appears to show some strange objects becoming visible above the distant shoreline. But upon zooming out it's clear it's just the top edge of a Fata Morgan mirage. Full video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cwl-VIXx1Fw See discussion and more photos: https://www.metabunk.org/fata-morgan-as-a-possible-source-of-ufo-sightings.t9693/	Transcript Link
2018 03 11	Mick West	https://youtu.be/IRd1RY2PuvA	UFO Parallax Illusion	This is a slightly more convincing version of the illusion of rapid motion from parallax. Here an object is suspended from a tree and I walk at 45 degrees to it. Zoomed out there's not much illusion. zoomed in there's a quite strong illusion of motion.	Transcript Link
2018 03 10	Mick West	https://youtu.be/ikZlVlVAVY	Increase in Catenary Action from a Defrosting Bungee Cord	A bungee cord is soaked in water and frozen. It's still very flexible. Hanging it from two points it still tends towards a catenary shape. As it defrosts it's stiffness (resistance to bending or moment forces) decreases slightly, and it become more like an ideal catenary curve. The post on the left is fixed, so the post on the right is pulled in. Discussion: https://www.metabunk.org/posts/220063/	Transcript Link
2018 03 08	Mick West	https://youtu.be/zTygQK3vril	Using a Frozen Chain To Demonstrate Gradual Weakening and Pull-In of WTC Floor Truss	The floor trusses of the World Trade Center were heated in the fires and slowly bowed, pulling in the exterior walls as they lost their stiffness. This is a demonstration of how that happens. A chain is embedded in a cylinder of ice to make it stiff. It's attached to the "columns" with hooks. The ice gradually melts, causing the "floor" to deform, and slowly pull in the columns.	Transcript Link

2018 03 07	Mick West	https://youtu.be/Vpi9y-nnifl	Vertical Steel Support Failing by Heating Without Melting, like in the WTC	<p>Part of the failure of the World Trade Center towers was due to the failure of core columns. The columns were overloaded due to initial impact damage from the plane, they got more overloaded as exterior columns failed, and more load was transferred to the core.</p> <p>The failure of the core columns was due in part to increase in temperature. Steel loses most of it's strength at around 800°C, but it's still significantly weakened at lower temperatures. Here I heat a piece of rebar under to load to about 650°C, at which point it fails quite rapidly.</p>	Transcript Link
2018 03 06	Mick West	https://youtu.be/6obTg2UrCiU	Why Sagging Beams and Trusses Pull Inwards	<p>A common collapse mechanism in a steel framed building fire is when a steel floor truss or steel beam is heated from below. If sufficiently heated it will lose its stiffness and start to sag. This pulls at the walls. The floor will then either pull away from the wall and fall to the floor below (sometimes starting a progressive collapse), or it will pull in the outside wall, possibly causing it to fail. This is the likely collapse mechanism for the World Trade Center Towers.</p> <p>This can confuse people. If the wall were holding up the floor before, then sagging does not make it heavier, so why does it pull now when it did not pull before?</p> <p>The answer is (in part) catenary action. It's the difference between suspending a stiff rod between two points, and suspending a chain of equal weight between two points. The rod transmits it's weight vertically to the columns. The chain (or sagging floor) pulls inwards.</p> <p>Here's two practical illustrations of this. One use the rod/chain example, and the other heats up a heavily loaded floor.</p> <p>The actual mechanics of the WTC collapse are more complex. For a start the type of connection at the ends of the floor might also impart a twisting motion on the columns. However the basic principle is the same. Sagging floors pull inwards.</p> <p>Discuss on Metabunk: https://www.metabunk.org/why-do-sagging-floors-or-trusses-pull-walls-inwards.t9560/</p>	Transcript Link
2018 03 02	Mick West	https://youtu.be/0hDRbrVJeT8	Where are those UFO Seagulls	<p>The Milwaukee UFOs were just seagulls, but some people were confused as to where they were and how high. In this video I compare them with the courthouse video to show they are a lot closer than they seem.</p>	Transcript Link
2018 03 01	Mick West	https://youtu.be/si7JAZgc4il	Explained Mysterious lights over Milwaukee 2-27-18	<p>Flock of seagulls looks like UFOs with vapor trails in traffic camera video. But it's just the camera over-exposing, and the persistence of the image makes the trails.</p> <p>I simulated the trails in the video of seagulls with the "Echo" effect in Adobe After effects. (Settings were Time: -0.033, Echos: 20, Start 0.25, Decay 0.85. Operator: Add)</p> <p>Discussion Thread: https://www.metabunk.org/mysterious-lights-over-milwaukee-seagulls-night-exposure-trails.t9548/</p>	Transcript Link

2018 02 08 Mick West https://youtu.be/M_MZp1lLp4w Patrick Roddie & Mick West Discuss Contrails and the Chemtrail Theory A conversation between Patrick Roddie of stopsprayingus.com and me, Mick West, of metabunk.org. [Transcript Link](#)

Links from the video

GOES-16 image viewer: <http://rammb-slider.cira.colostate.edu/>

WMO New cloud classifications:

<https://www.wmo.int/wmocloudatlas/ICA-New-classifications.html>

Rainwater Analysis: <https://stopsprayingus.com/aluminum-15430%ce%bcgl-barium-850%ce%bcgl-in-perugia-italy-rainwater-6-19-15/>

Aluminum in Soil and Water: <https://www.metabunk.org/aluminum-in-the-united-states-prevalence-in-soil-and-water.t6000/>

Global Dimming no more:

<http://journals.ametsoc.org/doi/pdf/10.1175/BAMS-D-11-00074.1>

Sub Visible Cirrus:

<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=2106>

2018 01 26 Mick West <https://youtu.be/SD1FJUJdi6M> Geoengineering Watch and the Wagon Wheel Effect In a recent presentation, Dane Wigington, the Lead Researcher at Geoengineeringwatch.org showed what he said was the effect of "radio frequency" on water, and spoke of his concern on the effects on human health. [Transcript Link](#)

The problem is it's not radio frequency that's making the water freeze in mid air. It's not even being frozen by sound. It's actually a harmless trick of the camera called the wagon wheel effect.

The wagon wheel effect was first noticed when filming coach chases in old westerns. This effect can freeze objects, like a wagon wheel, if their rotation speed is synchronized with the speed of the camera.

You can replicate this effect yourself.

In Wigington's example a water hose is attached to a speaker that's playing a 24 hertz tone, so it's moving the hose back and forth 24 times a second. The camera is recording at 24 frames a second so this has the effect of making the water look like it has stopped. But it hasn't, it's just an optical effect, the Wagon Wheel effect

It's unfortunate the Wigington is using this cool science experiment to frighten people, but maybe when people see how easily mistakes can be made it might prompt them consider other claims more carefully.

