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SOMEWHERE IN THE SKIES

WITH RYAN SPRAGUE

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1
00:00:00,780 --> 00:00:06,290

[Music]

2
00:00:10,860 --> 00:00:09,770

I'm right spread and this is somewhere

3
00:00:29,060 --> 00:00:10,870

in disguise

4
00:00:32,179 --> 00:00:29,070

[Music]

5
00:00:35,720 --> 00:00:32,189

I was called into the meeting on

6
00:00:38,959 --> 00:00:35,730

Thursday the panel members were seated

7
00:00:41,780 --> 00:00:38,969

around this table was a rather somber

8
00:00:43,729 --> 00:00:41,790

and impressive occasion actually I was a

9
00:00:45,619 --> 00:00:43,739

junior member and I remember feeling

10
00:00:47,869 --> 00:00:45,629

considerably nervous and apprehensive

11
00:00:50,719 --> 00:00:47,879

about being in front of this powerhouse

12
00:00:53,030 --> 00:00:50,729

of scientists but then for the past four

13
00:00:54,649 --> 00:00:53,040

years I had been scientific advisor to

14

00:00:57,469 --> 00:00:54,659

the US Air Force on this very problem

15

00:00:59,630 --> 00:00:57,479

there were two films that were of

16

00:01:02,869 --> 00:00:59,640

particular interest to the panel at that

17

00:01:05,420 --> 00:01:02,879

time one was a film taken by a Navy

18

00:01:07,340 --> 00:01:05,430

officer while on vacation in Utah near

19

00:01:10,789 --> 00:01:07,350

true Mountain Utah and the other was a

20

00:01:13,160 --> 00:01:10,799

film taken in Great Falls Montana by the

21

00:01:15,560 --> 00:01:13,170

owner of the local baseball team the

22

00:01:18,230 --> 00:01:15,570

Utah film had already been subjected to

23

00:01:20,719 --> 00:01:18,240

some thousand or so man-hours of

24

00:01:22,880 --> 00:01:20,729

analysis by the Navy's photographic

25

00:01:25,160 --> 00:01:22,890

interpretation laboratory I came away

26
00:01:28,460 --> 00:01:25,170
from the meeting in from the room with

27
00:01:32,270 --> 00:01:28,470
the distinct feeling however that the

28
00:01:35,750 --> 00:01:32,280
panel had deliberately moved to debunk

29
00:01:38,480 --> 00:01:35,760
the whole subject and not to give it the

30
00:01:41,899 --> 00:01:38,490
serious scientific attention which it

31
00:01:44,600 --> 00:01:41,909
deserved the voice you just heard was

32
00:01:46,880 --> 00:01:44,610
that of dr. J Allen Hynek noted

33
00:01:49,670 --> 00:01:46,890
astronomer professor in scientific

34
00:01:52,520 --> 00:01:49,680
adviser to UFO studies undertaken by the

35
00:01:54,469 --> 00:01:52,530
US Air Force under project sign project

36
00:01:56,300 --> 00:01:54,479
grudge and the best-known project

37
00:01:58,670 --> 00:01:56,310
Bluebook but as we heard

38
00:02:01,640 --> 00:01:58,680

Hynek was also brought in to contribute

39

00:02:03,890 --> 00:02:01,650

his time and skills on a committee known

40

00:02:07,969 --> 00:02:03,900

as the Robertson panel this panel was

41

00:02:10,430 --> 00:02:07,979

funded by the CIA in 1952 in response to

42

00:02:12,800 --> 00:02:10,440

widespread UFO reports the panel

43

00:02:14,990 --> 00:02:12,810

concluded that most UFOs could be

44

00:02:17,929 --> 00:02:15,000

explained as misidentification of

45

00:02:20,330 --> 00:02:17,939

mundane aerial objects and the remaining

46

00:02:23,270 --> 00:02:20,340

minority could in all likelihood be

47

00:02:25,070 --> 00:02:23,280

explained with further study not only

48

00:02:27,289 --> 00:02:25,080

that but they believed that a public

49

00:02:31,339 --> 00:02:27,299

relations campaign should be undertaken

50

00:02:34,309 --> 00:02:31,349

in order to debunk UFOs and reduce

51
00:02:36,589 --> 00:02:34,319
public interest in the entire subject

52
00:02:39,199 --> 00:02:36,599
Hynek disagreed that many of these

53
00:02:41,750 --> 00:02:39,209
reports were mundane having spoken to

54
00:02:42,740 --> 00:02:41,760
and investigated hundreds of UFO

55
00:02:44,450 --> 00:02:42,750
accounts

56
00:02:47,330 --> 00:02:44,460
he gradually went from skeptic and

57
00:02:49,480 --> 00:02:47,340
debunker to an open-minded believer he

58
00:02:53,090 --> 00:02:49,490
would eventually found cute folks in

59
00:02:56,180 --> 00:02:53,100
1973 a UFO research organization working

60
00:02:58,160 --> 00:02:56,190
outside of government jurisdiction many

61
00:03:01,010 --> 00:02:58,170
organizations like this would follow

62
00:03:03,560 --> 00:03:01,020
working alongside mainstream scientists

63
00:03:05,660 --> 00:03:03,570

in an effort to find answers to these

64

00:03:08,300 --> 00:03:05,670

UFO sightings that were happening all

65

00:03:10,700 --> 00:03:08,310

over the world but a blurry line had

66

00:03:13,550 --> 00:03:10,710

seemingly been drawn between the UFO

67

00:03:16,190 --> 00:03:13,560

world and the scientific world stigma

68

00:03:18,470 --> 00:03:16,200

and ridicule being the main cause but

69

00:03:21,590 --> 00:03:18,480

when had this ridicule and mistrust

70

00:03:24,380 --> 00:03:21,600

truly began when people is prominent as

71

00:03:26,960 --> 00:03:24,390

dr. Hynek are involved with UFO research

72

00:03:30,320 --> 00:03:26,970

does it not constitute a serious study

73

00:03:33,260 --> 00:03:30,330

without a debunking agenda and how does

74

00:03:35,620 --> 00:03:33,270

the history of UFOs play a role in the

75

00:03:38,600 --> 00:03:35,630

overall discourse of what we consider

76

00:03:40,940 --> 00:03:38,610

ufology later in the show we'll hear

77

00:03:44,570 --> 00:03:40,950

from a professor of modern history at

78

00:03:46,880 --> 00:03:44,580

Penn State University on just that but

79

00:03:49,100 --> 00:03:46,890

first I want to talk about an article

80

00:03:52,280 --> 00:03:49,110

that recently came out in the New York

81

00:03:54,380 --> 00:03:52,290

Times on April 24th it was written by

82

00:03:57,620 --> 00:03:54,390

Ralph Blumenthal and featured the work

83

00:04:00,290 --> 00:03:57,630

of Cheryl Costa a colleague of mine who

84

00:04:02,750 --> 00:04:00,300

also housed for my hometown of Syracuse

85

00:04:05,270 --> 00:04:02,760

New York go Orangeman the article caught

86

00:04:07,580 --> 00:04:05,280

my attention because it is extremely

87

00:04:10,009 --> 00:04:07,590

rare for the UFO topic to be covered in

88

00:04:12,830 --> 00:04:10,019

the New York Times let alone be taking

89

00:04:15,020 --> 00:04:12,840

as seriously as it is here the article

90

00:04:18,320 --> 00:04:15,030

is titled people are seeing UFOs

91

00:04:20,900 --> 00:04:18,330

everywhere and this book proves it okay

92

00:04:22,430 --> 00:04:20,910

so it's not the most eloquent headline

93

00:04:22,820 --> 00:04:22,440

of all time but it gets right to the

94

00:04:26,659 --> 00:04:22,830

point

95

00:04:28,580 --> 00:04:26,669

UFOs are reported all over the world but

96

00:04:31,130 --> 00:04:28,590

Cheryl and her spouse Linda have

97

00:04:34,130 --> 00:04:31,140

undertaken the arduous task of compiling

98

00:04:36,850 --> 00:04:34,140

the first-ever comprehensive statistical

99

00:04:39,909 --> 00:04:36,860

summary of Close Encounters organized

100

00:04:43,250 --> 00:04:39,919

county-by-county in each state and the

101
00:04:46,790 --> 00:04:43,260
District of Columbia from the years 2001

102
00:04:48,950 --> 00:04:46,800
to 2015 it is literally a book of charts

103
00:04:51,800 --> 00:04:48,960
and graphs in which they published in

104
00:04:54,080 --> 00:04:51,810
book form called UFO sightings Desk

105
00:04:56,269 --> 00:04:54,090
Reference they were able to obtain their

106
00:04:58,459 --> 00:04:56,279
data from two organizations

107
00:05:01,009 --> 00:04:58,469
and the national UFO Reporting Center

108
00:05:01,909 --> 00:05:01,019
when asked why she decided to take on

109
00:05:04,129 --> 00:05:01,919
this project

110
00:05:06,139 --> 00:05:04,139
Cheryl stated we are doing the

111
00:05:08,689 --> 00:05:06,149
government's job for them we wanted to

112
00:05:09,949 --> 00:05:08,699
do our bit for disclosure it's something

113
00:05:12,559 --> 00:05:09,959

the government should have been doing

114

00:05:15,499 --> 00:05:12,569

were doing scientific research what's

115

00:05:17,959 --> 00:05:15,509

crazy is not being willing to look at

116

00:05:19,939 --> 00:05:17,969

research now I spoke to Cheryl the day

117

00:05:22,009 --> 00:05:19,949

this article released and she told me

118

00:05:24,499 --> 00:05:22,019

that this article could really open

119

00:05:26,839 --> 00:05:24,509

people's eyes to the proliferation of

120

00:05:29,329 --> 00:05:26,849

UFO reports across the country from

121

00:05:31,639 --> 00:05:29,339

County to County City the city and state

122

00:05:34,039 --> 00:05:31,649

to state level and I completely agree

123

00:05:36,469 --> 00:05:34,049

with her on this not only that but the

124

00:05:38,689 --> 00:05:36,479

book even breaks down the type of UFO is

125

00:05:41,299 --> 00:05:38,699

reported the times and the exact

126

00:05:43,879 --> 00:05:41,309

locations if you've ever wanted to know

127

00:05:46,579 --> 00:05:43,889

what's what with your state city and

128

00:05:49,249 --> 00:05:46,589

town in terms of UFOs I can't recommend

129

00:05:51,679 --> 00:05:49,259

adding this book to your UFO library

130

00:05:54,559 --> 00:05:51,689

enough and if this article has anything

131

00:05:57,139 --> 00:05:54,569

to prove it's that mainstream media with

132

00:05:59,959 --> 00:05:57,149

all its faults is willing to tackle the

133

00:06:02,600 --> 00:05:59,969

UFO question even if the work is being

134

00:06:05,239 --> 00:06:02,610

done on a civilian level just like J

135

00:06:07,729 --> 00:06:05,249

Allen Hynek in so many others across the

136

00:06:09,649 --> 00:06:07,739

world like Cheryl I post a link to the

137

00:06:11,659 --> 00:06:09,659

article in the show notes and wanted to

138

00:06:13,549 --> 00:06:11,669

personally congratulate Cheryl and Linda

139

00:06:16,129 --> 00:06:13,559

on this achievement and on the release

140

00:06:18,139 --> 00:06:16,139

of this essential reference book

141

00:06:21,439 --> 00:06:18,149

we'll have them on to discuss in the

142

00:06:23,989 --> 00:06:21,449

near future now for today's guest Greg a

143

00:06:26,569 --> 00:06:23,999

geek in is associate professor of modern

144

00:06:28,909 --> 00:06:26,579

history at Penn State University where

145

00:06:31,249 --> 00:06:28,919

he conducts research and teaches about

146

00:06:33,649 --> 00:06:31,259

the history of the human sciences and

147

00:06:36,469 --> 00:06:33,659

medicine he is presently reading a

148

00:06:39,529 --> 00:06:36,479

history of UFOs and alien contact as a

149

00:06:42,469 --> 00:06:39,539

global cultural phenomenon in the 20th

150

00:06:45,739 --> 00:06:42,479

and 21st centuries he also runs the

151
00:06:48,799 --> 00:06:45,749
noted blog the UFO past which explores

152
00:06:51,619 --> 00:06:48,809
the UFO and alien contact phenomena

153
00:06:54,049 --> 00:06:51,629
today we talk about the mistrust between

154
00:06:56,179 --> 00:06:54,059
UFO researchers and the mainstream

155
00:06:58,789 --> 00:06:56,189
scientific community and we put the

156
00:07:01,189 --> 00:06:58,799
question forward as to why academia and

157
00:07:03,949 --> 00:07:01,199
historians in particular seem to have

158
00:07:06,919 --> 00:07:03,959
shied away from the entire UFO subject

159
00:07:08,120 --> 00:07:06,929
so without further ado let's talk to

160
00:07:10,430 --> 00:07:08,130
Greg a geek in

161
00:07:12,620 --> 00:07:10,440
today we're going to hear from an

162
00:07:15,110 --> 00:07:12,630
unconventional guest in the best of ways

163
00:07:17,680 --> 00:07:15,120

guys and someone whose work I have come

164

00:07:20,360 --> 00:07:17,690

to deeply respect in a field that

165

00:07:22,970 --> 00:07:20,370

frankly sorely needs it and that is mr.

