

Skeptiko

forum

intelligent discussion on science and spirit

Skeptiko Home

Members

# DEFINING RULES OF NEW SKEPTIKO FORUM



**ALEX TSAKIRIS**  
skeptiko.com

1  
00:00:15,259 --> 00:00:13,730  
welcome to skeptic aware we explore

2  
00:00:17,510 --> 00:00:15,269  
controversial science with leading

3  
00:00:20,470 --> 00:00:17,520  
researchers thinkers and their critics

4  
00:00:23,900 --> 00:00:20,480  
i'm your host Alex Karras and on this

5  
00:00:26,300 --> 00:00:23,910  
abbreviated episode of skeptic oh I just

6  
00:00:27,880 --> 00:00:26,310  
wanted to pop in and make a couple of

7  
00:00:31,009 --> 00:00:27,890  
announcements and do a little bit of

8  
00:00:33,049 --> 00:00:31,019  
housecleaning skeptic Oh business and

9  
00:00:36,770 --> 00:00:33,059  
most of what I have to say centers

10  
00:00:39,709 --> 00:00:36,780  
around the skeptic Oh form with this

11  
00:00:42,380 --> 00:00:39,719  
podcast I am launching a new version of

12  
00:00:44,389 --> 00:00:42,390  
the skeptic Oh form Jacob who is the

13  
00:00:47,330 --> 00:00:44,399

administrator of the old skeptical form

14

00:00:50,119 --> 00:00:47,340

has been a long-standing helper of

15

00:00:53,029 --> 00:00:50,129

skeptic oh and I much appreciate him

16

00:00:54,770 --> 00:00:53,039

very early on in this process contacting

17

00:00:57,049 --> 00:00:54,780

me and saying hey let me help you out

18

00:00:59,689 --> 00:00:57,059

with the forum but I think it's time to

19

00:01:02,180 --> 00:00:59,699

switch over bring the skeptical forum

20

00:01:04,070 --> 00:01:02,190

over on my server maybe clean it up a

21

00:01:06,080 --> 00:01:04,080

little bit i hope i've done that and add

22

00:01:09,649 --> 00:01:06,090

a couple little bells and whistles that

23

00:01:11,630 --> 00:01:09,659

i found in a new forum app so hopefully

24

00:01:13,039 --> 00:01:11,640

we can make this transition somewhat

25

00:01:16,100 --> 00:01:13,049

painless but it is going to require

26  
00:01:18,499 --> 00:01:16,110  
folks to log into the new skeptical form

27  
00:01:20,719 --> 00:01:18,509  
and establish your credentials there and

28  
00:01:23,570 --> 00:01:20,729  
then just start posting away and we'll

29  
00:01:25,340 --> 00:01:23,580  
leave the old skeptical forum up for a

30  
00:01:27,950 --> 00:01:25,350  
little while and then we're going to

31  
00:01:29,899 --> 00:01:27,960  
close off new posts from there and see

32  
00:01:32,780 --> 00:01:29,909  
if we can bring everyone over to the new

33  
00:01:35,390 --> 00:01:32,790  
skeptical form and while we're on the

34  
00:01:38,630 --> 00:01:35,400  
topic of the forum i wanted to throw

35  
00:01:40,580 --> 00:01:38,640  
open for discussion how we should run

36  
00:01:43,460 --> 00:01:40,590  
the forum in terms of the amount of

37  
00:01:46,670 --> 00:01:43,470  
interaction we should promote between if

38  
00:01:48,889 --> 00:01:46,680

you will skeptics and believers and i

39

00:01:51,490 --> 00:01:48,899

think this has become an issue for me

40

00:01:54,639 --> 00:01:51,500

lately mainly because what I've seen

41

00:01:58,550 --> 00:01:54,649

unfolding in the Rupert sheldrick

42

00:02:00,319 --> 00:01:58,560

Wikipedia drama which I documented a

43

00:02:02,870 --> 00:02:00,329

little bit a couple episodes ago and

44

00:02:05,560 --> 00:02:02,880

which I'd encourage you to follow up on

45

00:02:09,139 --> 00:02:05,570

with a couple of links to Craig Wyler's

46

00:02:11,720 --> 00:02:09,149