Metabunk Discussion:

2018 01 21	Mick West	https://youtu.be/WdKjO1j0-64 Pentagon 757 Impacts - Some Views for Perspective	<p>Some people suggest that on 9/11 the Pentagon was not hit by AA77, a Boeing 757, but was instead hit by a missile. Most of these people are not really familiar with the layout of the Pentagon, next to the intersections of several busy freeways, and visible from the huge Pentagon parking lot, and many nearby buildings. When you watch the simulations of what happened in context, it's clear that thousands of people could have seen what happened. If it looked anything at all unlike what we see here, then they would have noticed.</p> <p>There's hundreds of eye witnesses to AA77 hitting the Pentagon. If there was a missile, then they would have seen that instead.</p>	Transcript Link
2018 01 16	Mick West	https://youtu.be/UaOLpeTC7hY Inexperienced Pilot Recreating 9 11 Flight 77's Descending Turn into the Pentagon	<p>Suspicious minds sometimes point to the flight path of American Airlines Flight 77 into the Pentagon on 9/11. The plane is heading straight for the building when it makes a descending turn described as things like a "corkscrew" or a "an incredibly precise diving turn " or " incredible, sweeping 270-degree descending turn"</p> <p>In fact the turn is perfectly normal, and very easy to execute. The reason for the turn is to lose altitude. The turn rate was more or less a standard 2 minute 360° turn, and all he had to do was reduce throttle and turn right. Could a pilot with limited large plane experience pull this off? I've just got some private pilot training, so I thought I'd have a go.</p> <p>Not only did I do the turn more or less the same, but I also ended up hitting the Pentagon is approximately the same position and angle. It really was not hard.</p> <p>I'm using X-Plane 11, with the damage setting turn on, meaning any excessive maneuvers would result in loss of control of the plane. I still managed to fly straight in at 475mph.</p> <p>Another suggestion is that the turn altered where the plane hit. It actually made almost no difference, just a slightly different angle.</p> <p>Discussion here: https://www.metabunk.org/inexperienced-pilot-recreating-9-11-flight-77s-descending-turn-into-the-</p>	Transcript Link
2017 12 30	Mick West	https://youtu.be/1sHmuP_LlxI GIMBAL UFO Need Not Be Moving	<p>A simplification of the general movement of the GIMBAL UFO. Here the UFO is NOT moving. The Jet executes a 60° arc turn. The pink line is the line of sight from the jet ot the UFO (marked with distance in miles, staring at 15 miles), the clouds seen in the video are behind the UFO, so as the pink line moves left, the clouds move right. Note the slowdown of the pink line as it approaches the end. The actual paths are likely more complex, but this demonstrates the general idea.</p> <p>For a full zoom-corrected version of the video, see: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUcJLtlH4oQ</p>	Transcript Link

2017 12 22	Mick West	https://youtu.be/nll4peYb59E Errors in Nimitz UFO g-force Analyses	<p>A lot of people have pointed at the sudden jump in velocity of the Nimitz UFO as evidence of super high g-forces. There's two problems with this. Firstly we can't really tell from this video if it's the camera moving or the object moving.</p> <p>But more significantly, a lot of people have missed that fact that the sudden change in apparent velocity is actually due to a change in the zoom setting of the camera. When we correct for this by shrinking the 2x video back down to 1x then the "jerk" in velocity vanishes, and the movement is much smoother and slower, with no huge g-forces required.</p> <p>[Minor correction - Maccabee is not a retired professor of physics, but he does have a PhD in physics]</p>	Transcript Link
2017 12 21	Mick West	https://youtu.be/AcsAZTKRv5E Rotating UFO or Rotating Infrared Glare	<p>*** NEW ANALYSIS *** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qsEjV8DdSbs</p> <p>The recently released video showing a rotating UFO looks very odd. There too much detail rotating. Could it be that the craft is NOT rotating, and it's just a rotation of the much larger infrared glare, caused by the rotating window in front of the camera?</p> <p>Note the glare in my experiment is white. The IR camera is set to black being hot, which increases the illusion that it's a physical object.</p> <p>I don't claim this solves anything, or that it applies to anything other than the "GIMBAL" video shown here. Nor does it explain what the craft actually is. It's simply a reasonable hypothesis for why it appears to be rotating.</p> <p>For more discussion see: https://www.metabunk.org/nyt-video-of-u-s-navy-jet-encounter-with-unknown-object.t9333/</p> <p>Source of the A340 "peanut" analysis: https://www.metabunk.org/explained-chilean-navy-ufo-video-aerodynamic-contrails-flight-ib6830.t8306/</p>	Transcript Link
2017 12 18	Mick West	https://youtu.be/UI_0hh26n6Q General McInerney That Is A Missile Shot From A Submarine!	<p>In 2010 US General and decorated fighter pilot Thomas McInerney was convinced that an airplane leaving a contrail was a missile being launched off the coast of Los Angeles. Experience and expertise does not immunize anyone to mistakes in novel situations. Listen to the General here. Listen to his experience, his rank, his certainty, the deference given to him, and his total wrongness.</p> <p>It was just a distant plane for Hawaii leaving a contrail, at an unusual perspective.</p> <p>Keep this in mind when someone tells you that you need to believe in someone because they are a trained expert.</p> <p>For the story behind the contrail, see: http://contrailscience.com/los-angeles-missile-contrail-explained-in-pictures/</p>	Transcript Link

2017 12 12	Mick West	https://youtu.be/mkH5I0lXiFs	Explained Why Houses burn When Trees Do Not	<p>Escaping The Rabbit Hole: https://amzn.to/2PhqdYm</p> <p>Are houses being zapped by energy beams from space for strange illuminati purposes? Of course not, but some conspiracy theories point to unburnt trees next to burnt down houses as evidence of this very thing.</p> <p>But as anyone who has a wood burning fireplace eventually finds out, wood straight from a live tree is practically fireproof, mostly due to the high water content. Here I compare the burn rate of some live wood with a bit of wood I found in my attic.</p> <p>Minor notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oak is denser than pine, so that accounts for some of the extra weight and fire resistance - After I cut the live wood it appeared a bit blackened inside. This is just a smudge of soot from the blade (after cutting the burnt attic wood) <p>See discussion thread here: https://www.metabunk.org/unburned-trees-next-to-burned-down-structures-as-evidence-of-secret-energy-weapons.t9168/</p>	Transcript Link
2017 12 07	Mick West	https://youtu.be/KCHMuD5ySo4	Using the actual sun to visualize the terminator on a globe	<p>A minor bit of Flat Earth confusion is how much of the globe is illuminated by the sun. It's half. But people use lamps and flashlights that are closer, and so they illuminate less. Here I use the ideal light source (the Sun) and show that the terminator matches what we expect.</p> <p>This is best done indoors with the sunlight coming through a window, so you get better shadows and contrast.</p> <p>See: https://www.metabunk.org/posts/215781/</p>	Transcript Link
2017 11 29	Mick West	https://youtu.be/ziulNfpItxE	Slender Column - Rapid Onset Buckling	<p>[Just noticed I said "Eastern Australia", and of course it's the West, I got flipped around as I went around the globe]</p> <p>Demonstrating how a slender column transitions from supporting over 100 pound to very little in a relatively short time and crush distance. The first section video is in real time, then 1/8th speed, then 1/100th</p> <p>"Column" is an approximately 18" long aluminum tube.</p> <p>The key thing to notice is how you get an over 30° bend in just 0.2 seconds, with a relatively small displacement</p> <p>Final video is flow tacked, so has some glitches on larger movement.</p>	Transcript Link
2017 11 28	Mick West	https://youtu.be/SSMc7NEkgk	Slender Column Buckling - Braced vs. Unbraced	<p>An important factor in understanding the collapses of tall building is the role of slender column buckling - or more specifically understanding just how strong lateral bracing can make a column. Here I demonstrate using a steel bar. When it's evenly braced along its length by seven "floors" it's incredibly strong and can support a wildly swinging dynamic load of well over 150 pounds. However when the column is removed from its supports it becomes significantly weaker, and is now only capable of supporting a few pounds.</p> <p>In the collapse of World Trade Center 7 this applies in two ways. Firstly there's the initial collapse of Column 79 after the floors around it collapsed. Secondly there's the buckling of the exterior columns after they lost support from the interior.</p>	Transcript Link