166

00:07:25,730 --> 00:07:22,980

Greg a geek in associate professor of

167

00:07:27,980 --> 00:07:25,740

modern history at Penn State Greg thank

168

00:07:30,410 --> 00:07:27,990

you so much for joining me today sure

169

00:07:32,720 --> 00:07:30,420

I'm happy to be here yeah so we've

170

00:07:35,090 --> 00:07:32,730

connected a few times now I did feature

171

00:07:37,400 --> 00:07:35,100

you in the book in a section that

172

00:07:40,340 --> 00:07:37,410

doesn't get brought up often and that

173

00:07:43,580 --> 00:07:40,350

was the chapter in my book based solely

174

00:07:46,460 --> 00:07:43,590

around science verse you follow gee and

175

00:07:48,230 --> 00:07:46,470

I had found a really good article that

176

00:07:50,120 --> 00:07:48,240

you'd written for the public

177

00:07:51,920 --> 00:07:50,130

understanding of science journal and

178

00:07:54,680 --> 00:07:51,930

that's how we connected and then we once

179

00:07:57,260 --> 00:07:54,690

again connected in Arizona that was a

180

00:08:01,730 --> 00:07:57,270

very serendipitous thing that I wasn't

181

00:08:03,920 --> 00:08:01,740

expecting yeah that was that proved to

182

00:08:05,990 --> 00:08:03,930

be really neat right well I'm sure we'll

183

00:08:07,460 --> 00:08:06,000

get to how you how you and I met there

184

00:08:09,560 --> 00:08:07,470

and what we were doing at some point

185

00:08:13,550 --> 00:08:09,570

down the line absolutely yes we will

186

00:08:15,860 --> 00:08:13,560

well I guess a good way to start is I

187

00:08:18,050 --> 00:08:15,870

have to ask as I'm sure some of the

188

00:08:20,750 --> 00:08:18,060

listeners are very interested how does a

189

00:08:22,640 --> 00:08:20,760

professor of modern history get involved

190

00:08:26,480 --> 00:08:22,650

with the UFO topic what were you

191

00:08:30,770 --> 00:08:26,490

thinking man I've had some people ask me

192

00:08:33,940 --> 00:08:30,780

that well I'll give you the long version

193

00:08:38,000 --> 00:08:33,950

how's that person's the long version is

194

00:08:42,070 --> 00:08:38,010

actually I think you start out with my

195

00:08:45,380 --> 00:08:42,080

youth okay so like so many people I know

196

00:08:47,930 --> 00:08:45,390

who get involved who talked about

197

00:08:50,510 --> 00:08:47,940

getting interested in UFOs and alien

198

00:08:53,170 --> 00:08:50,520

contact and all that stuff it all began

199

00:08:55,700 --> 00:08:53,180

when I was a kid I was utterly utterly

200

00:08:58,760 --> 00:08:55,710

fascinated with this stuff growing up

201
00:09:01,600 --> 00:08:58,770
I'm old enough to say that had we were

202
00:09:07,310 --> 00:09:01,610
talking about the the late 60s in the

203
00:09:09,320 --> 00:09:07,320
1970s and I could not stop reading about

204
00:09:14,260 --> 00:09:09,330
the stuff wanting to hear about this

205
00:09:17,780 --> 00:09:14,270
stuff and for me it was this sense of

206
00:09:20,900 --> 00:09:17,790
discovery it was this sense of here was

207
00:09:21,860 --> 00:09:20,910
a riddle what is this is this something

208
00:09:24,260 --> 00:09:21,870
that you

209
00:09:28,519 --> 00:09:24,270
genuine if it is something genuine what

210
00:09:31,600 --> 00:09:28,529
is it all add up to and that's where I

211
00:09:36,230 --> 00:09:31,610
think I initially innocence got the bug

212
00:09:40,720 --> 00:09:36,240
but from there really what happened was

213
00:09:43,670 --> 00:09:40,730

then I also became exposed to debunkers

214

00:09:46,190 --> 00:09:43,680

people like Carl Sagan who were who I

215

00:09:48,769 --> 00:09:46,200

would I now sort of see is much more of

216

00:09:51,019 --> 00:09:48,779

a kind of a historically much more of a

217

00:09:53,780 --> 00:09:51,029

moderating figure but we might get to

218

00:09:56,090 --> 00:09:53,790

that at some point um even people like

219

00:09:58,130 --> 00:09:56,100

cell class and people like that and

220

00:10:01,070 --> 00:09:58,140

that's who interested me I was I was

221

00:10:02,780 --> 00:10:01,080

really curious about that and so I read

222

00:10:04,460 --> 00:10:02,790

a lot about their stuff I loved hearing

223

00:10:06,370 --> 00:10:04,470

interviews with them even got to see

224

00:10:09,710 --> 00:10:06,380

Carl Sagan one set up at a local

225

00:10:12,860 --> 00:10:09,720

university Wow talk yeah that was that

226

00:10:15,050 --> 00:10:12,870

was great that was fantastic and that

227

00:10:16,820 --> 00:10:15,060

you know very naturally curious person

228

00:10:19,700 --> 00:10:16,830

obviously that's why I guess I ended up

229

00:10:22,130 --> 00:10:19,710

becoming an academic and that's where I

230

00:10:24,980 --> 00:10:22,140

really was interested in this stuff and

231

00:10:27,320 --> 00:10:24,990

I will say that as time went by as I

232

00:10:29,570 --> 00:10:27,330

went perfect got into after high school

233

00:10:32,240 --> 00:10:29,580

and into college the interest kind of

234

00:10:35,540 --> 00:10:32,250

waned and my interest when in other

235

00:10:38,600 --> 00:10:35,550

kinds of directions and things so now

236

00:10:40,430 --> 00:10:38,610

fast forward many many years and fast

237

00:10:44,390 --> 00:10:40,440

forward to a few years ago a colleague

238

00:10:48,620 --> 00:10:44,400

of mine who I really respect this great

239

00:10:49,940 --> 00:10:48,630

research was approached me we were

240

00:10:52,070 --> 00:10:49,950

talking we were actually on a panel

241

00:10:53,930 --> 00:10:52,080

together and one of the got to know

242

00:10:56,210 --> 00:10:53,940

about me is I kind of wear a number of

243

00:10:58,850 --> 00:10:56,220

different hats I'm uh I'm a historian of

244

00:11:00,920 --> 00:10:58,860

science and medicine but I also am a

245

00:11:03,560 --> 00:11:00,930

historian of modern Europe and modern

246

00:11:06,260 --> 00:11:03,570

Germany and there are a lot of people

247

00:11:08,030 --> 00:11:06,270

who don't know anything about my life as

248

00:11:12,410 --> 00:11:08,040

a historian of science and only know me

249

00:11:14,420 --> 00:11:12,420

as a historian of Germany and she was on

250

00:11:15,980 --> 00:11:14,430

a panel with me and she was giving this

251

00:11:18,590 --> 00:11:15,990

paper on this really interesting table

252

00:11:20,600 --> 00:11:18,600

Lepus in interesting odd kind of

253

00:11:23,240 --> 00:11:20,610

charismatic figure after World War two

254

00:11:28,010 --> 00:11:23,250

running around Germany proselytizing the

255

00:11:29,360 --> 00:11:28,020

Germans and and she was saying that it

256

00:11:31,460 --> 00:11:29,370

was part of a project that she was

257

00:11:34,370 --> 00:11:31,470

working with somebody that was a history

258

00:11:37,070 --> 00:11:34,380

of the occult in Germany

259

00:11:41,090 --> 00:11:37,080

I came to her after and I said you know

260

00:11:42,950 --> 00:11:41,100

I've always wondered did did Germans did

261

00:11:45,710 --> 00:11:42,960

the whole UFO thing ever happen in

262

00:11:48,170 --> 00:11:45,720

Germany she's like I have no idea why

263

00:11:49,940 --> 00:11:48,180

don't you write something on that and I

264

00:11:51,530 --> 00:11:49,950

saw I said - I think I said oh I don't

265

00:11:55,220 --> 00:11:51,540

have time for that I've got other things

266

00:11:57,200 --> 00:11:55,230

I got it no but you know it triggered

267

00:11:58,880 --> 00:11:57,210

something in me and I thought well let

268

00:12:01,880 --> 00:11:58,890

me just look into it and I started

269

00:12:05,450 --> 00:12:01,890

digging around and in fact I found all

270

00:12:07,880 --> 00:12:05,460

this stuff about the first reports of

271

00:12:11,300 --> 00:12:07,890

UFOs and the first reports in Germany

272

00:12:13,820 --> 00:12:11,310

after World War two and in the 1950s and

273

00:12:15,800 --> 00:12:13,830

I ended up writing an article on it I

274

00:12:18,590 --> 00:12:15,810

ended up sending it to her and said you

275

00:12:20,930 --> 00:12:18,600

know what I've written this up but I

276

00:12:22,670 --> 00:12:20,940

don't think any of it has to do anything

277

00:12:24,470 --> 00:12:22,680

with the occult for you I don't think

278

00:12:26,120 --> 00:12:24,480

you're going to find it really

279

00:12:27,920 --> 00:12:26,130

particularly germane and she said yeah

280

00:12:30,800 --> 00:12:27,930

yeah it's not so I sent it off to

281

00:12:32,870 --> 00:12:30,810

another place but but that's when I

282

00:12:35,210 --> 00:12:32,880

started working on that I started

283

00:12:38,450 --> 00:12:35,220

talking with friends Nathan and I

284

00:12:41,030 --> 00:12:38,460

remember one friend in particular and he

285

00:12:44,090 --> 00:12:41,040

said you know you ought to work on a

286

00:12:46,340 --> 00:12:44,100

whole history of the whole UFOs and I

287

00:12:49,720 --> 00:12:46,350

was like now I can't do that and he said

288

00:12:54,350 --> 00:12:49,730

why not my son yeah you're right why not

289

00:12:58,030 --> 00:12:54,360

and for me it's been in a sense it's not

290

00:13:00,350 --> 00:12:58,040

just for me this kind of curious new

291

00:13:02,960 --> 00:13:00,360

subject matter to get into for me it's

292

00:13:06,320 --> 00:13:02,970

kind of almost like going home I now

293

00:13:08,360 --> 00:13:06,330

read and poring over things I remember

294

00:13:11,030 --> 00:13:08,370

encountering when I was much younger

295

00:13:13,670 --> 00:13:11,040

now with the you know the eyes of an

296

00:13:16,760 --> 00:13:13,680

adult but also with the with the head of

297

00:13:19,970 --> 00:13:16,770

a historian and so for me it's kind of

298

00:13:22,250 --> 00:13:19,980

an interesting phenomenon for me

299

00:13:25,970 --> 00:13:22,260

personally because I come back to

300

00:13:28,280 --> 00:13:25,980

something that I once remember poring

301

00:13:29,750 --> 00:13:28,290

over in a lot of detail but now I do it

302

00:13:31,730 --> 00:13:29,760

into the kind of a different way and

303

00:13:35,240 --> 00:13:31,740

that's kind of for me in part the

304

00:13:36,800 --> 00:13:35,250

enthusiasm I have wow that that's that's

305

00:13:39,230 --> 00:13:36,810

such an interesting way to look at it

306

00:13:41,750 --> 00:13:39,240

Greg I know I don't know if you feel the

307

00:13:44,000 --> 00:13:41,760

same way but yes I became struck and

308

00:13:46,010 --> 00:13:44,010

fascinated by this topic at a very young

309

00:13:47,300 --> 00:13:46,020

age as well when you know your

310

00:13:49,519 --> 00:13:47,310

imagination is

311

00:13:51,530 --> 00:13:49,529

running wild you're seeing these images

312

00:13:54,080 --> 00:13:51,540

of flying saucers and books and you're

313

00:13:56,660 --> 00:13:54,090

imagining the people piloting these

314

00:13:59,330 --> 00:13:56,670

really come from and then as you get

315

00:14:02,540 --> 00:13:59,340

older and you're skeptical lens starts

316

00:14:05,570 --> 00:14:02,550

to come in you know that that that'll

317

00:14:07,550 --> 00:14:05,580

happen but then that core phenomenon

318

00:14:11,630 --> 00:14:07,560

that core fascination with you fault

319

00:14:13,579 --> 00:14:11,640

with UFOs I should say it remains and

320

00:14:15,530 --> 00:14:13,589

there are parts of it that remain and

321

00:14:18,380 --> 00:14:15,540

that that's what I find most fascinating

322

00:14:20,510 --> 00:14:18,390

that even as you grow older and you

323

00:14:23,960 --> 00:14:20,520

become more I don't want to use the word

324

00:14:26,900 --> 00:14:23,970

cynical but you know I think regret the

325

00:14:30,079 --> 00:14:26,910

perfect word there are those fascinating

326

00:14:31,310 --> 00:14:30,089

mysteries that still remain yeah I think

327

00:14:34,910 --> 00:14:31,320

so I think so

328

00:14:37,760 --> 00:14:34,920

yeah and that's that to me is part of

329

00:14:40,490 --> 00:14:37,770

what it keeps sparking this interest and

330

00:14:43,460 --> 00:14:40,500

triggering it and and and and to now

331

00:14:46,940 --> 00:14:43,470

also do what I do right because my money

332

00:14:48,950 --> 00:14:46,950

I come to this as a historian now with

333

00:14:52,280 --> 00:14:48,960

years of experience of writing on a

334

00:14:56,600 --> 00:14:52,290

variety of subjects as I have done over

335

00:14:59,690 --> 00:14:56,610

the years and what for me with that with

336

00:15:02,600 --> 00:14:59,700

that what I what I'm doing is something

337

00:15:04,910 --> 00:15:02,610

that of course I never back then when I

338

00:15:07,280 --> 00:15:04,920

was younger I never thought of it in

339