updates on what's going on there now for

47

00:02:13,670 --> 00:02:11,730

those of you who don't know Rupert

48

00:02:16,459 --> 00:02:13,680

Sheldrake is a Cambridge biology

49

00:02:18,619 --> 00:02:16,469

too has some mildly controversial ideas

50

00:02:21,649 --> 00:02:18,629

about this thing called morphic

51  
00:02:24,530 --> 00:02:21,659  
residents well for whatever reason he's

52  
00:02:26,780 --> 00:02:24,540  
gained the ire of the skeptical

53  
00:02:28,699 --> 00:02:26,790  
community if you will and they've all

54  
00:02:30,830 --> 00:02:28,709  
gotten together and just kind of taken

55  
00:02:33,170 --> 00:02:30,840  
over his Wikipedia page and turned it

56  
00:02:34,879 --> 00:02:33,180  
into a total mess and when a couple of

57  
00:02:36,830 --> 00:02:34,889  
folks went in there and tried to clean

58  
00:02:38,449 --> 00:02:36,840  
it up and trying to add some other

59  
00:02:41,000 --> 00:02:38,459  
references to give it a more neutral

60  
00:02:43,429 --> 00:02:41,010  
point of view they just ran them not a

61  
00:02:45,530 --> 00:02:43,439  
week appiah which I have to say I

62  
00:02:46,879 --> 00:02:45,540  
predicted and I told these guys that's

63  
00:02:48,589 --> 00:02:46,889

exactly what it's going to happen

64

00:02:52,129 --> 00:02:48,599

because I think people are on the

65

00:02:55,699 --> 00:02:52,139

outside don't understand the nastiness

66

00:02:57,800 --> 00:02:55,709

that goes on inside of certain aspects

67

00:03:00,649 --> 00:02:57,810

of the skeptical community and and how

68

00:03:04,039 --> 00:03:00,659

unrelenting they are in this kind of

69

00:03:07,280 --> 00:03:04,049

fanatical point of view which brings us

70

00:03:09,379 --> 00:03:07,290

back to the skeptical form because ever

71

00:03:11,599 --> 00:03:09,389

since this incident has been brought to

72

00:03:13,069 --> 00:03:11,609

my attention I knew it was out there but

73

00:03:14,059 --> 00:03:13,079

I guess when somebody brings it back to

74

00:03:16,309 --> 00:03:14,069

your attention you have a new

75

00:03:17,890 --> 00:03:16,319

sensitivity to it but ever since then

76

00:03:19,909 --> 00:03:17,900

I've kind of looked at the forum

77

00:03:23,119 --> 00:03:19,919

differently and I've asked myself

78

00:03:25,399 --> 00:03:23,129

questions about moderation that is how

79

00:03:27,920 --> 00:03:25,409

much moderation we should add to the

80

00:03:30,740 --> 00:03:27,930

forum what voices should we include in

81

00:03:34,670 --> 00:03:30,750

this dialogue and what voices should we

82

00:03:36,589 --> 00:03:34,680

ask to just step aside and for any of

83

00:03:38,899 --> 00:03:36,599

you who've been around controversial

84

00:03:41,809 --> 00:03:38,909

forms in general and in particular the

85

00:03:45,409 --> 00:03:41,819

skeptical form you know that that's not

86

00:03:49,219 --> 00:03:45,419

an easy question there are a diversity

87

00:03:50,719 --> 00:03:49,229

of opinions and if you just go Stifel

88

00:03:53,300 --> 00:03:50,729

everyone's opinion and just start

89  
00:03:55,039 --> 00:03:53,310  
banning everyone you wind up with no one

90  
00:03:58,429 --> 00:03:55,049  
on The Skeptical forum which by the way

91  
00:04:00,770 --> 00:03:58,439  
I value greatly and I really appreciate

92  
00:04:02,960 --> 00:04:00,780  
those folks who come to the skeptical

93  
00:04:04,460 --> 00:04:02,970  
form and share their ideas many folks

94  
00:04:07,039 --> 00:04:04,470  
have told me that it's one of the most