2017 11 27 Mick West <https://youtu.be/wZCFo3Lcbx8> Static Force vs. Dynamic force [Transcript Link](#)

Simply put, static force is the force a non-moving object exerts on another object that supports it. (Static = not moving).
Dynamic force is the force a moving object puts on an object when it hits it. (dynamic = moving).
These are very different things, and yet they are often conflated in 9/11 theories. People will say that since the lower part of the building could support the upper part, then it should also be able to stop it when it was falling.
The problem is that "support" relates to a static force. "stopping" relates to a dynamic force. Dynamic forces from a falling object are vastly higher than static forces from the same object.
In this example there's a support structure (a can) that easily supports 100 pounds. Here it supports a 10 pound hammer.
When I drop the hammer on the can, it is crushed, and the hammer hardly even slows down. This shows the dynamic force is much more than the equivalent of 100 pounds, but it's only coming from a 10 pound object.
And in this case it's only falling two feet. The falling parts of the World Trade Center towers fell much more, and so the force was multiplied much more.

2017 10 23 Mick West https://youtu.be/b9rs_4iGSPw Shadow Landing at Sacramento [Transcript Link](#)

Clean windows and a good angle of the sun gave me this cool view of our plane's shadow as we landed in Sacramento

2017 09 24 Mick West <https://youtu.be/SxntZh8FcNo> Have you actually READ the NIST Report on Building 7 [Transcript Link](#)

The full NIST report on the fires and collapse of World Trade Center Building 7, NCSTAR 1-9, is nearly 800 pages long. Lots of people in the 9/11 Truth community dismiss it, but very few have even skimmed through it, let alone read the pertinent parts.

Here I do the skimming through part. I do this to give you an idea of just how large and comprehensive it is. Even in this rapid-fire overview you can see the hundred pages they spend on precisely mapping the spread of the fires, and the hundreds more on investigating the possible causes of collapse via simulations. Feel free to pause at any point. All the pages are there.

If you are going to form an intellectually honest opinion on the collapse of World Trade Center Building 7 then by all means read the information provided by Architects and Engineers for 9/11 Truth, and others. But intellectual honesty requires knowledge of other positions before you can reject them. At the very least you should start with the NIST WTC7 FAQ:

<https://www.nist.gov/el/faqs-nist-wtc-7-investigation>

And then watch the description of how they conducted the investigation

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PK_iBYSqEsc

Then you will probably have questions. Be intellectually honest and unafraid. Do your own research. Read the NIST report:

<https://www.nist.gov/publications/structural-fire-response-and->

2017 08 04	Mick West	https://youtu.be/GGXnsJ75Eq4 Explained How Birds Make a V-Shaped UFO on Thermal Camera	<p>This "UFO" looks like a V of birds. But it's odd in that it appears to go behind the dark area, which is actually clear sky. However what we are seeing is probably out-of-focus birds. This makes them transparent, so the heat is added to the background, making them hard to see in the black areas, and brighter when they have cloud behind them. See: https://www.metabunk.org/help-debunk-explanation-v-shape-ufo-on-thermal-camera.t8972/</p>	Transcript Link
2017 07 03	Mick West	https://youtu.be/h_f7EI_R3oVs UFO Hawk Flying Sideways	<p>While watching coverage of a grass fire in Rancho Cordova at around 4:40, July 3 2017, I saw a weird black shape fly out of the smoke. This is the type of thing that would be classed a UFO, but luckily the cameraman followed the shape and zoomed in, revealing it to be a hawk. The curious sideways motion seems to be a parallax effect from the movement of the helicopter.</p> <p>Video Source: http://www.kcra.com/article/100-acre-grass-fire-burning-near-mather-airport/10256173</p> <p>More discussion: https://www.metabunk.org/sideways-flying-ufo-hawk.t8881/</p>	Transcript Link
2017 06 20	Mick West	https://youtu.be/MsyPVevDcJc Demonstrating of the Refraction of light away from Heated Air	<p>Hot air is less dense than cooler air at the same pressure because it expands. This reduction in density reduces the refractive index. So light that travels through the region between the hot air and cool air will bend towards the more dense cool air.</p> <p>Here I have a laser beam and a candle. Moving the candle closer to the beam causes the beam to be slightly curved away from the candle.</p> <p>Note this is a continuous variation, there's no sudden transition between hot and cold causing a sharp change in direction. You can smoothly adjust the amount of deviation by moving the candle in and out.</p> <p>This is the same effect that causes the reflecting mirages on hot roads. The hot air very close to the road expands and so is less dense, so the light curves slightly upwards. At shallow angles it can curve all the way up, and you get the familiar reflection mirage.</p>	Transcript Link
2017 06 16	Mick West	https://youtu.be/E-RXUa25jPA Enhancing and Magnifying The Curve of the Horizon with Photoshop	<p>Is the horizon curved in a photo or not? Often it's hard to tell. This video shows how to make any curve more apparent. More detail at: https://www.metabunk.org/how-to-take-a-photo-of-the-curve-of-the-horizon.t8859/</p> <p>Note any horizon curve might be partly caused by lens distortion, so you need to account for that.</p>	Transcript Link

2017 06 13	Mick West	https://youtu.be/jOQSxal-2FM	Creating a pseudo-Flat Earth View in Google Earth	<p>This is a demonstration of how to create a view of a distant coastline that simulates what it would look like if the Earth were flat.</p> <p>The basic process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Add a polygon marker over your target, set to to 50,000m, and extend sides to ground 2) Position the camera at your viewpoint 3) "Add Photo", and use https://www.metabunk.org/t (or any image, but an internet image makes it easier to share the link) 4) Edit the info on the photo you added to center the marker. 5) Zoom in to around 2° horizontal FOV (by adjusting the FOV slider), keeping the marker centered 6) Turn off the marker 7) Raise the view altitude until you can see the shore 8) Set Transparency to Clear <p>It's not a perfect view as there will be some parallax between objects at different distances, but for city skylines this is generally not significant.</p>	Transcript Link
2017 06 13	Mick West	https://youtu.be/m-xXhrTG3Sk	Stars Slowing Down as they Approach the Horizon	<p>Refraction makes stars seem to slow down a little as refraction compresses the vertical visual field close to the horizon (the same reason the sun seems squished as it sets). It's a little hard to see this effect, so I've taken a little bit of an excellent video by Babak Tafreshi (https://vimeo.com/188149183) to demonstrate just how much the slowdown actually is.</p>	Transcript Link
2017 06 11	Mick West	https://youtu.be/Gfe5QoESNh4	FLIR Temperature Reflection Problems with Aluminum Foil	<p>Thermometers and IR cameras, like those sold by FLIR, are great for measuring temperature at a distance. But you need to be careful not to take measurements from highly reflective surfaces at face value. This is not a defect in the FLIR cameras (which are a great product), it's just a natural consequence of measuring via infrared radiation which, like visible light, is reflected from shiny surfaces.</p> <p>In this example an attempt to measure the heat of moonlight fails because it's measuring the temperature of the cold sky or a warm plastic table reflected by some aluminum foil, and not the temperature of foil itself. I duplicate the effect in sunlight, showing how foil in the shade can appear "cooler" than foil in the sun, and how the foil in direct sunlight can appear to be at freezing temperatures, regardless of how hot it actually is.</p>	Transcript Link