00:15:12,590 --> 00:15:07,290

these terms but in a sense what I what I

340

00:15:14,600 --> 00:15:12,600

do is um to really ask historical

341

00:15:17,770 --> 00:15:14,610

questions about all the different

342

00:15:21,500 --> 00:15:17,780

participants in this drama surrounding

343

00:15:25,070 --> 00:15:21,510

UFOs so I am interested in putting if

344

00:15:27,680 --> 00:15:25,080

you will everybody who has sort of been

345

00:15:30,140 --> 00:15:27,690

engaged in this topic you know in some

346

00:15:32,090 --> 00:15:30,150

form or another that's that's relevant

347

00:15:35,449 --> 00:15:32,100

obviously not literally everybody but

348

00:15:37,699 --> 00:15:35,459

but put them on all of us really under

349

00:15:44,390 --> 00:15:37,709

the microscope and by that what I mean

350

00:15:46,190 --> 00:15:44,400

is I want to ask questions about who

351

00:15:48,140 --> 00:15:46,200

became interested in these kinds of

352

00:15:50,660 --> 00:15:48,150

things how did they become interested

353

00:15:53,500 --> 00:15:50,670

and when how did those interest change

354

00:15:56,600 --> 00:15:53,510

over time over time and that means

355

00:15:59,150 --> 00:15:56,610

looking at the history of ufology for

356

00:16:00,960 --> 00:15:59,160

instance and seeing how it transformed

357

00:16:04,710 --> 00:16:00,970

and changed over time

358

00:16:07,499 --> 00:16:04,720

looking at not just the reports about

359

00:16:10,470 --> 00:16:07,509

alien contact over the over the decades

360

00:16:13,470 --> 00:16:10,480

but how people responded to those in

361

00:16:15,809 --> 00:16:13,480

different ways over time and then added

362

00:16:18,329 --> 00:16:15,819

to that the other thing that I don't

363

00:16:21,689 --> 00:16:18,339

think I sense then but now in retrospect

364

00:16:24,210 --> 00:16:21,699

I realize I was doing myself is to also

365

00:16:27,269 --> 00:16:24,220

appreciate the fact that when you write

366

00:16:30,269 --> 00:16:27,279

the history of UFOs and the history of

367

00:16:33,660 --> 00:16:30,279

the UFO phenomenon you also have to

368

00:16:35,939 --> 00:16:33,670

include in that the history of the

369

00:16:38,490 --> 00:16:35,949

scientific community the history of

370

00:16:41,939 --> 00:16:38,500

debunkers and how about the history of

371

00:16:43,499 --> 00:16:41,949

just plain old folks wow I guess like

372

00:16:45,540 --> 00:16:43,509

like you and me

373

00:16:48,480 --> 00:16:45,550

growing up right who are just kind of

374

00:16:50,340 --> 00:16:48,490

curious about this stuff right I will

375

00:16:52,590 --> 00:16:50,350

say right off the bat I have never seen

376

00:16:55,050 --> 00:16:52,600

an unidentified I've seen things I

377

00:16:57,389 --> 00:16:55,060

didn't understand what they were in the

378

00:16:59,999 --> 00:16:57,399

sky but I never seen anything that would

379

00:17:02,869 --> 00:17:00,009

have struck me as a flying saucer in my

380

00:17:05,100 --> 00:17:02,879

life I was absolutely curious

381

00:17:08,579 --> 00:17:05,110

phenomenally curious about all the stuff

382

00:17:11,579 --> 00:17:08,589

so in part you also have to add those

383

00:17:15,510 --> 00:17:11,589

types of folks into the conversation of

384

00:17:17,669 --> 00:17:15,520

how this phenomenon was understood and

385

00:17:21,600 --> 00:17:17,679

how those understandings changed over

386

00:17:25,590 --> 00:17:21,610

time so for me the the UFO phenomenon is

387

00:17:27,569 --> 00:17:25,600

what I think one might call in some in

388

00:17:31,230 --> 00:17:27,579

some sociological circles cold world

389

00:17:33,510 --> 00:17:31,240

that the world of UFOs with all of these

390

00:17:36,690 --> 00:17:33,520

kinds of casts of characters all

391

00:17:39,570 --> 00:17:36,700

involved all playing a part in in this

392

00:17:42,720 --> 00:17:39,580

drama that is played out over now what

393

00:17:46,020 --> 00:17:42,730

is it almost seven decades since the

394

00:17:48,480 --> 00:17:46,030

Kenneth Arnold sighting right well let's

395

00:17:52,460 --> 00:17:48,490

let's sort of unravel that Greg in your

396

00:17:55,770 --> 00:17:52,470

opinion that understanding or that that

397

00:17:58,860 --> 00:17:55,780

scientific look at this phenomenon when

398

00:18:01,110 --> 00:17:58,870

when did you in your research come to

399

00:18:03,270 --> 00:18:01,120

find that the scientific institutions

400

00:18:06,510 --> 00:18:03,280

when they started taking this topic

401
00:18:09,240 --> 00:18:06,520
seriously if ever yeah it's a really

402
00:18:11,520 --> 00:18:09,250
it's an interesting issue it all depends

403
00:18:14,610 --> 00:18:11,530
on how we want to understand what it is

404
00:18:20,610 --> 00:18:14,620
that the scientific community was in

405
00:18:24,950 --> 00:18:20,620
Istavan so one could say that scientific

406
00:18:29,280 --> 00:18:24,960
institutions have either never or rarely

407
00:18:31,890 --> 00:18:29,290
shown any kind of interest in the UFO

408
00:18:33,900 --> 00:18:31,900
phenomena I don't think that's really

409
00:18:37,470 --> 00:18:33,910
the case but one could somewhat make

410
00:18:40,049 --> 00:18:37,480
that argument in the sense that most of

411
00:18:42,750 --> 00:18:40,059
the major scientific institutions you

412
00:18:45,630 --> 00:18:42,760
know the bodies and organizations and

413
00:18:50,130 --> 00:18:45,640

and the major institutions of higher

414

00:18:53,010 --> 00:18:50,140

learning universities right most of them

415

00:18:56,490 --> 00:18:53,020

for many many decades or at least the

416

00:19:04,230 --> 00:18:56,500

first few decades wanted to just simply

417

00:19:07,560 --> 00:19:04,240

I neglect the topic of UFOs and alien

418

00:19:09,930 --> 00:19:07,570

contact they didn't really tend to make

419

00:19:14,040 --> 00:19:09,940

any kind of major pronouncements on the

420

00:19:15,840 --> 00:19:14,050

subject they didn't hold have scientific

421

00:19:19,080 --> 00:19:15,850

commissions that were formed or anything

422

00:19:22,740 --> 00:19:19,090

like that to study the phenomenon and

423

00:19:26,430 --> 00:19:22,750

generally the kind of tacit assumption

424

00:19:28,140 --> 00:19:26,440

was that this stuff is so silly or so

425

00:19:31,410 --> 00:19:28,150

ridiculous that we don't really need to

426

00:19:33,810 --> 00:19:31,420

get into it what you what I found was in

427

00:19:37,470 --> 00:19:33,820

certain places what you try and say in

428

00:19:40,560 --> 00:19:37,480

the 50s was oftentimes an astronomer or

429

00:19:43,380 --> 00:19:40,570

an astrophysicists might be asked by a

430

00:19:45,360 --> 00:19:43,390

journalist about a sighting or about

431

00:19:49,230 --> 00:19:45,370

some phenomenon and then they would sort

432

00:19:51,620 --> 00:19:49,240

of chime in on the subject that you sees

433

00:19:54,750 --> 00:19:51,630

that starting to change some in the

434

00:19:57,660 --> 00:19:54,760

1960s I think in the 60s and 70s is

435

00:20:00,900 --> 00:19:57,670

probably in some ways a kind of a heyday

436

00:20:05,400 --> 00:20:00,910

when you start to see academic

437

00:20:07,740 --> 00:20:05,410

scientists who work in this in an area

438

00:20:10,260 --> 00:20:07,750

that would be relevant directly germane

439

00:20:12,900 --> 00:20:10,270

to the fee to the whole question of

440

00:20:15,299 --> 00:20:12,910

extraterrestrial visitation you start to

441

00:20:17,400 --> 00:20:15,309

see them demonstrate more interesting

442

00:20:19,919 --> 00:20:17,410

you do have people like James McDonald

443

00:20:22,940 --> 00:20:19,929

in the 1960s playing a prominent role

444

00:20:25,650 --> 00:20:22,950

you see even people like Carl Sagan

445

00:20:28,350 --> 00:20:25,660

expressing interest in this in the

446

00:20:31,169 --> 00:20:28,360

subject you get of course the

447

00:20:34,169 --> 00:20:31,179

the the the development in the United

448

00:20:37,289 --> 00:20:34,179

States in 1966 is the founding the

449

00:20:38,730 --> 00:20:37,299

setting up of the condom committee that

450

00:20:42,180 --> 00:20:38,740

was funded by the Air Force very

451
00:20:44,100 --> 00:20:42,190
controversial panel that meets and or

452
00:20:47,430 --> 00:20:44,110
you know and studies the subject for two

453
00:20:49,080 --> 00:20:47,440
years I know most ufologist are quite

454
00:20:51,210 --> 00:20:49,090
critical of the work of that committee

455
00:20:54,500 --> 00:20:51,220
quite rightly so I think it probably in

456
00:20:58,560 --> 00:20:54,510
the end and but even after that you know

457
00:21:00,750 --> 00:20:58,570
1969 the American Association for the

458
00:21:04,799 --> 00:21:00,760
Advancement of science under with Carl

459
00:21:08,909 --> 00:21:04,809
Sagan Thornton page organized a panel on

460
00:21:11,010 --> 00:21:08,919
the subject of UFOs so there is there is

461
00:21:12,750 --> 00:21:11,020
a phase in which certain kinds of

462
00:21:16,950 --> 00:21:12,760
leading figures and even leading

463
00:21:21,330 --> 00:21:16,960

institutions do say this is worthy of

464

00:21:24,090 --> 00:21:21,340

study this is worthy of analysis now if

465

00:21:25,799 --> 00:21:24,100

we understand and we think of the UFO

466

00:21:30,930 --> 00:21:25,809

phenomena in the sense I said before the

467

00:21:33,810 --> 00:21:30,940

world of UFOs and then what is clear is

468

00:21:36,150 --> 00:21:33,820

that it's social scientists of various

469

00:21:38,430 --> 00:21:36,160

kind who have since probably I'd say

470

00:21:40,950 --> 00:21:38,440

right around the mid 1960s have shown a

471

00:21:42,690 --> 00:21:40,960

great deal of interest in the size and

472

00:21:45,530 --> 00:21:42,700

have taken it seriously as a

473

00:21:48,440 --> 00:21:45,540

sociological phenomenon so we have

474

00:21:51,659 --> 00:21:48,450

anthropologists sociologists social

475

00:21:54,000 --> 00:21:51,669

psychologists clinical psychologists of

476

00:21:57,299 --> 00:21:54,010

various because folklorists who have

477

00:21:59,490 --> 00:21:57,309

written numerous numerous articles over

478

00:22:04,049 --> 00:21:59,500

the decades since like I said a mid to

479

00:22:07,260 --> 00:22:04,059

late 1960s looking at social UFO

480

00:22:11,820 --> 00:22:07,270

organizations UF of the perception of

481

00:22:15,600 --> 00:22:11,830

UFOs and the psychophysics of it of the

482

00:22:18,450 --> 00:22:15,610

phenomenon analysis of the kinds of

483

00:22:21,150 --> 00:22:18,460

tales that are recounted by contactees

484

00:22:23,340 --> 00:22:21,160

people like that all of that has been

485

00:22:25,980 --> 00:22:23,350

studied in a great deal of depth and

486

00:22:29,240 --> 00:22:25,990

continues to go on so in that sense

487

00:22:32,340 --> 00:22:29,250

people take the phenomenon

488

00:22:34,590 --> 00:22:32,350

sociologically seriously but they don't

489

00:22:37,470 --> 00:22:34,600

necessarily take seriously the claims

490

00:22:40,380 --> 00:22:37,480

that in fact aliens are visiting us in

491

00:22:43,050 --> 00:22:40,390

in these in these machines we

492

00:22:45,840 --> 00:22:43,060

a third way however I would say in which

493

00:22:48,840 --> 00:22:45,850

you'd have to say that scientists have

494

00:22:51,720 --> 00:22:48,850

always always taken this stuff seriously

495

00:22:53,750 --> 00:22:51,730

and that is with regard to the

496

00:22:56,400 --> 00:22:53,760

possibility of there being

497

00:22:59,460 --> 00:22:56,410

extraterrestrial life and to thinking

498

00:23:02,190 --> 00:22:59,470

about what communication with those

499

00:23:04,770 --> 00:23:02,200

beings would be like what the pop the

500

00:23:07,560 --> 00:23:04,780

probabilities of an engagement with them

501
00:23:11,310 --> 00:23:07,570
would be at any particular period of

502
00:23:13,500 --> 00:23:11,320
time we know that historians of science

503
00:23:19,250 --> 00:23:13,510
have shown that dating back to the

504
00:23:23,720 --> 00:23:22,050
tacit assumption and something is quite

505
00:23:26,640 --> 00:23:23,730
Express an assumption of most

506
00:23:29,760 --> 00:23:26,650
astronomers was that in fact other

507
00:23:31,920 --> 00:23:29,770
planets were inhabited and really when

508
00:23:34,070 --> 00:23:31,930
you look in them say even in the 19th

509
00:23:37,560 --> 00:23:34,080
and early 20th century it was widely

510
00:23:40,500 --> 00:23:37,570
accepted that probably planets within

511
00:23:45,810 --> 00:23:40,510
our solar system were inhabited by

512
00:23:47,910 --> 00:23:45,820
intelligent civilizations and so that

513
00:23:51,630 --> 00:23:47,920