95  
00:04:09,199 --> 00:04:07,049  
intelligent thoughtful forms that

96  
00:04:11,210 --> 00:04:09,209  
they've encountered on the web I tend to

97  
00:04:13,520 --> 00:04:11,220  
agree I've gained so much out of it if

98  
00:04:16,550 --> 00:04:13,530  
you haven't I hope you'll take this new

99  
00:04:20,210 --> 00:04:16,560  
opportunity to check it out and I hope

100  
00:04:21,649 --> 00:04:20,220  
you'll also weigh in on this question

101  
00:04:24,080 --> 00:04:21,659  
that I'm asking and we're going to make

102  
00:04:26,420 --> 00:04:24,090  
it the first thread in The Skeptical

103  
00:04:29,689 --> 00:04:26,430  
forum and that is to kind of

104  
00:04:32,659 --> 00:04:29,699  
hash out this question of moderation and

105  
00:04:35,960 --> 00:04:32,669  
what kind of voices do we want to have

106  
00:04:37,850 --> 00:04:35,970  
in this forum so that's where I'm coming

107  
00:04:40,939 --> 00:04:37,860  
from but what I really want to hear of

108  
00:04:43,850 --> 00:04:40,949  
course are your thoughts on where

109  
00:04:46,310 --> 00:04:43,860  
moderation should take us regarding the

110  
00:04:49,879 --> 00:04:46,320  
skeptical form and the place to do that

111  
00:04:52,640 --> 00:04:49,889  
of course is at the new skeptic Oh form

112  
00:04:56,090 --> 00:04:52,650  
if you go to the skeptical website sk-ii

113  
00:04:58,820 --> 00:04:56,100

pti KO kaam you'll find a link right

114

00:05:02,300 --> 00:04:58,830

there to the new skeptical form sign in

115

00:05:04,100 --> 00:05:02,310

register and post away tell us what you

116

00:05:05,990 --> 00:05:04,110

think hopefully we'll have a good

117

00:05:08,300 --> 00:05:06,000

exchange that can really steer this

118

00:05:10,670 --> 00:05:08,310

project in a direction that will benefit

119

00:05:12,290 --> 00:05:10,680

all of us at least that's my hope and of

120

00:05:14,240 --> 00:05:12,300

course as always while you're there at

121

00:05:17,210 --> 00:05:14,250

the skeptical website be sure to check

122

00:05:18,710 --> 00:05:17,220

out all of our previous shows subscribe

123

00:05:21,260 --> 00:05:18,720

to the show if you haven't already you

124

00:05:23,600 --> 00:05:21,270

can do so on itunes i've added an email

125

00:05:25,640 --> 00:05:23,610

list you can sign up for we're all email

126

00:05:28,010 --> 00:05:25,650

you updates when the show's come out and

127

00:05:30,710 --> 00:05:28,020

you'll also find all the other usual

128

00:05:33,110 --> 00:05:30,720

stuff there including an email and a

129

00:05:35,000 --> 00:05:33,120

facebook link to me so thanks for

130

00:05:37,430 --> 00:05:35,010

staying with me for this short little

131

00:05:39,950 --> 00:05:37,440

housecleaning episode thank you for

132

00:05:42,830 --> 00:05:39,960

being part of this skeptic Oh community

133

00:05:45,350 --> 00:05:42,840

that I enjoy so much and feel like I've

134

00:05:48,140 --> 00:05:45,360

benefited from so much you're a big part

135

00:05:50,600 --> 00:05:48,150

of that for me so that's going to do it

136

00:05:53,180 --> 00:05:50,610

for this episode as promised have a

137

00:05:55,820 --> 00:05:53,190

series of interviews coming up on a very

138

00:05:58,420 --> 00:05:55,830

interesting topic I think UFO and

139

00:06:01,689 --> 00:05:58,430

consciousness and its overlap with in

140

00:06:04,279 --> 00:06:01,699

DES and other spiritually transformative

141

00:06:06,290 --> 00:06:04,289

experiences I think you'll enjoy all