2017 06 08	Mick West	https://youtu.be/HR8R9JNgtz0	Duplicating The Equator Drain Trick	<p>Demonstrating how you can make a sink drain clockwise or counter clockwise by filling it at a slight angle before the plug is pulled. This is a common trick done for tourists in places like Equador. There they pretend the effect is from being North or South of the equator (they walk from one side to another) and the Coriolis effect from the Earth's rotation. . In reality the actual effect is too small to demonstrate in this way. All you are seeing is the result of the way they pour in the water.</p> <p>I started out thinking even a very slight angle would demonstrate the effect, however on my second attempt I went too shallow (under 5°) and that created two counterrotating vortices, which somewhat chaotically interacted. To be sure of the result (in my sink) you need to use around 10°. This is probably less of an issue in smaller sinks - like those used in Equador.</p> <p>Here's an example of the trick being performed for tourists https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4IIVfoDuVlw</p> <p>See discussion here: https://www.metabunk.org/debunked-the-equator-trick-direction-of-water-flow.t6518/</p>	Transcript Link
2017 04 29	Mick West	https://youtu.be/lbgeoH5r0A	Determining Longitude with Time and The Sun	<p>See where the shadow is shortest, where it it becomes perpendicular to its path. That's at around 1:02 PM, which matches the expected time for my longitude.</p>	Transcript Link
2017 01 23	Mick West	https://youtu.be/50eOzUHZkP8	Plasco Two Views Synced with slowmo	<p>Synced video fo Plasco Tower collapse from Southwest and East side. The collapse seem to be initially the southeast quadrant. Video plays at full speed, and then at 25% speed</p> <p>Discussion: https://www.metabunk.org/ae911-truth-forced-to-claim-plasco-collapse-is-an-inside-job.t8339/</p>	Transcript Link
2017 01 18	Mick West	https://youtu.be/Uoqxr6A17VQ	Chilean UFO Video Explained	<p>Using the Google Earth tracks of the helicopter and the plane we can get a better idea of what we are looking at in the Chilean "UFO" video.</p> <p>https://www.metabunk.org/explained-chilean-navy-ufo-video-aerodynamic-contrails-flight-ib6830.t8306/</p>	Transcript Link
2017 01 17	Mick West	https://youtu.be/bTEZarmsG8Q	Sunset Contrail Zoom In and Out	<p>Sunset contrails sometimes look like UFOs, especially when they are shot. What you need is a really good zoom lens. Then you can get up close and see it's just a plane</p>	Transcript Link
2017 01 10	Mick West	https://youtu.be/2bFfulidCK0	Metabunk Minute - Chilean Navy UFO	<p>A 60 second explanation on how the Metabunk Skyidentify team tracked down the likely source of the Chilean "UFO". Full Discussion and more details here: https://www.metabunk.org/explained-chilean-navy-ufo-video-aerodynamic-contrails-flights-ib6830-and-la330.t8306/</p>	Transcript Link

2017 01 09	Mick West	https://youtu.be/ZVJCYJihuKw	Four Candles Simulating the Heat Signature of an A340	https://www.metabunk.org/explained-chilean-navy-ufo-video-aerodynamic-contrails-flights-ib6830-and-la330.t8306/	Transcript Link
2017 01 04	Mick West	https://youtu.be/N0GI2OnAb40	The P900 Rippling Orb Effect	When you view a point light source with a p900 at full zoom it's hard for the camera to focus, so you often get a large out-of-focus "orb" shape. When viewed through atmospheric turbulence, this can ripple. Several videos of Venus (and sometimes stars) show this effect which some people interpret as what Venus actually looks like. Really at full zoom venus still looks pretty much like a small bright light, sometimes crescent shaped. Discusson here: https://www.metabunk.org/the-p900-rippling-orb-venus-effect.t8299/	Transcript Link
2016 12 23	Mick West	https://youtu.be/jjoHaXrm_u4	Soda Can Loss Of Structure Illustrating WTC7 Collapse	Discussion at: https://www.metabunk.org/how-buckling-led-to-free-fall-accelleration-for-part-of-wtc7s-collapse.t8270/ When WTC7 collapsed, a portion of that collapse (about 2.5 seconds) was near freefall acceleration. This is because what you were seeing at that point was the exterior walls of the building collapsing, a bit like an empty soda can. Now it's very hard to illustrate this with small scale models due to the square-cube law. However we can illustrate the principles. A soda can supports 4000x its own weight, around 130 pounds (probably 200 if you add the weight really carefully), yet the metal walls of the soda can only support about 0.5 pounds if they don't have any structural support and they buckle. That's what happened with the "free-fall" portion of the WTC7 collapse. The walls had lost all their interior lateral support and then buckled near the bottom. This loss of structure meant that they could only support about 0.5% of what they could before. If they previously had a failsafe of around 4x the static load (very conservative), then that means they supplied an upwards force of equivalent to 4g (assuming everything is in place).. If this is reduced to 0.5% by the wall buckling then they only resist at 0.02g, and hence the building would fall at 98% of freefall - indistinguishable from 100% freefall based on video measurements. Note these are all just ballpark figures. There's a lot more variables, with scale being a big problem, and the actual directions of buckling would be more complex. However this illustrate the general	Transcript Link
2016 12 12	Mick West	https://youtu.be/vUYGjwCeonY	Time Lapse of Hole Punch Clouds Growing	Near Sacramento, cloud layer at around 25,000 feet. Supercooled water clouds turn to ice when disturbed, and the hole spreads.	Transcript Link
2016 12 10	Mick West	https://youtu.be/gjVA7iEm8Zc	Flight Over the Antarctic Sea Ice. Time Lapse	Flight QF28 from Santiago Chile to Sydney Australia See details: https://www.metabunk.org/a-flight-over-the-antarctic-sea-ice-from-chile-to-australia-qf28.t8235/	Transcript Link