already was there and there was there

514

00:23:53,400 --> 00:23:51,640

was already in you know different

515

00:23:54,810 --> 00:23:53,410

periods of time but particularly say if

516

00:24:00,080 --> 00:23:54,820

you look at the interwar years in the

517

00:24:02,370 --> 00:24:00,090

1920s a actual attempts were sort of or

518

00:24:04,230 --> 00:24:02,380

projects were sort of set in motion to

519

00:24:07,980 --> 00:24:04,240

think through and to explore the

520

00:24:09,660 --> 00:24:07,990

possibility how might we communicate

521

00:24:11,730 --> 00:24:09,670

with these intelligent means

522

00:24:14,450 --> 00:24:11,740

particularly with people who believed

523

00:24:17,750 --> 00:24:14,460

that Mars was inhabited by intelligent

524

00:24:21,810 --> 00:24:17,760

civilizations and so there all sorts of

525

00:24:24,510 --> 00:24:21,820

ideas were put forward how we might do

526
00:24:27,960 --> 00:24:24,520
that how we might communicate using all

527
00:24:31,050 --> 00:24:27,970
sorts of lenses that might sets of light

528
00:24:33,570 --> 00:24:31,060
in that direction in some way or the use

529
00:24:36,090 --> 00:24:33,580
of radio was seen as a possible way of

530
00:24:39,240 --> 00:24:36,100
at least hearing something from these

531
00:24:42,750 --> 00:24:39,250
other planets and so by the time you get

532
00:24:45,270 --> 00:24:42,760
to the 1960s for instance you already

533
00:24:47,880 --> 00:24:45,280
have this kind of idea established well

534
00:24:50,970 --> 00:24:47,890
with radio astronomy that's developed

535
00:24:54,060 --> 00:24:50,980
after the war after World War two you

536
00:24:55,830 --> 00:24:54,070
then have set up for yourself all the

537
00:24:58,320 --> 00:24:55,840
additions that are ripe for what's going

538
00:25:00,030 --> 00:24:58,330

to be established at the beginning of

539

00:25:02,910 --> 00:25:00,040

the 60s the search for extraterrestrial

540

00:25:05,610 --> 00:25:02,920

intelligence the SETI project right the

541

00:25:08,490 --> 00:25:05,620

SETI project and I find this very

542

00:25:10,380 --> 00:25:08,500

fastened and I don't know if people like

543

00:25:13,380 --> 00:25:10,390

Seth Shostak and others really talk

544

00:25:16,380 --> 00:25:13,390

about this much but but the SETI project

545

00:25:18,180 --> 00:25:16,390

and the kinds of ideas that it was that

546

00:25:20,520 --> 00:25:18,190

it has historically been playing with

547

00:25:23,910 --> 00:25:20,530

and the kind of motivations of the

548

00:25:27,240 --> 00:25:23,920

people involved in setting over the over

549

00:25:30,600 --> 00:25:27,250

the decade there's a great great deal of

550

00:25:33,240 --> 00:25:30,610

resemblance with ufology in my view and

551
00:25:36,300 --> 00:25:33,250
there's a way in which I think SETI as a

552
00:25:40,080 --> 00:25:36,310
project and SETI is not just a project

553
00:25:43,230 --> 00:25:40,090
and having a purpose but as something

554
00:25:46,680 --> 00:25:43,240
that also carries with it a set of

555
00:25:49,230 --> 00:25:46,690
values right is something that has a lot

556
00:25:51,750 --> 00:25:49,240
in common with ufology and so i think

557
00:25:55,320 --> 00:25:51,760
that's one of those places where you

558
00:25:58,530 --> 00:25:55,330
have to say a SETI people involved in

559
00:26:00,540 --> 00:25:58,540
SETI people involved in ufology actually

560
00:26:03,420 --> 00:26:00,550
in many ways have a lot more in common

561
00:26:07,670 --> 00:26:03,430
than maybe often is seen as being the

562
00:26:10,820 --> 00:26:07,680
case right yeah we always tend to to

563
00:26:13,890 --> 00:26:10,830

separate these two I know many

564

00:26:16,380 --> 00:26:13,900

quote-unquote ufologists who won't even

565

00:26:19,100 --> 00:26:16,390

look at the work of SETI they think it's

566

00:26:21,300 --> 00:26:19,110

a waste of time they believe that this

567

00:26:23,250 --> 00:26:21,310

possible non-human intelligence is

568

00:26:25,320 --> 00:26:23,260

already here visiting the planet and

569

00:26:28,260 --> 00:26:25,330

again Greg like you said that is an

570

00:26:31,170 --> 00:26:28,270

entire sociological can of worms to open

571

00:26:35,070 --> 00:26:31,180

but what I find most fascinating too is

572

00:26:38,510 --> 00:26:35,080

this idea that the UFO can be connected

573

00:26:42,330 --> 00:26:38,520

to any hard science any soft science

574

00:26:45,810 --> 00:26:42,340

even you know in your case in terms of

575

00:26:48,240 --> 00:26:45,820

history we can connect this topic to

576
00:26:51,240 --> 00:26:48,250
almost anything in our society and that

577
00:26:54,870 --> 00:26:51,250
is in my opinion an extremely powerful

578
00:26:57,900 --> 00:26:54,880
thing no matter what the source of these

579
00:27:00,170 --> 00:26:57,910
UFOs are or even the possibility of life

580
00:27:03,360 --> 00:27:00,180
where life elsewhere in the universe

581
00:27:07,850 --> 00:27:03,370
yeah yeah no that's absolutely the case

582
00:27:13,250 --> 00:27:07,860
I mean you have to realize that that

583
00:27:17,600 --> 00:27:13,260
it there that no matter whether or not

584
00:27:21,020 --> 00:27:17,610
you think that these sightings reflect a

585
00:27:24,289 --> 00:27:21,030
reality of extraterrestrial visitors or

586
00:27:26,720 --> 00:27:24,299
not no matter where one is on the

587
00:27:28,460 --> 00:27:26,730
spectrum on those kinds of issues at the

588
00:27:31,010 --> 00:27:28,470

range of different views that are out

589

00:27:34,700 --> 00:27:31,020

there on the subject the phenomenon

590

00:27:36,680 --> 00:27:34,710

raises all sorts of questions for us at

591

00:27:38,680 --> 00:27:36,690

the very start right as you sort of are

592

00:27:40,730 --> 00:27:38,690

hinting at right the the whole issue of

593

00:27:42,770 --> 00:27:40,740

extraterrestrial intelligent

594

00:27:47,299 --> 00:27:42,780

civilizations raises all of these

595

00:27:50,180 --> 00:27:47,309

questions about who we are how unique we

596

00:27:54,169 --> 00:27:50,190

are are we terribly unique how does

597

00:27:57,230 --> 00:27:54,179

evolution work elsewhere right it raises

598

00:27:59,900 --> 00:27:57,240

questions about communication how do we

599

00:28:03,890 --> 00:27:59,910

communicate with with beings from

600

00:28:06,919 --> 00:28:03,900

another world when we don't even have

601
00:28:11,000 --> 00:28:06,929
any clear sense of what they are how

602
00:28:13,720 --> 00:28:11,010
they operate what they look like in many

603
00:28:17,330 --> 00:28:13,730
cases right so so that you you you and

604
00:28:19,220 --> 00:28:17,340
end up having to also however reflect

605
00:28:20,870 --> 00:28:19,230
back on yourself and this is something

606
00:28:22,520 --> 00:28:20,880
that comes from a lot of my research

607
00:28:27,260 --> 00:28:22,530
that I've done over the years on other

608
00:28:29,360 --> 00:28:27,270
subjects and that is the idea that

609
00:28:31,640 --> 00:28:29,370
oftentimes when we deal with a

610
00:28:33,980 --> 00:28:31,650
phenomenon like we're dealing with here

611
00:28:36,980 --> 00:28:33,990
that is something that in which there's

612
00:28:40,070 --> 00:28:36,990
a great deal of unclarity there's a

613
00:28:44,030 --> 00:28:40,080

great deal here that is fuzzy very very

614

00:28:47,150 --> 00:28:44,040

fuzzy what we are going to invariably do

615

00:28:50,390 --> 00:28:47,160

is to project a lot of ourselves into

616

00:28:52,370 --> 00:28:50,400

that phenomenon it's inevitable it's

617

00:28:54,799 --> 00:28:52,380

inevitable I don't see that as a

618

00:28:57,020 --> 00:28:54,809

critical bad thing it just simply is the

619

00:29:01,220 --> 00:28:57,030

reality of what we do as human beings

620

00:29:03,049 --> 00:29:01,230

and so in that sense right the UFO and

621

00:29:05,510 --> 00:29:03,059

alien contact phenomenon is in many ways

622

00:29:08,270 --> 00:29:05,520

a kind of a Rorschach test for all of us

623

00:29:11,060 --> 00:29:08,280

and for us as a community of human

624

00:29:12,860 --> 00:29:11,070

beings right absolutely yeah I mean when

625

00:29:14,659 --> 00:29:12,870

you become so deeply embedded in

626

00:29:16,909 --> 00:29:14,669

something it's going to ultimately

627

00:29:19,580 --> 00:29:16,919

affect your life and influence your work

628

00:29:20,950 --> 00:29:19,590

moving forward I would assume yeah

629

00:29:22,690 --> 00:29:20,960

exactly

630

00:29:24,399 --> 00:29:22,700

and and that's you know that's another

631

00:29:26,980 --> 00:29:24,409

thing that I would I would point out

632

00:29:30,299 --> 00:29:26,990

about this connection with SETI there's

633

00:29:33,190 --> 00:29:30,309

a I recently read a a really interesting

634

00:29:36,100 --> 00:29:33,200

dis unpublished dissertation by a fellow

635

00:29:37,539 --> 00:29:36,110

by the name of Arthur item I want to

636

00:29:40,870 --> 00:29:37,549

pronounce his name right Arthur Fricka

637

00:29:43,269 --> 00:29:40,880

or Arthur Fricke who wrote this in the

638

00:29:46,289 --> 00:29:43,279

early 2000s at Rensselaer Polytechnic

639

00:29:48,639 --> 00:29:46,299

Institute it's a really fascinating

640

00:29:50,529 --> 00:29:48,649

dissertation which he looks at SETI but

641

00:29:53,350 --> 00:29:50,539

looked at it any connection also with

642

00:29:57,639 --> 00:29:53,360

ufology and he made a really interesting

643

00:29:59,620 --> 00:29:57,649

point that is so obvious it was one of

644

00:30:02,769 --> 00:29:59,630

those dumb moments I thought to myself

645

00:30:05,560 --> 00:30:02,779

like wow how come I never really thought

646

00:30:08,789 --> 00:30:05,570

about that and that is he said about

647

00:30:13,210 --> 00:30:08,799

SETI was that SETI

648

00:30:16,000 --> 00:30:13,220

major issue and major sort of challenge

649

00:30:19,570 --> 00:30:16,010

was also the mate of the very nature of

650

00:30:21,279 --> 00:30:19,580

its project which was that SETI for all

651
00:30:22,840 --> 00:30:21,289
the time that it's existed since the

652
00:30:26,500 --> 00:30:22,850
1960s right

653
00:30:29,560 --> 00:30:26,510
it is never once ever had any positive

654
00:30:33,760 --> 00:30:29,570
result right so far they've got nothing

655
00:30:37,180 --> 00:30:33,770
so when SETI tries to raise money when

656
00:30:39,880 --> 00:30:37,190
SETI tries to engage the public and the

657
00:30:42,340 --> 00:30:39,890
value of what they're doing they

658
00:30:44,260 --> 00:30:42,350
actually have nothing to show for it

659
00:30:45,820 --> 00:30:44,270
and that wasn't a credit he didn't mean

660
00:30:49,090 --> 00:30:45,830
it critically he said but what this does

661
00:30:52,360 --> 00:30:49,100
is this sets up a dynamic for SETI SETI

662
00:30:55,870 --> 00:30:52,370
must now generate enthusiasm for

663
00:30:59,680 --> 00:30:55,880

something for which it can offer no real

664

00:31:01,570 --> 00:30:59,690

concrete evidence of the very of the

665

00:31:04,060 --> 00:31:01,580

very thing that legitimates the project

666

00:31:06,220 --> 00:31:04,070

itself the apology has had a somewhat

667

00:31:08,380 --> 00:31:06,230

similar problem over the years right in

668

00:31:11,289 --> 00:31:08,390

essence no concrete you know that you

669

00:31:13,269 --> 00:31:11,299

know the classic one right why doesn't a

670

00:31:15,970 --> 00:31:13,279

UFO just plop down on the white house

671

00:31:19,210 --> 00:31:15,980

alone so that to me is kind of

672

00:31:22,269 --> 00:31:19,220

intriguing yeah yeah absolutely well I

673

00:31:25,419 --> 00:31:22,279

mean in terms of that I want to sort of

674

00:31:28,620 --> 00:31:25,429

dive integrate this idea of the mistrust

675

00:31:30,970 --> 00:31:28,630

as you've written about in the past

676
00:31:33,039 --> 00:31:30,980
between you know the scientific

677
00:31:34,930 --> 00:31:33,049
community and what we can I guess

678
00:31:38,290 --> 00:31:34,940
consider UFO

679
00:31:40,570 --> 00:31:38,300
Searchers or possibly investigators you

680
00:31:43,870 --> 00:31:40,580
wrote an entire paper on this topic of

681
00:31:48,310 --> 00:31:43,880
when and how this mistrust really began

682
00:31:51,430 --> 00:31:48,320
and why what why that happened and where

683
00:31:55,090 --> 00:31:51,440
that takes us in furthering you know UFO

684
00:31:58,690 --> 00:31:55,100
research well yeah and and so this I

685
00:32:02,170 --> 00:31:58,700
became very curious about looking at the

686
00:32:07,450 --> 00:32:02,180
kind of I think one has to say it's been

687
00:32:10,780 --> 00:32:07,460
historically fairly rampant and if we

688
00:32:12,940 --> 00:32:10,790

sort of divide up the what I would it

689

00:32:15,550 --> 00:32:12,950

can be difficult sometimes put these

690

00:32:18,250 --> 00:32:15,560

things in meat little boxes but ufology

691

00:32:19,660 --> 00:32:18,260

on the one hand and academic science on

692

00:32:21,220 --> 00:32:19,670

the other that's not to say there aren't

693

00:32:25,510 --> 00:32:21,230

you follow Jews who are themselves

694

00:32:28,300 --> 00:32:25,520

academic scientists but what I'm saying

695

00:32:31,420 --> 00:32:28,310

is I'm talking about the ufology

696

00:32:34,300 --> 00:32:31,430

activity that done outside of the halls

697

00:32:35,680 --> 00:32:34,310

and institutions of academia and and

698

00:32:37,900 --> 00:32:35,690

there's there has been this sort of

699

00:32:41,470 --> 00:32:37,910

mutual mistrust in for me as a historian

700

00:32:44,140 --> 00:32:41,480

we don't take anything for granted

701
00:32:47,260 --> 00:32:44,150
nothing is taken for granted and what we

702
00:32:50,920 --> 00:32:47,270
do is we tend to our kind of assumption

703
00:32:54,130 --> 00:32:50,930
is that when something when there's a

704
00:32:57,610 --> 00:32:54,140
set of relationships or an institution

705
00:32:59,380 --> 00:32:57,620
that's out there that we don't just

706
00:33:01,840 --> 00:32:59,390
simply accept it as a given but rather

707
00:33:03,790 --> 00:33:01,850
look at how it was made how it was

708
00:33:05,290 --> 00:33:03,800
creating what is the process and that's

709
00:33:09,240 --> 00:33:05,300
what I was interested in what is the

710
00:33:11,470 --> 00:33:09,250
process by which mistrust was sown in

711
00:33:15,160 --> 00:33:11,480
different communities and I think the

712
00:33:17,710 --> 00:33:15,170
thing that that struck me was to say was

713
00:33:21,430 --> 00:33:17,720

to see that in a sense that mistrust

714

00:33:23,500 --> 00:33:21,440

between the academic adam ii right the

715

00:33:27,900 --> 00:33:23,510

ivory tower and on the other hand

716

00:33:30,610 --> 00:33:27,910

ufology cruza has come about I think a

717

00:33:34,920 --> 00:33:30,620

it's come about through a set of

718

00:33:38,080 --> 00:33:34,930

processes so for starters it came about

719

00:33:40,930 --> 00:33:38,090

over the course of the 1940s 1950s

720

00:33:42,760 --> 00:33:40,940

really generated by what was it really

721

00:33:46,030 --> 00:33:42,770

the initial distrust and that was did

722

00:33:47,950 --> 00:33:46,040

the distrust of the air force in the

723

00:33:48,700 --> 00:33:47,960

case of the United States of a defense

724

00:33:51,190 --> 00:33:48,710

minister

725

00:33:55,440 --> 00:33:51,200

in the case of the United Kingdom but

726

00:33:59,380 --> 00:33:55,450

the ways in which information about UFOs

727

00:34:03,130 --> 00:33:59,390

was strictly guarded need-to-know basis

728

00:34:06,549 --> 00:34:03,140

right kept from the public as part of

729

00:34:09,159 --> 00:34:06,559

concerns about national security and so

730

00:34:11,490 --> 00:34:09,169

these military institutions that dealt

731

00:34:13,060 --> 00:34:11,500

with information about UFOs as

732

00:34:15,220 --> 00:34:13,070

intelligence right

733

00:34:17,859 --> 00:34:15,230

naturally folded into their concerns

734

00:34:19,810 --> 00:34:17,869

about keeping information classified

735

00:34:21,669 --> 00:34:19,820

rather than spreading that information

736

00:34:24,849 --> 00:34:21,679

for and that is when you look at the

737

00:34:26,560 --> 00:34:24,859

initial sort of issue of mistrust that's

738

00:34:28,990 --> 00:34:26,570

what it really centered upon for many

739

00:34:32,680 --> 00:34:29,000

ufologists was government officials and

740

00:34:34,930 --> 00:34:32,690

authorities over time as scientists

741

00:34:36,970 --> 00:34:34,940

began to speak out and speak against

742

00:34:39,970 --> 00:34:36,980

this and to also shut out

743

00:34:42,869 --> 00:34:39,980

ufology from the halls of the academy i

744

00:34:45,700 --> 00:34:42,879

think that's when you start to see this

745

00:34:49,570 --> 00:34:45,710

distrust start to play I think somewhat

746

00:34:52,540 --> 00:34:49,580

of a greater role in the relations

747

00:34:55,119 --> 00:34:52,550

between these two sets of communities if

748

00:34:56,980 --> 00:34:55,129

you will and that's the thing that this

749

00:35:00,280 --> 00:34:56,990

is the second thing would be part is

750

00:35:03,900 --> 00:35:00,290

that that that that mistrust I think I

751

00:35:08,109 --> 00:35:03,910

conclude was not really the result of

752

00:35:10,030 --> 00:35:08,119

really ufologist distrust in science I

753

00:35:14,109 --> 00:35:10,040

don't think that's it I don't think the

754

00:35:18,839 --> 00:35:14,119

evidence shows that at all but rather

755

00:35:21,640 --> 00:35:18,849

this emerged because in a sense the

756

00:35:24,070 --> 00:35:21,650

academics and the ufologists have

757

00:35:26,770 --> 00:35:24,080

historically in a sense talk past one

758

00:35:30,130 --> 00:35:26,780

another that their research projects

759

00:35:32,950 --> 00:35:30,140

have led them in different directions so

760

00:35:35,550 --> 00:35:32,960

that it's based on in to some extent

761

00:35:40,420 --> 00:35:35,560

some misunderstandings and this mutual

762

00:35:43,180 --> 00:35:40,430

misunderstandings but it's also it also

763

00:35:44,620 --> 00:35:43,190

reflects the fact that and I think this

764

00:35:47,109 --> 00:35:44,630

is the interesting thing is that what I

765

00:35:50,079 --> 00:35:47,119

started to discover is something that

766

00:35:51,940 --> 00:35:50,089

that colleagues of mine and sociology of

767

00:35:53,710 --> 00:35:51,950

science have also discovered about other

768

00:35:56,050 --> 00:35:53,720

communities where there's a fair amount

769

00:36:00,099 --> 00:35:56,060

of of safe skepticism or downright

770

00:36:02,620 --> 00:36:00,109

cynicism about it about a academia is

771

00:36:05,890 --> 00:36:02,630

that that that that is rude

772

00:36:08,469 --> 00:36:05,900

unless a skepticism or a distrust of

773

00:36:11,890 --> 00:36:08,479

science on the part of ufology then a

774

00:36:13,150 --> 00:36:11,900

distrust of scientists right that's that

775

00:36:15,670 --> 00:36:13,160

that's the problem

776

00:36:20,259 --> 00:36:15,680

that they believe they historically have

777

00:36:23,529 --> 00:36:20,269

believed scientists are elitist or

778

00:36:25,769 --> 00:36:23,539

scientists are people who are guarding

779

00:36:29,460 --> 00:36:25,779

their privileged or scientists are

780

00:36:32,019 --> 00:36:29,470

closed-minded that kind of stuff but the

781

00:36:35,769 --> 00:36:32,029

assumption that many people in academia

782

00:36:38,019 --> 00:36:35,779

have that people who are interested in

783

00:36:41,769 --> 00:36:38,029

UFOs or people who have worked in

784

00:36:43,599 --> 00:36:41,779

ufology are anti science that I don't

785

00:36:45,219 --> 00:36:43,609

think there's a lot of evidence for I

786

00:36:47,469 --> 00:36:45,229

think it's just the opposite and I don't

787

00:36:49,239 --> 00:36:47,479

know what your experience is but I find

788

00:36:52,299 --> 00:36:49,249

that most people interested in ufology

789

00:36:54,940 --> 00:36:52,309

are really quite interested in science

790

00:36:57,969 --> 00:36:54,950

oh absolutely I mean you look at the

791

00:37:00,460 --> 00:36:57,979

civilian research organizations and that

792

00:37:01,989 --> 00:37:00,470

is literally their mission their mantra

793

00:37:05,410 --> 00:37:01,999

is to look at this topic from a

794

00:37:08,229 --> 00:37:05,420

scientific viewpoint and to try to find

795

00:37:11,650 --> 00:37:08,239

some sort of repeatable evidence to

796

00:37:13,450 --> 00:37:11,660

bring forward yeah I completely agree on

797

00:37:15,279 --> 00:37:13,460

that and then you have psychologists

798

00:37:17,289 --> 00:37:15,289

looking at it from their angle and said

799

00:37:19,930 --> 00:37:17,299

you know we could go in circles on that

800

00:37:23,009 --> 00:37:19,940

whole aspect but yeah I don't see a

801
00:37:28,420 --> 00:37:23,019
distrust between the scientists and and

802
00:37:32,019 --> 00:37:28,430
ufologists as it were I do see a a lack

803
00:37:34,509 --> 00:37:32,029
of acknowledgement from the academic

804
00:37:37,450 --> 00:37:34,519
level at some points but that is where

805
00:37:40,209 --> 00:37:37,460
someone like you comes in and says there

806
00:37:43,329 --> 00:37:40,219
is a place for this especially in your

807
00:37:45,069 --> 00:37:43,339
field of history and if you don't mind

808
00:37:47,589 --> 00:37:45,079
Greg I'd love to bring up this piece

809
00:37:50,640 --> 00:37:47,599
that you you wrote for the Queen Mary

810
00:37:53,829 --> 00:37:50,650
Center for the history of emotions

811
00:37:58,120 --> 00:37:53,839
called UFOs and historians I want to

812
00:38:00,670 --> 00:37:58,130
talk about how as a historian you can

813
00:38:03,670 --> 00:38:00,680

bring something to the UFO topic and

814

00:38:05,739 --> 00:38:03,680

have it been taken seriously could you

815

00:38:10,059 --> 00:38:05,749

run us through what you cover in this

816

00:38:12,430 --> 00:38:10,069

piece yeah so what I wanted to write

817

00:38:15,249 --> 00:38:12,440

about was and so to speak to is

818

00:38:16,150 --> 00:38:15,259

something that is excited that might be

819

00:38:18,819 --> 00:38:16,160

the most cure

820

00:38:24,220 --> 00:38:18,829

Arius thing of all in the UFO phenomenon

821

00:38:27,730 --> 00:38:24,230

and it's not a particularly it's not

822

00:38:30,250 --> 00:38:27,740

anything's not a photograph it was when

823

00:38:34,359 --> 00:38:30,260

I started to embark on this project it

824

00:38:37,900 --> 00:38:34,369

was the realization that the last and

825

00:38:40,210 --> 00:38:37,910

only time an academic historian somebody

826

00:38:42,849 --> 00:38:40,220

trained and in history and working at a

827

00:38:44,799 --> 00:38:42,859

university as a historian the last and

828

00:38:47,640 --> 00:38:44,809

only time anybody has written a book on

829

00:38:50,289 --> 00:38:47,650

this subject in English was in 1975

830

00:38:52,680 --> 00:38:50,299

David Jacobs who I know who's going to

831

00:38:55,599 --> 00:38:52,690

be familiar to a lot of your listeners

832

00:38:57,460 --> 00:38:55,609

David Jacobs book which is standing

833

00:39:00,640 --> 00:38:57,470

right here on my desk in front of me the

834

00:39:02,380 --> 00:39:00,650

UFO controversy in America right very

835

00:39:05,079 --> 00:39:02,390

good book still stands the test of time

836

00:39:10,000 --> 00:39:05,089

it's a really quite a good book on the

837

00:39:14,740 --> 00:39:10,010

subject really remarkable and and then

838

00:39:17,710 --> 00:39:14,750

there's silence that to me was

839

00:39:20,769 --> 00:39:17,720

interesting and remains interesting

840

00:39:23,440 --> 00:39:20,779

because for me sort of the question they

841

00:39:24,190 --> 00:39:23,450

sort of talk about this is is it's

842

00:39:30,880 --> 00:39:24,200

peculiar

843

00:39:33,430 --> 00:39:30,890

because the you the world of UFOs as I

844

00:39:35,799 --> 00:39:33,440

was calling it earlier the UFO and alien

845

00:39:40,029 --> 00:39:35,809

contact phenomenon since world war ii

846

00:39:44,260 --> 00:39:40,039

has been a major preoccupation major

847

00:39:46,930 --> 00:39:44,270

endeavor for decades historians don't

848

00:39:50,700 --> 00:39:46,940

tend to neglect something that big yeah

849

00:39:53,859 --> 00:39:50,710

right how I can't imagine it'd be like

850

00:39:55,660 --> 00:39:53,869

neglecting pop music right you you don't

851
00:39:57,279 --> 00:39:55,670
say I'm not going to study pop music

852
00:39:59,620 --> 00:39:57,289
we're not interested you say but it's a

853
00:40:02,529 --> 00:39:59,630
hugely important part right of the

854
00:40:04,539 --> 00:40:02,539
post-war world so that's kind of odd but

855
00:40:07,930 --> 00:40:04,549
then it would also doubly made it makes

856
00:40:10,029 --> 00:40:07,940
it in trained to me is that there are

857
00:40:11,829 --> 00:40:10,039
all of these other communities of

858
00:40:15,220 --> 00:40:11,839
scholars as I was just mentioning before

859
00:40:17,890 --> 00:40:15,230
who in fact have studied this the

860
00:40:21,660 --> 00:40:17,900
folklorists the people who work in

861
00:40:23,769 --> 00:40:21,670
literary studies religious scholars

862
00:40:25,809 --> 00:40:23,779
sociologists social psychologists

863
00:40:29,680 --> 00:40:25,819