2016 12 10	Mick West	https://youtu.be/X623emPclYo	Flight Over the Antarctic Sea Ice. Instruments View	Flight QF28 from Santiago Chile to Sydney Australia	Transcript Link
2016 12 04	Mick West	https://youtu.be/5VHVZrAcJHc	The effect of water content on combustion of Cabbage and Paper	Wet things don't burn. In fact while something like a cabbage leaf or a sheet of paper contains water it's pretty much fireproof. To get it to burn you have to hold it in the flame long enough for the water to be boiled away, then the remaining dry material will burn. Discussion at https://www.metabunk.org/fireproof-cabbage-burning-snow-flat-earth-are-some-things-too-silly-to-debunk.t8215/	Transcript Link
2016 11 20	Mick West	https://youtu.be/AI4bTAkcoM	An illustration of the Moon Terminator Tilt Illusion	When the sun and the moon are in the sky together it can look like the moon is being lit from a much higher angle than you would think from the position of the sun and the terminator (the line between dark and light on the moon). But really it's an optical illusion created by the lack of context and the wide viewing angle.	Transcript Link
2016 11 19	Mick West	https://youtu.be/7EXHNtAz8qI	Sunset 110 mile contrail from Side	This contrail viewed from 110 miles away is practically viewed edge on, an unusual perspective from a fixed viewpoint. You can see how the trail moves down relative to the plane and then rises.	Transcript Link
2016 11 18	Mick West	https://youtu.be/s5EXHJ6zeag	A physical model of the Illumination of the Moon during the day	Figuring out how the sun illuminates the moon can be a little confusing as things do seem to line up. But it's really an optical illusion called the "terminator illusion". (The "terminator" is the line where the daylight ends and night begins on a planet or moon). Here I made a little model of the Earth and Moon with a focussed flashlight for the sun. You can use this to experiment with different positions to get a general idea of how the illumination works. More details and discussion here: https://www.metabunk.org/the-sun-moon-terminator-illusion.t8165/	Transcript Link
2016 11 14	Mick West	https://youtu.be/fv2Voy0XRRO	The Super moon setting on the morning of Nov 14 2016	This is at 4x speed. The rippling you see around the edges is from atmospheric distortion. As the moon is setting the sun is rising opposite it.	Transcript Link
2016 11 08	Mick West	https://youtu.be/p4RKXyX6Zdl	Fallstreak from contrail forming with sun dog	A plane from SFO flew up through this cloud layer leaving a contrail. The contrail sank through the cloud layer, creating the fallstreak hole. This is a time-lapse video, and has been stabilized so the hole does not move. In reality the entire cloud layer was moving.	Transcript Link

2016 10 18	Mick West	https://youtu.be/q8JoR7u1rDE	OVERCAST DVD Mick West Clip 1	My bit actually starts at 0:38 in this clip, but I included the bit of me walking on the beach with Russ Tanner's voice over to show how I was introduced in the documentary. I'm happy that they included so much of what I said, but the intro was maybe a bit misleading. For a full transcript and audio of my one hour interview, see: https://www.metabunk.org/mick-west-interview-for-overcast-documentary-by-dedal-films.t6303/	Transcript Link
2016 10 08	Mick West	https://youtu.be/Ci2a0wEXb0g	Gulfstream Jet Contrail P900 Digital Zoom	P900 zooming in on a Gulfstream 4 jet. Some digital zoom. Fluid head tripod.	Transcript Link
2016 10 08	Mick West	https://youtu.be/nfwejwWlmt4	Extreme Closeup of Hybrid Contrail Crow Instability	These are the contrails entrained in the wake vortices behind a plane. Called "hybrid" contrails as they are formed both by the engine exhaust and the aerodynamic effects of the wake vortices. This is real-time video, and you can see the vortices spinning and eventually breaking up.	Transcript Link
2016 10 08	Mick West	https://youtu.be/YOJe4ZUS0U8	Contrail Crow Instability Collapsing and Subliming	Video was take with a Nikon P900, then used automatic Warp Stabilize in Adobe Premier, then cropped a bit to increase the zoom. Really should have used a tripod. This is real time video of a a contrail formed a few seconds earlier. You can see the dark lines which are the cores the two wake vortices. These sink and distort (crow instability) and eventually break up as the contrail is dissipating and subliming away	Transcript Link
2016 10 08	Mick West	https://youtu.be/sJsgw7lpxiw	A thin patchy persistent aerodynamic contrail forming		Transcript Link
2016 10 02	Mick West	https://youtu.be/qtuHV49cOk8	Storm Clouds Forming	A small storm system moving across Northern California.	Transcript Link
2016 09 28	Mick West	https://youtu.be/wvn2W-3Qon4	WTC7 Chandler Audio Video Time Compare	Four WTC Collapse Videos are synchronized to give context for the audio in the interview video. Discussion: https://www.metabunk.org/debunked-wtc7-sound-evidence-of-explosions-by-chandler-ae911t.t6071/#post-192273	Transcript Link

2016 08 05	Mick West	https://youtu.be/ogzAufGmBNM	Views of Toronto From Hamilton Illustrating The Earth's Curvature	Two photos of Toronto taken from different altitudes in Hamilton. The photos' viewpoints are duplicated in Google Earth, showing they closely match what is expected from the curvature of the Earth. Note I for to explain how I did the red line showing the surface of the lake. Just "Add Path" and then draw the squiggly line on the lake. Explanatory thread https://www.metabunk.org/explained-the-view-of-toronto-from-hamilton-600-feet-up.t7798/	Transcript Link
2016 08 04	Mick West	https://youtu.be/qC8qFiQqJC4	Aluminum vs Steel	Can aluminum break through steel? It all depends on how fast it's going, how heavy it is, and the mass, structure, and connections in the steel that it hits.	Transcript Link
2016 08 01	Mick West	https://youtu.be/3rEWKosqOIY	Scientists simulate jet colliding with World Trade Center (HD)	HD Version of https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cddIgb1nGJ8 http://www.rcac.purdue.edu/news/news_... Researchers at Purdue University have created a simulation that uses scientific principles to study in detail what likely happened when a commercial airliner crashed into the World Trade Center's North Tower on Sept. 11, 2001. Researchers: Chris Hoffmann - Faculty Sami Kilic - Former Member Scott Meador Voicu Popescu - Faculty Paul Rosen - Graduate Student Metec Sozen	Transcript Link
2016 07 15	Mick West	https://youtu.be/audSryYbc8	Contrails, Shadows, Distrails, Corona's, Halos, and Clouds	I set this up to capture a sundog forming as the contrail moved over a spot where a saw a sundog a few minutes earlier. The sundog does indeed form at 0:02 to 00:6. But the more interesting thing is the large contrail that forms close to a cloud layer, creating a huge shadow. You can see the plane that forms this contrail in the bottom left corner at 0:03. Then at 0:09 another plane flies over the top center, leaving a shadow on the cloud, then its contrail becomes visible once it passes the mid-point of the view frame. Of more technical interest, the contrail was a persistent aerodynamic contrail, and not an exhaust contrail	Transcript Link
2016 06 17	Mick West	https://youtu.be/Tjya1UaNHk	Orgonite Debunk Follow-up. Blocking with a bottle of water.		Transcript Link