they've all looked at this phenomenon

864

00:40:33,820 --> 00:40:29,690

they've all explored it so it sort of

865

00:40:36,160 --> 00:40:33,830

for me it sort of led me to make really

866

00:40:38,080 --> 00:40:36,170

two kinds of observations one was to say

867

00:40:40,300 --> 00:40:38,090

what I think is some of the things that

868

00:40:42,970 --> 00:40:40,310

we can do as historians and one must

869

00:40:45,430 --> 00:40:42,980

again raise this question why are the

870

00:40:49,390 --> 00:40:45,440

historians so silent why are we why is

871

00:40:52,060 --> 00:40:49,400

my tribe so strangely silent on this

872

00:40:54,120 --> 00:40:52,070

subject when when so many other people

873

00:40:56,740 --> 00:40:54,130

in the social sciences and Humanities

874

00:40:59,800 --> 00:40:56,750

aren't and so that's kind of where I

875

00:41:02,440 --> 00:40:59,810

went with this in that regard it's

876

00:41:04,870 --> 00:41:02,450

really interesting why I love to UM I'll

877

00:41:07,480 --> 00:41:04,880

definitely link the listeners to those

878

00:41:10,120 --> 00:41:07,490

examples that you found it's fascinating

879

00:41:13,380 --> 00:41:10,130

it really is well you brought up you

880

00:41:15,730 --> 00:41:13,390

know the fact great no certain case or

881

00:41:19,120 --> 00:41:15,740

you know incident that occurred but I do

882

00:41:22,990 --> 00:41:19,130

kind of want to touch on that in your

883

00:41:25,630 --> 00:41:23,000

research what are there any cases you've

884

00:41:28,840 --> 00:41:25,640

turned to where it really stuck out to

885

00:41:30,970 --> 00:41:28,850

you that there is a obvious anomalous

886

00:41:32,860 --> 00:41:30,980

phenomenon happening you know there's

887

00:41:34,510 --> 00:41:32,870

there are a million answers to every go

888

00:41:37,600 --> 00:41:34,520

out there okay so let's be honest but

889

00:41:40,450 --> 00:41:37,610

what do you turn to that it really makes

890

00:41:43,270 --> 00:41:40,460

you personally feel wow there is

891

00:41:46,210 --> 00:41:43,280

something to this and it possibly may

892

00:41:51,010 --> 00:41:46,220

not be from here boy that's a good

893

00:41:54,520 --> 00:41:51,020

question I can't I can't say there's any

894

00:41:57,880 --> 00:41:54,530

particular individual case that makes me

895

00:42:01,660 --> 00:41:57,890

feel that way I think more the case I

896

00:42:04,240 --> 00:42:01,670

think would I will see and and as you

897

00:42:06,670 --> 00:42:04,250

can imagine and you know anybody who is

898

00:42:08,590 --> 00:42:06,680

interested in ufology does this all the

899

00:42:10,060 --> 00:42:08,600

time so I'm not doing anything that you

900

00:42:12,550 --> 00:42:10,070

follow just haven't been doing for

901
00:42:17,110 --> 00:42:12,560
decades but you know I go through so so

902
00:42:19,810 --> 00:42:17,120
many cases as I read and I comb over the

903
00:42:22,800 --> 00:42:19,820
archives and look at cases and in some

904
00:42:25,810 --> 00:42:22,810
ways from me it's these really really

905
00:42:28,660 --> 00:42:25,820
innocuous things these these things that

906
00:42:34,360 --> 00:42:28,670
I will read that are from you know some

907
00:42:37,770 --> 00:42:34,370
small newsletter in Ohio in 1953 or you

908
00:42:42,330 --> 00:42:37,780
know or something I read in a in a in a

909
00:42:46,440 --> 00:42:42,340
some sort of a periodical from the 1960s

910
00:42:49,200 --> 00:42:46,450
from the France or Sweden right and it

911
00:42:51,780 --> 00:42:49,210
says just a small little piece sometimes

912
00:42:55,830 --> 00:42:51,790
those to me are in fact kind of the most

913
00:42:57,810 --> 00:42:55,840

engaging for me so but but the other

914

00:43:02,000 --> 00:42:57,820

part of it I would say it's probably

915

00:43:05,940 --> 00:43:02,010

when you get this kind of sense of the

916

00:43:08,570 --> 00:43:05,950

the cumulative effect of hearing so many

917

00:43:11,880 --> 00:43:08,580

stories I think that's when you you

918

00:43:16,620 --> 00:43:11,890

certainly sit there and and have to say

919

00:43:20,550 --> 00:43:16,630

that it's it's difficult to say that

920

00:43:22,230 --> 00:43:20,560

some one explanation right is going to

921

00:43:24,420 --> 00:43:22,240

explain this you know you follow just

922

00:43:26,640 --> 00:43:24,430

about for a long time right now I'm

923

00:43:29,670 --> 00:43:26,650

trying to criticize fill class for his

924

00:43:32,780 --> 00:43:29,680

his um attachment to the ball lightning

925

00:43:35,910 --> 00:43:32,790

thesis there's no question that that one

926

00:43:38,040 --> 00:43:35,920

explanation doesn't doesn't do it for

927

00:43:40,050 --> 00:43:38,050

these kinds of things I I do think what

928

00:43:43,290 --> 00:43:40,060

I would say is this what I find

929

00:43:47,340 --> 00:43:43,300

interesting as a historian is I'm

930

00:43:49,590 --> 00:43:47,350

interested in what people other people

931

00:43:52,290 --> 00:43:49,600

what people different times have found

932

00:43:55,470 --> 00:43:52,300

compelling so that to me is what's kind

933

00:43:59,180 --> 00:43:55,480

of interesting in that regard right so

934

00:44:02,130 --> 00:43:59,190

when I read I'm often less interested in

935

00:44:05,880 --> 00:44:02,140

we're not at all interested to be honest

936

00:44:07,620 --> 00:44:05,890

in trying to persuade myself one way or

937

00:44:10,170 --> 00:44:07,630

the other about the origins of these

938

00:44:14,070 --> 00:44:10,180

things or what was somebody seen in many

939

00:44:17,010 --> 00:44:14,080

ways that to me is is not centrally

940

00:44:20,100 --> 00:44:17,020

important what's important for me is to

941

00:44:22,290 --> 00:44:20,110

unpack what it is if I'm reading a

942

00:44:24,210 --> 00:44:22,300

particular ufologists from a particular

943

00:44:26,400 --> 00:44:24,220

particular period of time I'm interested

944

00:44:29,280 --> 00:44:26,410

in knowing what he or she found

945

00:44:31,500 --> 00:44:29,290

particularly compelling what in that

946

00:44:34,260 --> 00:44:31,510

particular case did they find compelling

947

00:44:36,330 --> 00:44:34,270

in one form or another that to me is

948

00:44:38,130 --> 00:44:36,340

very very interesting and so kind of

949

00:44:40,770 --> 00:44:38,140

that's that's in the end what I would I

950

00:44:43,730 --> 00:44:40,780

really track is are those kinds of

951
00:44:46,650 --> 00:44:43,740
things I'm not kind of I'm not trying to

952
00:44:48,630 --> 00:44:46,660
divert away from your question but I

953
00:44:51,150 --> 00:44:48,640
guess it has to do probably with the

954
00:44:53,790 --> 00:44:51,160
mindset in which I go in and I read this

955
00:44:56,220 --> 00:44:53,800
stuff right at Tommy is that I think of

956
00:44:59,609 --> 00:44:56,230
it in these terms and so that is what

957
00:45:00,840 --> 00:44:59,619
constantly constantly on my mind yeah

958
00:45:03,210 --> 00:45:00,850
and like you mentioned just the

959
00:45:05,970 --> 00:45:03,220
profundity of reports and cases out

960
00:45:08,220 --> 00:45:05,980
there can really lead one to not not

961
00:45:11,490 --> 00:45:08,230
make a determination or find a source

962
00:45:13,260 --> 00:45:11,500
but to you know wonder what could be out

963
00:45:15,200 --> 00:45:13,270

there and or what did what it all means

964

00:45:17,730 --> 00:45:15,210

well in terms of you know those

965

00:45:20,040 --> 00:45:17,740

academics you mentioned David Jacobs for

966

00:45:22,170 --> 00:45:20,050

one highly controversial when he worked

967

00:45:24,540 --> 00:45:22,180

at Temple I know that he was given some

968

00:45:26,160 --> 00:45:24,550

flack for the work he'd done what do you

969

00:45:28,980 --> 00:45:26,170

make Greg of this whole idea of the

970

00:45:30,720 --> 00:45:28,990

ridicule factor with in ufology and in

971

00:45:35,220 --> 00:45:30,730

terms of the academic world I would say

972

00:45:37,020 --> 00:45:35,230

how do we move past that now so the

973

00:45:39,990 --> 00:45:37,030

ridicule thing is something I have

974

00:45:43,320 --> 00:45:40,000

increasingly become quite fascinated

975

00:45:45,270 --> 00:45:43,330

with and and I've started to work

976

00:45:48,180 --> 00:45:45,280

through some of my ideas about it

977

00:45:50,280 --> 00:45:48,190

because it's another one of these things

978

00:45:52,980 --> 00:45:50,290

that is so ubiquitous

979

00:45:56,400 --> 00:45:52,990

in the history of the UFO and alien

980

00:45:58,590 --> 00:45:56,410

contact phenomena that that nobody has

981

00:46:00,960 --> 00:45:58,600

ever thought I I think taking it

982

00:46:03,150 --> 00:46:00,970

seriously to consider what role does it

983

00:46:04,859 --> 00:46:03,160

play in all of these things I mean yes

984

00:46:07,020 --> 00:46:04,869

people talk about the fact well of

985

00:46:11,330 --> 00:46:07,030

course it means I kept quiet about this

986

00:46:14,340 --> 00:46:11,340

or it means you know you do have the

987

00:46:15,690 --> 00:46:14,350

recent article relatively recent article

988

00:46:16,980 --> 00:46:15,700

glad I'm blanking on their name but the

989

00:46:19,830 --> 00:46:16,990

two political scientists who have

990

00:46:23,580 --> 00:46:19,840

written about the UFO taboo and have

991

00:46:29,940 --> 00:46:23,590

talked about it in that way but but to

992

00:46:33,480 --> 00:46:29,950

me I'm really interested in the function

993

00:46:37,560 --> 00:46:33,490

of what role ridicule plays in helping

994

00:46:40,380 --> 00:46:37,570

to shape how you follow G operates how

995

00:46:42,599 --> 00:46:40,390

people who are engaged in UFO who have

996

00:46:44,609 --> 00:46:42,609

UFO and alien contact interests engage

997

00:46:46,710 --> 00:46:44,619

with one another engage with the outside

998

00:46:48,599 --> 00:46:46,720

world that to me is very important stuff

999

00:46:51,240 --> 00:46:48,609

it's a it's a social historical

1000

00:46:53,609 --> 00:46:51,250

phenomenon that needs to be understood

1001
00:46:59,190 --> 00:46:53,619
so in part I would sit there and I would

1002
00:47:01,590 --> 00:46:59,200
say to some extent ridicule is I think

1003
00:47:03,870 --> 00:47:01,600
in all likelihood something that is

1004
00:47:05,970 --> 00:47:03,880
never going to be eliminated from this

1005
00:47:09,150 --> 00:47:05,980
and that is because this is what people

1006
00:47:09,750 --> 00:47:09,160
do who have you know really different

1007
00:47:12,180 --> 00:47:09,760
opinions

1008
00:47:14,520 --> 00:47:12,190
about any subject is ridic oh I mean

1009
00:47:16,440 --> 00:47:14,530
just think about one's political views

1010
00:47:18,210 --> 00:47:16,450
and one's relatives who don't agree with

1011
00:47:20,910 --> 00:47:18,220
you about your politics and you know

1012
00:47:26,100 --> 00:47:20,920
right away that ridicule will always be

1013
00:47:29,700 --> 00:47:26,110

with us um I think in in academia I

1014

00:47:31,770 --> 00:47:29,710

think one of the ways we need to do and

1015

00:47:33,840 --> 00:47:31,780

I do this quite a bit in my own work

1016

00:47:37,260 --> 00:47:33,850

because one of the things I do in fact

1017

00:47:40,290 --> 00:47:37,270

do is is try to persuade colleagues to

1018

00:47:42,450 --> 00:47:40,300

consider this thing and this phenomenon

1019

00:47:45,690 --> 00:47:42,460

and the people engaged in the work of

1020

00:47:49,230 --> 00:47:45,700

UFO research um to take them seriously

1021

00:47:51,630 --> 00:47:49,240

to take this as a serious engagement

1022

00:47:53,400 --> 00:47:51,640

with knowledge in a way that is on par

1023

00:47:56,310 --> 00:47:53,410

with other things it's not to say you

1024

00:47:56,940 --> 00:47:56,320

have to say you agree with it or or even

1025

00:47:58,980 --> 00:47:56,950

like it

1026

00:48:01,590 --> 00:47:58,990

but it is to sit there and acknowledge

1027

00:48:05,730 --> 00:48:01,600

that this is another human endeavor to

1028

00:48:09,480 --> 00:48:05,740

know the world around us and that to me

1029

00:48:12,390 --> 00:48:09,490

is to value it on that on that basis so

1030

00:48:15,210 --> 00:48:12,400

I think one of the ways you do that is

1031

00:48:17,220 --> 00:48:15,220

to do the work I'm doing it is to have

1032

00:48:19,380 --> 00:48:17,230

these kinds of engagements engagements

1033

00:48:22,200 --> 00:48:19,390

like you and I have and these kinds of

1034

00:48:24,330 --> 00:48:22,210

ways of talking with one another to get

1035

00:48:27,720 --> 00:48:24,340

a better appreciation of what we're all

1036

00:48:30,240 --> 00:48:27,730