2016 06 17	Mick West	https://youtu.be/01BrUDWVZKo	Debunked Experiments Showing Orgonite Blocking Electromagnetic Radiation	<p>My book, Escaping The Rabbit Hole: https://amzn.to/2PhqdYm</p> <p>There's a few videos on the internet that show people using a simple EMF meter and supposedly demonstrating that a piece of "orgonite" can be used to block the radiation from a WiFi router or similar. In the above video I attempt to duplicate those tests, and investigate to see if the orgonite is doing anything that some other similar sized object would do.</p> <p>The results were that the orgonite was not doing anything that any other object would do. In fact the blocking effect shows in previous tests comes from the person's hand, and not the orgonite itself. Holding any other object in the same position has the same effect. Holding no object at all in the same position has the same effect.</p> <p>If the orgonite is positioned between the router and the detector by itself it actually makes the detected radiation slightly worse - as does any other similar sized object of similar composition.</p> <p>Note: I refer to "Electromagnetic Radiation" in the video, but it's really EMF - an electromagnetic field.</p> <p>See Discussion here: https://www.metabunk.org/debunked-experiments-showing-orgonite-blocking-electromagnetic-radiation.t7678/</p>	Transcript Link
2016 06 16	Mick West	https://youtu.be/6RxcasK8RfE	Orgonite and other things blocking EMF		Transcript Link
2016 06 08	Mick West	https://youtu.be/2aY16lGqHQw	Formation of a contrail volumetric edge shadow		Transcript Link
2016 06 02	Mick West	https://youtu.be/O1WXlr92Wt8	Dark Contrail	This contrail looked dark from this angle	Transcript Link
2016 04 07	Mick West	https://youtu.be/flo62pdaIMl	A Physical Model of the Collapse of The World Trade Center	<p>See Discussion here: https://www.metabunk.org/towards-a-replicable-physical-model-illustrating-aspects-of-the-collapse-of-the-wtc-towers-on-9-11.t7396/</p>	Transcript Link

2015 12 12	Mick West	https://youtu.be/fwkq4-id5t0	Explained, why clouds sometimes seem to be behind the sun.	Discussion: https://www.metabunk.org/clouds-behind-the-sun-and-moon.t7084/	Transcript Link
2015 11 06	Mick West	https://youtu.be/8qk0MV_uuwk	How to add a sky distance guide to Google Earth	This is an image overlay that sits at 33,000 feet, showing you approximately how far away a plane at that altitude would be for a particular position in the sky. I don't just give a KLM because you need to re-adjust the size when you move it to different latitudes, so it's actually easier to just re-create it in the new position. URL for the rings image: https://www.metabunk.org/rings.png	Transcript Link
2015 11 04	Mick West	https://youtu.be/kgBZ6HAZZC8	Tracking down a contrail with FlightRadar24	This is the process I use to try to track down which plane created a particular contrail. In this case it was plane over Portland doing high-altitude hold on the way to Seattle. When plane arrive a busy airports, they often don't just fly straight in, as they have to arrive at a very precise time, so there's often quite a bit of adjustment within the last few hundred miles of the approach Discussion here: https://www.metabunk.org/how-to-track-down-a-contrail-with-flightradar24-com.t6955/	Transcript Link
2015 10 25	Mick West	https://youtu.be/lxQlr_XSWCU	BIZARRE Three Suns Seen Above California	A bit of glass at the correct angle, and you can actually get three suns in the video.	Transcript Link
2015 10 25	Mick West	https://youtu.be/5jSopYViNL8	Second Sun fake video with glass slide on iPhone 6	See discussion, and "how-to" photos: https://www.metabunk.org/two-suns-nope-not-sundogs.t6932/	Transcript Link
2015 10 25	Mick West	https://youtu.be/fPOmp0hHlhE	Second Sun video demonstration of reflection of sun on iPhone 6 with a filter.	See discussion, and "how-to" photos: https://www.metabunk.org/two-suns-nope-not-sundogs.t6932/	Transcript Link
2015 10 21	Mick West	https://youtu.be/ikKR8AUtWo8	Ghost tree #2 - Evening	When the trees are darker, the effect is more like the "ghost city" videos. See: https://www.metabunk.org/floating-cities-are-generally-not-fata-morgana-mirages.t6922/	Transcript Link
2015 10 20	Mick West	https://youtu.be/neCOMvQ_G7g	Mirage Tree	A tree appears in the sky like a mirage. This is a demonstration of how images can be superimposed when viewed through glass. Here the tall tree was off to the right, and I was viewing the sky through a glass door at 45°	Transcript Link

2015 10 16	Mick West	https://youtu.be/x9oldQpZp04	Headlight Reflection and Lighting	<p>This is a cropped version of https://www.facebook.com/osiel.pvazquez/videos/904130636287658/ just to demonstrate the amount of lightning that's going on in the storm cloud. So it's not that huge of a coincidence that the car headlight reflection happens to "hit" the cloud at the same time as some lighting.</p> <p>Discussion thread: https://www.metabunk.org/explained-large-cigar-shaped-object-caught-shooting-into-storm-cloud-in-spain-reflection.t6912/</p>	Transcript Link
2015 10 15	Mick West	https://youtu.be/GTXP9382Fcc	Internal Lens Reflections on iPhone 6	<p>A demonstration of Internal Lens Reflections on iPhone 6, using two light sources. Just to demonstrate the types of internal reflections (and lens flare) you might commonly get with a bright light, or the sun. Sometimes these are mistaken for UFOs</p>	Transcript Link
2015 06 21	Mick West	https://youtu.be/oMT4K2ecML4	Yosemite Park Half Dome Time Lapse Movie Jun 17 2015	<p>Related discussion here: https://www.metabunk.org/yosemite-contrail-grid-17-june-2015.t6427/</p>	Transcript Link
2015 06 19	Mick West	https://youtu.be/Je9bVv88x34	Three Hours of Normal Air Traffic over Yosemite causes Contrail Grid	<p>In 3 hours on the morning of Jun 17, 2015, between 7AM and 10AM PDT, there were 105 plane flying above 25,000 feet over Yosemite National Park. These are planes passing within 20 miles of 37.81,-119.48 (although it might have missed a few). The video then shows playback with just those plane. The inset photo is from 9AM on that day.</p> <p>With the traffic for San Francisco and Los Angeles, Yosemite is basically under a giant crossroads in the sky. So it's no wonder it gets a lot of contrails, and sometimes they form grids.</p> <p>The time bar at the bottom is in UTC, so it's 7 hours ahead of PDT (Pacific). So 14:00 there is 07:00 in California.</p> <p>The traffic does not actually stop at 10AM (17:00 UTC) I just stopped tagging planes at that point, but let it run for a while (another 1.5 hours) Based on this, there's probably around 500 planes per day over Yosemite.</p> <p>The planes that jump around are due to errors in the ADS-B recording - likely when the plane moves from one receiver to another and they are not exactly in sync.</p> <p>These are almost all regular passenger flights.</p>	Transcript Link