up to so that maybe we can avoid some of

1037

00:48:33,360 --> 00:48:30,250

the misunderstandings we had the other

1038

00:48:37,320 --> 00:48:33,370

thing that I find really interesting and

1039

00:48:39,900 --> 00:48:37,330

I'm sort of thinking through is to

1040

00:48:42,300 --> 00:48:39,910

understand one other thing and that is

1041

00:48:46,740 --> 00:48:42,310

to really appreciate that ridicule

1042

00:48:49,890 --> 00:48:46,750

doesn't just exist outside of ufology

1043

00:48:51,840 --> 00:48:49,900

right from the outside from academics or

1044

00:48:54,420 --> 00:48:51,850

laypeople who think this is all nonsense

1045

00:48:58,500 --> 00:48:54,430

it exists right there within you

1046

00:49:02,010 --> 00:48:58,510

right I mean one of the things that has

1047

00:49:04,710 --> 00:49:02,020

caught my eye is dating back from almost

1048

00:49:06,090 --> 00:49:04,720

the very beginning you follow just after

1049

00:49:08,100 --> 00:49:06,100

ufologist and you've probably had this

1050

00:49:10,800 --> 00:49:08,110

experience too if you talk to people

1051

00:49:13,800 --> 00:49:10,810

especially privately right virtually

1052

00:49:16,530 --> 00:49:13,810

every ufologist will say or UFO

1053

00:49:18,720 --> 00:49:16,540

researcher will sit there and they will

1054

00:49:20,520 --> 00:49:18,730

tell you about the stuff they work on

1055

00:49:22,860 --> 00:49:20,530

within the people who they read them and

1056

00:49:24,540 --> 00:49:22,870

then they will say something like

1057

00:49:27,330 --> 00:49:24,550

now you know I don't have a lot in

1058

00:49:32,040 --> 00:49:27,340

common with those nut jobs or those

1059

00:49:34,070 --> 00:49:32,050

crackpots right so many folks folks in

1060

00:49:35,820 --> 00:49:34,080

the UFO research community themselves

1061

00:49:38,220 --> 00:49:35,830

right yes

1062

00:49:40,620 --> 00:49:38,230

asked aspersions on others ridicule

1063

00:49:44,550 --> 00:49:40,630

other people within that community and

1064

00:49:47,340 --> 00:49:44,560

that to me is also interesting as a

1065

00:49:50,970 --> 00:49:47,350

historical phenomenon about what role

1066

00:49:53,430 --> 00:49:50,980

does that play in helping to shape some

1067

00:49:56,130 --> 00:49:53,440

of the conflicts and the divisions right

1068

00:49:59,670 --> 00:49:56,140

that have that have been a chronic part

1069

00:50:01,710 --> 00:49:59,680

of UFL ufology over the decades right

1070

00:50:04,650 --> 00:50:01,720

that's that's one of those things that

1071

00:50:07,670 --> 00:50:04,660

helps to in fact create that fractious

1072

00:50:11,670 --> 00:50:07,680

environment that at different times has

1073

00:50:14,430 --> 00:50:11,680

certainly hurt the public image of UFO

1074

00:50:16,290 --> 00:50:14,440

research over the years so that to me is

1075

00:50:19,890 --> 00:50:16,300

also intriguing this the role of

1076
00:50:22,590 --> 00:50:19,900
ridicule in that regard yes we are worst

1077
00:50:25,710 --> 00:50:22,600
enemies at times and I am sure that goes

1078
00:50:28,890 --> 00:50:25,720
for any scientific field or endeavor

1079
00:50:31,590 --> 00:50:28,900
even within academia there's always this

1080
00:50:34,590 --> 00:50:31,600
internal fighting or internal debate

1081
00:50:36,480 --> 00:50:34,600
going on which can be healthy at times I

1082
00:50:39,870 --> 00:50:36,490
mean as long as it's a civil discourse

1083
00:50:43,440 --> 00:50:39,880
but I think what you really hit on Gregg

1084
00:50:45,930 --> 00:50:43,450
is that word consideration it's not you

1085
00:50:48,810 --> 00:50:45,940
know persuading someone to some absolute

1086
00:50:50,130 --> 00:50:48,820
truth that you have the answer and if

1087
00:50:52,460 --> 00:50:50,140
you don't agree with me you're just

1088
00:50:55,770 --> 00:50:52,470

wrong you're plain wrong it's

1089

00:50:58,050 --> 00:50:55,780

considering the possibility let's say of

1090

00:51:00,420 --> 00:50:58,060

the UFO phenomenon being real and

1091

00:51:03,540 --> 00:51:00,430

possibly being of extraterrestrial in

1092

00:51:05,760 --> 00:51:03,550

origin or not and just understanding

1093

00:51:08,160 --> 00:51:05,770

that and asking questions I think that's

1094

00:51:09,960 --> 00:51:08,170

key and where that ridicule starts to

1095

00:51:11,370 --> 00:51:09,970

decay and like you said I don't think

1096

00:51:13,470 --> 00:51:11,380

it'll ever go away completely

1097

00:51:15,390 --> 00:51:13,480

we will never all be on the same page

1098

00:51:17,640 --> 00:51:15,400

especially when it comes to this topic

1099

00:51:20,520 --> 00:51:17,650

but I think you you hit it on the head

1100

00:51:22,920 --> 00:51:20,530

man considering the possibility and

1101
00:51:26,370 --> 00:51:22,930
opening people's eyes and just having a

1102
00:51:30,330 --> 00:51:26,380
conversation yeah exactly I mean I for

1103
00:51:31,410 --> 00:51:30,340
me for me I see this all you know gets

1104
00:51:34,110 --> 00:51:31,420
back to what we were talking about

1105
00:51:36,450 --> 00:51:34,120
earlier about how the whole world of

1106
00:51:38,940 --> 00:51:36,460
UFOs touches on some

1107
00:51:41,400 --> 00:51:38,950
many different aspects of how we

1108
00:51:45,359 --> 00:51:41,410
understand ourselves in the world around

1109
00:51:47,520 --> 00:51:45,369
us if one understands all of us involved

1110
00:51:50,099 --> 00:51:47,530
whatever it is and we could talk about

1111
00:51:51,810 --> 00:51:50,109
it you know not even just science and

1112
00:51:55,230 --> 00:51:51,820
UFOs we could talk about any almost any

1113
00:51:57,839 --> 00:51:55,240

subject it is - you know I know people

1114

00:52:00,089 --> 00:51:57,849

for instance I mean I love sports I love

1115

00:52:01,950 --> 00:52:00,099

watching that you know sports are

1116

00:52:04,589 --> 00:52:01,960

rooting for my teams I know people who

1117

00:52:06,810 --> 00:52:04,599

absolutely hate it absolutely hated it

1118

00:52:08,790 --> 00:52:06,820

and and don't get it and say I will

1119

00:52:10,800 --> 00:52:08,800

never understand how a grown man could

1120

00:52:13,890 --> 00:52:10,810

sit there and shout as lungs out it is

1121

00:52:16,859 --> 00:52:13,900

hockey team winning or losing Ella but

1122

00:52:18,780 --> 00:52:16,869

but it is to appreciate that to sit

1123

00:52:20,220 --> 00:52:18,790

there and say that is fair but it is to

1124

00:52:22,500 --> 00:52:20,230

sit there and say well you know that

1125

00:52:24,300 --> 00:52:22,510

this is yet another one of these aspects

1126
00:52:27,630 --> 00:52:24,310
of what makes us human beings in our

1127
00:52:31,310 --> 00:52:27,640
cultural life right these institutions

1128
00:52:34,800 --> 00:52:31,320
these endeavors of ours to enjoy

1129
00:52:38,400 --> 00:52:34,810
ourselves to be curious about the world

1130
00:52:41,609 --> 00:52:38,410
to commune with others right there's all

1131
00:52:46,230 --> 00:52:41,619
sorts of dimensions of these things that

1132
00:52:48,240 --> 00:52:46,240
we're engaged in and so you know I'm not

1133
00:52:49,829 --> 00:52:48,250
much of a gardener I don't crack that

1134
00:52:51,540 --> 00:52:49,839
garden and all but I know there are

1135
00:52:53,220 --> 00:52:51,550
people who do it and they can tell me

1136
00:52:55,710 --> 00:52:53,230
all about why they love being out in

1137
00:52:58,109 --> 00:52:55,720
their garden all day so to me I'm

1138
00:53:00,839 --> 00:52:58,119

curious about that and I instead of

1139

00:53:03,060 --> 00:53:00,849

ridiculing the gardener for gardening

1140

00:53:06,030 --> 00:53:03,070

and not you know watching sports really

1141

00:53:08,490 --> 00:53:06,040

I think that same kind of mentality

1142

00:53:11,040 --> 00:53:08,500

needs to be there that you put it right

1143

00:53:14,070 --> 00:53:11,050

it's about consideration but it's also

1144

00:53:17,400 --> 00:53:14,080

to my mind it's about connecting what I

1145

00:53:21,000 --> 00:53:17,410

would think all of us who are interested

1146

00:53:22,920 --> 00:53:21,010

in studying things like UFOs or you or

1147

00:53:24,599 --> 00:53:22,930

the history of ethology are interested

1148

00:53:27,240 --> 00:53:24,609

in is that we're curious we're curious

1149

00:53:30,780 --> 00:53:27,250

people we want to know something more

1150

00:53:32,579 --> 00:53:30,790

about the world and we go into it not

1151

00:53:34,980 --> 00:53:32,589

entirely clear where this is going to

1152

00:53:37,500 --> 00:53:34,990

take us that to me is something that

1153

00:53:39,660 --> 00:53:37,510

should be the foundation of

1154

00:53:42,210 --> 00:53:39,670

consideration doesn't mean it's the end

1155

00:53:45,599 --> 00:53:42,220

point we may in fact have completely

1156

00:53:47,400 --> 00:53:45,609

disparate views in the end but if we if

1157

00:53:50,220 --> 00:53:47,410

we come back to that time and time again

1158

00:53:53,460 --> 00:53:50,230

revisit that in our conversations at

1159

00:53:56,070 --> 00:53:53,470

that to me is the key to what is a civil

1160

00:53:58,710 --> 00:53:56,080

as you put it a civil conversation a

1161

00:54:01,650 --> 00:53:58,720

civil discussion even if we vehemently

1162

00:54:04,890 --> 00:54:01,660

degree disagree when we reach our

1163

00:54:07,770 --> 00:54:04,900

conclusions yes very well put

1164

00:54:10,800 --> 00:54:07,780

well Greg you're going to be having some

1165

00:54:12,990 --> 00:54:10,810

civil conversations in England soon in

1166

00:54:15,090 --> 00:54:13,000

my career yeah this is very exciting

1167

00:54:17,609 --> 00:54:15,100

when they heard about this I I do

1168

00:54:20,730 --> 00:54:17,619

receive your newsletter which will also

1169

00:54:21,690 --> 00:54:20,740

link to where are you where you heading

1170

00:54:23,970 --> 00:54:21,700

my friend what are you going to be

1171

00:54:27,060 --> 00:54:23,980

talking about in oh yeah I've got a

1172

00:54:28,980 --> 00:54:27,070

series of talks I'm giving in in London

1173

00:54:31,740 --> 00:54:28,990

I'm going to be actually doing an

1174

00:54:37,080 --> 00:54:31,750

interview with some very fascinating

1175

00:54:38,700 --> 00:54:37,090

folks at Berbick Univ University

1176

00:54:40,980 --> 00:54:38,710

University of London right anything

1177

00:54:43,109 --> 00:54:40,990

we're not this local college london but

1178

00:54:45,420 --> 00:54:43,119

Berbick there's a project there called

1179

00:54:48,390 --> 00:54:45,430

the hidden persuaders project which is

1180

00:54:52,260 --> 00:54:48,400

engaged in has been doing research in

1181

00:54:57,560 --> 00:54:52,270

the history of very various Cold War

1182

00:55:00,120 --> 00:54:57,570

efforts aimed at persuading people or or

1183

00:55:02,609 --> 00:55:00,130

moving people to do one thing or another

1184

00:55:05,460 --> 00:55:02,619

so they do everything from advertisement

1185

00:55:07,170 --> 00:55:05,470

to subliminal messaging hypnotism psy

1186

00:55:09,510 --> 00:55:07,180

phenomenon they're looking at the

1187

00:55:11,099 --> 00:55:09,520

history of that during the Cold War and

1188

00:55:13,920 --> 00:55:11,109

they're going to be interviewing me for

1189

00:55:20,040 --> 00:55:13,930

their website but I'm going to be giving

1190

00:55:22,980 --> 00:55:20,050

a number of different talks one is going

1191

00:55:25,560 --> 00:55:22,990

to be at the yeah the Queen Pro

1192

00:55:29,280 --> 00:55:25,570

sponsored by the Queen Mary Center for

1193

00:55:32,730 --> 00:55:29,290

the history of a Center for the history

1194

00:55:36,960 --> 00:55:32,740

of emotions that looks at the history of

1195

00:55:41,310 --> 00:55:36,970

the UFO phenomenon through the kind of

1196

00:55:44,450 --> 00:55:41,320

prism of suspense and what I mean there

1197

00:55:46,470 --> 00:55:44,460

is that I think for so long for the

1198

00:55:48,330 --> 00:55:46,480

folklore as I talk about all these

1199

00:55:51,060 --> 00:55:48,340

people have studied the U at the history

1200

00:55:53,160 --> 00:55:51,070

of the UFO phenomenon what's what's

1201
00:55:57,270 --> 00:55:53,170
dominated the scene has been this image

1202
00:55:59,070 --> 00:55:57,280
that that that the UFO the interest in

1203
00:56:01,830 --> 00:55:59,080
UFOs in the preoccupation with a

1204
00:56:03,930 --> 00:56:01,840
particularly in say the 1950s and 60s

1205
00:56:06,560 --> 00:56:03,940
into the 70s was

1206
00:56:09,420 --> 00:56:06,570
really build around people who were

1207
00:56:13,380 --> 00:56:09,430
paranoid but it's built on a kind of a

1208
00:56:17,430 --> 00:56:13,390