2015 06 18	Mick West	https://youtu.be/SbrfPm4T7ak	Three Hours of airline Traffic over Yosemite	<p>In 3 hours on the morning of Jun 17, 2015, between 7AM and 10AM PDT, there were 105 plane flying above 25,000 feet over Yosemite National Park. These are planes passing within 20 miles of 37.81,-119.48 (although it might have missed a few). The video then shows playback with just those plane.</p> <p>With the traffic for San Francisco and Los Angeles, Yosemite is basically under a giant crossroads in the sky. So it's no wonder it gets a lot of contrails, and sometimes they form grids.</p> <p>The time bar at the bottom is in UTC, so it's 7 hours ahead of PDT (Pacific). So 14:00 there is 07:00 in California.</p> <p>The traffic does not actually stop at 10AM (17:00 UTC) I just stopped tagging planes at that point, but let it run for a while (another 1.5 hours) Based on this, there's probably around 500 planes per day over Yosemite.</p> <p>The planes that jump around are due to errors in the ADS-B recording - likely when the plane moves from one receiver to another and they are not exactly in sync.</p> <p>These are almost all regular passenger flights.</p>	Transcript Link
2015 06 16	Mick West	https://youtu.be/1Nh75lN2hGk	Missile Plane Impact Fragmentation Pattern Simulator	<p>Simulator: http://tube.geogebra.org/student/m1340379 (fixed minor rotation vs. translation error)</p> <p>New Version with forward damage: http://tube.geogebra.org/student/m1343277</p> <p>Discussion Thread: https://www.metabunk.org/was-mh17-downed-by-a-buk-fired-from-zaroshens%E2%80%99kye.t6345/</p> <p>To aid with illustrating and examining the evidence of a missile with fragmentation war bring down flight MH17, this a simple simulation that shows the patterns shrapnel would follow, based on the velocity of the missile, the plane, and the shrapnel - along with the spread angle, and the point of detonation.</p>	Transcript Link
2015 05 24	Mick West	https://youtu.be/cxS2FUxiLI	Illustration of Peeling Away of Exterior Walls	<p>Unsupported exterior walls pivot on their lower sections, peeling away from the tower, imparting quite a bit of velocity on the upper sections.</p>	Transcript Link
2015 05 14	Mick West	https://youtu.be/wZy3DtW5C6Y	May 14 2015 - storm scudding in		Transcript Link
2015 04 14	Mick West	https://youtu.be/NXDY2isHmyk	Spider Silk, Bugs, and Rods in Sunlight	<p>Filmed with 500mm 1.6x (Canon 7d). Some spider silk from ballooning spiders, and bugs flying around in the sunlight. The "rods" are fast moving insects moving fast through the scene, with multiple wingbeats per frame.</p>	Transcript Link

2015 03 26	Mick West	https://youtu.be/S5pP6naBcnY	Contrail fading to hybrid contrails with crow instabilities	A contrail formed by Singapore airlines flight SQ7972, a Boeing 747, from Anchorage to Los Angeles, March 25th 2015, 18:36. (00:36 UTC, Mar 26th) Demonstrates the dissolution of the contrail into the hybrid contrails formed in the vortex cores (note there's four engines but only two vortices, as they come from the wings), which then distort with the crow instability. Finally the hybrid contrails break up in an interesting swirly effect. The video is in real time, the collapse of the vortices is quite quick as the hybrid contrail persists only as long as they are still spinning, which reduces the air pressure, increasing the relative humidity. Once they stop spinning the RH drops below saturation and the cloud evaporates.	Transcript Link
2015 03 18	Mick West	https://youtu.be/ucTJbdgH5w	Cirrus and contrails 3-17-2015		Transcript Link
2015 03 04	Mick West	https://youtu.be/fyDt0LEdABQ	Fisheye time lapse cirrus Mar 3 2015		Transcript Link
2015 02 28	Mick West	https://youtu.be/8FQ9RgCKsi8	Approaching storm time lapse Feb 27 2015		Transcript Link
2015 02 27	Mick West	https://youtu.be/NsjVgL2EAeU	Chaotic clouds time lapse. Feb 27 2015		Transcript Link
2015 02 26	Mick West	https://youtu.be/LVD0o2iogCo	Contrail time lapse Feb 26 2015		Transcript Link
2015 02 14	Mick West	https://youtu.be/7vYHB y2suk8	Cumulus and sunbeams time lapse Feb 14 2015		Transcript Link

2015 02 13	Mick West	https://youtu.be/FxCwRz6laAk	A contrail sweeps across the sky		Transcript Link
2015 02 12	Mick West	https://youtu.be/4DMjckqD0cM	2015 02 12 contrails time lapse		Transcript Link
2015 02 07	Mick West	https://youtu.be/Shg1rXogruc	Scudding Storm Clouds Time Lapse	iPhone time lapse out my window. There's a few reflections.	Transcript Link
2015 02 06	Mick West	https://youtu.be/0xvHljt3em0	Compression test	1080p compressed to 480x360 at 340kb/s	Transcript Link
2014 12 11	Mick West	https://youtu.be/9DhDG Yk-HUU	Effect of smudges on the lens on rays around a bright light	Pointed the camera at a bright light, then smudged the lens with my finger to create different patterns of rays.	Transcript Link
2014 11 28	Mick West	https://youtu.be/1U0xzC1o3rQ	Caustic Bokeh	Water is sprayed on a transparent film in front of a 50mm F1.4 lens. At this wide aperture, the bokeh is very large, and allows us to see lots of detail of the caustics caused by the distorted water drops. Related thread: https://www.metabunk.org/threads/explained-colorado-man-photographs-flying-jellyfish-like-%E2%80%98critters%E2%80%99-water-on-lens-caustic-bokeh.5211/	Transcript Link
2014 10 19	Mick West	https://youtu.be/D8ILX-lzuXM	Metabunk Color Changing Network Cable	For my Metabunk article on Paramagnetic Paint. https://www.metabunk.org/threads/debunked-paramagnetic-paint-color-changing-cars-hoax-after-effects-fake.4785/ Demo of how easy it is to change colors in After Effects.	Transcript Link
2014 09 26	Mick West	https://youtu.be/wUW4JtJPjLQ	Chicago Area Shutdown Sept 26 2014	Fire shuts down the Chicago airspace for several hours. This capture from FlightRadar24.com shows the large hole opening up in normal traffic	Transcript Link

2014 08 30	Mick West	https://youtu.be/8TKv4AzLr8w	Alex Israel and Katie Foley Comparison - Obviously Different	<p>Comparison of Alex Israel and Katie Foley, demonstrating to any reasonable person that they are not the same person.</p> <p>There are jumps in the video, as I just used all the full screen footage copied out of the two videos, and I had to repeat the Foley footage for length.</p> <p>Original debunking: https://www.metabunk.org/threads/debunked-foleys-alleged-sister-katie-foley-vs-lanzas-alleged-friend-alex-israel.4348/</p> <p>Sources: http://www.cnn.com/video/data/2.0/video/us/2012/12/15/pmt-intv-former-lanza-classmate.cnn.html http://abcnews.go.com/International/video/james-foleys-siblings-michael-katie-pope-jims-acts-25086724</p>	Transcript Link
2014 08 14	Mick West	https://youtu.be/ADeZ-b7LPSg	Dirt speck on Apollo 15 Lunar Mapping Camera	<p>Via: http://apollo.sese.asu.edu/ABOUT_SCANS/</p> <p>Subsequent analysis during image reprocessing revealed that foreign debris was present in the optical path of the camera system, and can be seen in the photographic exposures. Selected examples of blemish features of this type are shown in Figure 2. A movie showing blemish movement can be seen here. While the image processing steps undertaken as part of this effort may have removed some of these blemish features, users should be aware that blemish features exist in many of the images.</p>	Transcript Link
2014 07 22	Mick West	https://youtu.be/hh06SgVx_1Q	MH17 Planes in the area	<p>Two hours of flight activity in the region of the MH17 crash, with the crash at UTC1321 0:45 seconds into the video.</p>	Transcript Link
2014 05 22	Mick West	https://youtu.be/2CPOXP1hRjM	Development of row of fallstreak clouds	<p>First trails at 1:15 Source: http://www.atmos.washington.edu/images/webcam2/movies/20130806.mov</p>	Transcript Link
2014 05 15	Mick West	https://youtu.be/j3-c1dhQ8A0	Defense Hearing Defense Research and Innovation (HAARP Segment)	<p>See: https://www.metabunk.org/threads/haarp-is-being-permanently-dismantled.3641/ Senator Murkowski asks questions about the impending dismantling of the HAARP facility in Alaska. Basically the defense related research has been done, they are moving on to other ways of managing the problems the ionosphere poses for radio communication, and nobody wants to pay the \$5 Million a year to keep it running for academic research.</p>	Transcript Link
2014 04 24	Mick West	https://youtu.be/Ju6pYgi45Cc	Clouds of the World 1972	<p>Just demonstrating the nice condition of my copy of this book.</p>	Transcript Link

2014 03 01 Mick West https://youtu.be/X72uACIN_00 Investigating Contrails don't persist with 70 years of books on clouds

There's a common belief that "normal" contrails cannot persist. But WHY do people think this?

If you look back at any book on clouds in the last 70 years they will tell you that contrails sometimes fade away, and sometimes persist and spread out over the sky.

So if someone tells you that contrails can't persist, ask yourself what is more likely:

A) They are mistaken
B) All the books on clouds for the past 70 years are mistaken.

I know it only shows books going back 57 years and I say "70 years" in the video. My 1940s books were on order, and can be seen at the link below.

Discussion and references:
<https://www.metabunk.org/threads/debunking-contrails-dont-persist-with-a-study-of-60-years-of-books-on-clouds.3201/>
My book, Escaping The Rabbit Hole: <https://amzn.to/2PhqdYm>

[Transcript Link](#)

2014 02 16 Mick West <https://youtu.be/Ax0NxzifB6E> Fake City Asymmetric Warfare Training Center at Fort A.P. Hill

The "Fake City" at Fort A.P. Hill. Not really as big as it sounds. A lot of the buildings in this video area are part of the training center, and not the simulated Urban Area.

<https://www.metabunk.org/threads/debunked-fake-city-us-army-trains-for-martial-law-in-us.3110/>

The U.S. Army Asymmetric Warfare Group hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of its Asymmetric Warfare Training Center Jan. 24 at Fort A.P. Hill. Participants included State and local officials from Virginia, representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Training and Doctrine Command, and various others who attended to witness the historic event. The state-of-the-art facility provides a location for the AWG to replicate complex operational environments and develop solutions—which includes exploring adaptive tactics, techniques and procedures.

Via: <http://www.dvidshub.net/video/320460/awtc-opens-enhance-awgs-capabilities>

[Transcript Link](#)

2014 02 02	Mick West	https://youtu.be/TEt5mOqK6tl	Why a lighter heating a snowball (or anything) smells like burn plastic	<p>It's not the snowball that smells, it's the products of incomplete combustion from the lighter. You can verify this by heating some heat-resistant glass, like a pyrex jug, or an oven-safe glass dish.</p> <p>A lighter normally has very little smell, as it has a good supply of oxygen. But if you push it up under something, then you restrict the flow of oxygen, and you get partial combustion, which is the plastic smell. The smell is most strong while you are "burning" the glass, but actually it's just sooting it. The residue also smells a bit after you stop.</p> <p>Note that it looks exactly like I burnt the glass, but it's actually just a layer of soot I can wipe off with my finger. The glass was not affected at all.</p> <p>Discussion: https://www.metabunk.org/debunked-fake-snow-burning-snow.t3026/</p>	Transcript Link
2014 01 31	Mick West	https://youtu.be/ISgVGbi5dyY	Clean and Dirty Butane Flames	<p>Demonstrating how a flame from a standard butane lighter will produce soot, but a cleaner burning butane blowtorch will not - unless the air supply is restricted.</p> <p>Butane is a hydrocarbon (C₄H₁₀). It's gas at room temperature and pressure, so it's stored under pressure as a liquid in the lighters and the blowtorch.</p> <p>Butane burns in air, combining with oxygen with the ideal reaction: $2 \text{C}_4\text{H}_{10} + 13 \text{O}_2 \rightarrow 8 \text{CO}_2 + 10 \text{H}_2\text{O}$ i.e. Butane + Oxygen → Carbon Dioxide + Water</p> <p>But if there's not enough air, you get incomplete combustion, giving something more like: $\text{C}_4\text{H}_{10} + 5\text{O}_2 = 2\text{CO}_2 + 5\text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{CO} + \text{C}$ i.e. Butane + (less) Oxygen = Carbon dioxide + Water + Carbon Monoxide + Carbon</p> <p>The Carbon is the soot, which coats the glass slide above, and you can sometimes see as black smoke.</p>	Transcript Link
2014 01 24	Mick West	https://youtu.be/2eGkEfgns_s	Mars News Briefing Jan. 23, 2014 Jelly Donut	Discussion of the "Jelly Donut" rock that appeared in front of the Mars Rover "Curiosity"	Transcript Link
2014 01 07	Mick West	https://youtu.be/5OGu2rdqq_o	The Undramatic throwing boiling of water into the air in normal conditions	Throwing boiling water into the air when it's -40°F give a dramatic cloud of ice fog, but what happens in normal conditions? Turns out it's pretty boring.	Transcript Link

2013 12 10	Mick West	https://youtu.be/FUNVYtl6RKU	Paint backed with rust is magnetic	It's commonly thought that rust is not magnetic. However rust (iron oxide) actually is quite magnetic. Here's a demonstration of some paint chips with rust on the back being attracted to a magnet.	Transcript Link
2013 10 28	Mick West	https://youtu.be/7-iUaJXh0I	Making Iron Microspheres with an Angle Grinder	I make a mixture of iron filings and microspheres by grinding an old steel dumbbell and directing the sparks towards a very strong magnet under a sheet of paper. The resultant dust contains many small microspheres of iron, mixed in with a lot of other debris.	Transcript Link
2013 10 16	Mick West	https://youtu.be/vfNZGexAJmc	Steel Wool Burning Close Up	Zoom in on steel wool burning. Shows the formation of metal spheres. Note that the melting of the steel is not from the butane lighter, which is not hot enough to melt steel, it's from the actual combustion of the steel itself, and so has to do with the actual shape of the steel strands.	Transcript Link
2013 10 16	Mick West	https://youtu.be/Y12ri1fNDEQ	Ignition of Steel Wool with a wood flame	Steel wool does not need a particularly hot flame to ignite and form microspheres. Here I ignite some steel wool with a piece of burning wood.	Transcript Link
2012 10 20	Mick West	https://youtu.be/UzQDKLcunzo	Caterpillar Digging	This caterpillar dug itself a little hole, looks like it's planning on turning into a moth.	Transcript Link
2012 05 02	Mick West	https://youtu.be/y1uAR49tww	Cinemagraph Animated GIF Tutorial	Very quick overview of the process I use to make cinemagraph style animated GIFs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chop out a short segment of a movie (use a tripod) - Make it loop by chopping it in half, moving the second half in front of the first half, then doing a cross dissolve. - Open in Photoshop - Copy the image and paste, which will give you a solid frame on top of the movie layer - Add a layer mask to the top layer - Paint over the area you want to animate - Save as GIF, set animation to forever. - host it somewhere. 	Transcript Link