nervousness and anxiousness and fears of

1209
00:56:19,590 --> 00:56:17,440
the Cold War and anxieties and that

1210
00:56:22,530 --> 00:56:19,600
those anxieties then translated into

1211
00:56:25,080 --> 00:56:22,540
conspiracy theories and men in black and

1212
00:56:28,080 --> 00:56:25,090
all of that I don't I wouldn't say

1213
00:56:30,330 --> 00:56:28,090

that's entirely wrong but I would say

1214

00:56:33,690 --> 00:56:30,340

that is a very very incomplete picture

1215

00:56:35,580 --> 00:56:33,700

of both I think the Cold War but also an

1216

00:56:39,420 --> 00:56:35,590

incomplete picture of ufology

1217

00:56:41,640 --> 00:56:39,430

right because not everyone in fact I

1218

00:56:44,490 --> 00:56:41,650

would argue that maybe most ufologists

1219

00:56:46,890 --> 00:56:44,500

have not been believers in conspiracy

1220

00:56:49,620 --> 00:56:46,900

theories and also don't sort of

1221

00:56:52,670 --> 00:56:49,630

emphasize these dark sides of things and

1222

00:56:55,290 --> 00:56:52,680

so my argument is that it misses the

1223

00:56:57,210 --> 00:56:55,300

reality that when you particularly look

1224

00:56:58,830 --> 00:56:57,220

at any given time but especially this

1225

00:57:01,080 --> 00:56:58,840

very period of time that people tend to

1226

00:57:03,830 --> 00:57:01,090

glom on to it was actually a period in

1227

00:57:09,690 --> 00:57:03,840

which people were outright you know

1228

00:57:12,450 --> 00:57:09,700

delighted in soon excited it found it

1229

00:57:16,320 --> 00:57:12,460

exhilarating right that that UFOs were

1230

00:57:20,130 --> 00:57:16,330

out there that that the possibility that

1231

00:57:24,660 --> 00:57:20,140

these vehicles were being manned by

1232

00:57:25,200 --> 00:57:24,670

aliens that a new dawn was a new age was

1233

00:57:28,320 --> 00:57:25,210

dawning

1234

00:57:30,180 --> 00:57:28,330

these kinds of things are being missed

1235

00:57:33,480 --> 00:57:30,190

and neglected in man so I began to think

1236

00:57:35,820 --> 00:57:33,490

more about how can we frame the the

1237

00:57:37,650 --> 00:57:35,830

historical sensibilities of the time

1238

00:57:39,870 --> 00:57:37,660

that helps shape this phenomenon in

1239

00:57:41,910 --> 00:57:39,880

those early years and that's when I

1240

00:57:44,550 --> 00:57:41,920

started to realize that the sentiment

1241

00:57:47,850 --> 00:57:44,560

that really dominated the Cold War but I

1242

00:57:50,820 --> 00:57:47,860

think also dominated particularly those

1243

00:57:53,310 --> 00:57:50,830

those early decades really I think all

1244

00:57:56,310 --> 00:57:53,320

the way up into the 80s in the history

1245

00:58:00,120 --> 00:57:56,320

of UFO research with less anxiety and

1246

00:58:03,690 --> 00:58:00,130

fear than suspense then and that sense

1247

00:58:06,690 --> 00:58:03,700

of what is going on what what are they

1248

00:58:08,220 --> 00:58:06,700

and I often tell people I came to that

1249

00:58:11,070 --> 00:58:08,230

idea when I was looking at UFO

1250

00:58:12,990 --> 00:58:11,080

photographs you know take a look at some

1251
00:58:16,260 --> 00:58:13,000
of your favorites you a flying saucer

1252
00:58:17,520 --> 00:58:16,270
photographs from that age there they are

1253
00:58:20,970 --> 00:58:17,530
and they just sit

1254
00:58:23,490 --> 00:58:20,980
right they kind of there's frozen in

1255
00:58:25,920 --> 00:58:23,500
time you may not know much about the

1256
00:58:29,250 --> 00:58:25,930
context of the photograph and it just

1257
00:58:33,030 --> 00:58:29,260
seems to be begging for answers and

1258
00:58:36,330 --> 00:58:33,040
saying to you who am i what am i is this

1259
00:58:38,700 --> 00:58:36,340
real is this is this is this a hoax is

1260
00:58:40,830 --> 00:58:38,710
this genuine if it's genuine isn't

1261
00:58:45,750 --> 00:58:40,840
man-made like all of these questions

1262
00:58:48,600 --> 00:58:45,760
that to me is the key to understanding I

1263
00:58:50,370 --> 00:58:48,610

think the the allure and the per though

1264

00:58:54,180 --> 00:58:50,380

the reason why so many people were

1265

00:58:55,920 --> 00:58:54,190

fascinated with UFOs particularly in the

1266

00:58:58,550 --> 00:58:55,930

earliest decades say that first

1267

00:59:02,580 --> 00:58:58,560

generation of folks interested in UFOs

1268

00:59:04,890 --> 00:59:02,590

it was that sense of mystery attenti

1269

00:59:07,980 --> 00:59:04,900

where is this going how is this going to

1270

00:59:09,870 --> 00:59:07,990

end and that to me is what I want to

1271

00:59:12,170 --> 00:59:09,880

capture so that's one of the one of the

1272

00:59:15,960 --> 00:59:12,180

talks I'm giving is going to be on that

1273

00:59:17,820 --> 00:59:15,970

doing another one also at another Center

1274

00:59:19,050 --> 00:59:17,830

at University of College of London this

1275

00:59:23,780 --> 00:59:19,060

is a Center for the history of

1276

00:59:28,680 --> 00:59:23,790

psychological disciplines on what I call

1277

00:59:31,230 --> 00:59:28,690

looking at the history of how how alien

1278

00:59:34,680 --> 00:59:31,240

contact became pathologized I'm putting

1279

00:59:38,400 --> 00:59:34,690

it in other words how is it that I put

1280

00:59:40,710 --> 00:59:38,410

it another way talk I start with looking

1281

00:59:44,340 --> 00:59:40,720

at John Mac the great figure of John Mac

1282

00:59:48,420 --> 00:59:44,350

of quartz innovator in abductee research

1283

00:59:50,280 --> 00:59:48,430

and you know of course people have asked

1284

00:59:52,650 --> 00:59:50,290

subsequently within the psychiatric

1285

00:59:54,780 --> 00:59:52,660

community like you know why did he get

1286

00:59:56,910 --> 00:59:54,790

involved with these people how to be

1287

00:59:59,520 --> 00:59:56,920

become involved with these people and

1288

01:00:03,000 --> 00:59:59,530

why did he believe them then those are

1289

01:00:04,620 --> 01:00:03,010

all fair enough questions to ask to be

1290

01:00:07,500 --> 01:00:04,630

sure and a lot of people dressed it I

1291

01:00:10,670 --> 01:00:07,510

have kind of flipped it around my

1292

01:00:15,390 --> 01:00:10,680

question is like why were these people

1293

01:00:19,580 --> 01:00:15,400

finding him right hey why why is it that

1294

01:00:21,900 --> 01:00:19,590

they went to John Mac if they are people

1295

01:00:24,240 --> 01:00:21,910

alien contact there are people who had

1296

01:00:26,850 --> 01:00:24,250

contact with aliens it was a genuine

1297

01:00:29,220 --> 01:00:26,860

real experience they believed right they

1298

01:00:31,290 --> 01:00:29,230

didn't believe that they were having

1299

01:00:34,140 --> 01:00:31,300

hallucinations or or maybe

1300

01:00:37,200 --> 01:00:34,150

I thought they might be doing so but but

1301

01:00:39,390 --> 01:00:37,210

but in any event it's what's intriguing

1302

01:00:42,470 --> 01:00:39,400

me is why is it that they're at his

1303

01:00:45,240 --> 01:00:42,480

doorstep why are they in the room with a

1304

01:00:46,980 --> 01:00:45,250

psychiatrist right that indicates

1305

01:00:49,380 --> 01:00:46,990

something's happened and for taking if

1306

01:00:51,660 --> 01:00:49,390

you look at it historically right look

1307

01:00:54,510 --> 01:00:51,670

at the contact these of the 50s look at

1308

01:00:56,400 --> 01:00:54,520

the people as I do in this paper I look

1309

01:00:59,310 --> 01:00:56,410

at some of the people who were talked

1310

01:01:01,170 --> 01:00:59,320

about also into the 1960s the number of

1311

01:01:03,950 --> 01:01:01,180

people who ever are talked about ever

1312

01:01:07,260 --> 01:01:03,960

visiting a clinician a psychiatrist

1313

01:01:09,180 --> 01:01:07,270

after their experience is very very

1314

01:01:11,340 --> 01:01:09,190

nominal that's the number to do that is

1315

01:01:12,960 --> 01:01:11,350

nominal you have the big figures right

1316

01:01:15,060 --> 01:01:12,970

you have people like Betty and Barney

1317

01:01:17,760 --> 01:01:15,070

Hill who end up doing it

1318

01:01:20,100 --> 01:01:17,770

patty price ends up doing this right but

1319

01:01:22,890 --> 01:01:20,110

but it's it's a small number of people

1320

01:01:25,680 --> 01:01:22,900

so something changed right we go from a

1321

01:01:28,230 --> 01:01:25,690

world where contact with a of people who

1322

01:01:31,560 --> 01:01:28,240

say they had contact with aliens don't

1323

01:01:33,750 --> 01:01:31,570

in fact feel like this requires any kind

1324

01:01:37,110 --> 01:01:33,760

of clinical intervention - by the time

1325

01:01:40,830 --> 01:01:37,120

we get into the 80s and 90s right and it

1326

01:01:44,820 --> 01:01:40,840

explodes it explodes and now but Hopkins

1327

01:01:47,970 --> 01:01:44,830

David Jacobs Leo sprinkle right John

1328

01:01:50,970 --> 01:01:47,980

Mack all of them are engaged in if not a

1329

01:01:52,980 --> 01:01:50,980

regression all of them have a dimension

1330

01:01:55,590 --> 01:01:52,990

in which they are looking at this as

1331

01:01:58,860 --> 01:01:55,600

something that requires a kind of

1332

01:02:01,680 --> 01:01:58,870

therapeutic intervention of some kind

1333

01:02:03,750 --> 01:02:01,690

how did it get how did that happen how

1334

01:02:06,120 --> 01:02:03,760

did we get there that's what that's what

1335

01:02:09,030 --> 01:02:06,130

that paper is about I explore how it is

1336

01:02:10,230 --> 01:02:09,040

that we get from point A to point B Wow

1337

01:02:11,640 --> 01:02:10,240

that is fast

1338

01:02:15,570 --> 01:02:11,650

I might have to get a plane ticket over

1339

01:02:18,420 --> 01:02:15,580

there I'll be in I'll actually be there

1340

01:02:20,490 --> 01:02:18,430

a few weeks after that I may have to

1341

01:02:23,280 --> 01:02:20,500

reschedule Greg no no no he had Italy

1342

01:02:26,100 --> 01:02:23,290

fat for you well you know besides your

1343

01:02:28,470 --> 01:02:26,110

trip to England you're going to be in DC

1344

01:02:30,330 --> 01:02:28,480

for a while I learned that you're going

1345

01:02:32,580 --> 01:02:30,340

to be doing a fellowship there this is

1346

01:02:34,530 --> 01:02:32,590

so exciting could you tell us a little

1347

01:02:38,280 --> 01:02:34,540

bit about this if you don't mind yeah

1348

01:02:40,500 --> 01:02:38,290

sure so I am going to be the Charles a

1349

01:02:43,200 --> 01:02:40,510

Lindbergh chair in aerospace history

1350

01:02:44,650 --> 01:02:43,210

class Smithsonian National Air and Space

1351
01:02:46,660 --> 01:02:44,660
Museum

1352
01:02:49,329 --> 01:02:46,670
for the second half of this year yeah

1353
01:02:51,789 --> 01:02:49,339
I'm really excited about it so I'll be

1354
01:02:54,940 --> 01:02:51,799
at the Air and Space Museum where I'm

1355
01:02:56,890 --> 01:02:54,950
going to really be doing two things one

1356
01:02:59,170 --> 01:02:56,900
I'll be doing some research conducting

1357
01:03:01,150 --> 01:02:59,180
research using their library but I'll

1358
01:03:03,700 --> 01:03:01,160
probably also be looking because they're

1359
01:03:05,559 --> 01:03:03,710
based in DC that the Carl Sagan Papers

1360
01:03:07,420 --> 01:03:05,569
which apparently are massive as you can

1361
01:03:09,430 --> 01:03:07,430
imagine but I'll be looking at Carl

1362
01:03:11,760 --> 01:03:09,440
Sagan paper and trying to look at some

1363
01:03:15,460 --> 01:03:11,770

of his work and engagements with

1364

01:03:18,700 --> 01:03:15,470

ufologists and the UFO phenomenon I'll

1365

01:03:22,089 --> 01:03:18,710

be writing as well but really the best

1366

01:03:25,539 --> 01:03:22,099

part of it is an opportunity to be

1367

01:03:27,730 --> 01:03:25,549

hanging out with and and exchanging

1368

01:03:31,180 --> 01:03:27,740

ideas with some of the world's best

1369

01:03:34,480 --> 01:03:31,190

historians of space and space

1370

01:03:37,210 --> 01:03:34,490

exploration and anyone interested in

1371

01:03:40,960 --> 01:03:37,220

aerospace history in general there they

1372

01:03:43,150 --> 01:03:40,970

have a bevy of top-notch historians

1373

01:03:46,240 --> 01:03:43,160

frankly people who know far more about

1374

01:03:48,250 --> 01:03:46,250

aerospace history than I do so it's an

1375

01:03:50,319 --> 01:03:48,260

opportunity for me to work with really

1376

01:03:53,980 --> 01:03:50,329

the some of the world's best historians

1377

01:03:55,630 --> 01:03:53,990

and it sort of you know pick their

1378

01:03:58,359 --> 01:03:55,640

brains about some of my observations

1379

01:03:59,950 --> 01:03:58,369

about these things there's some people

1380

01:04:01,870 --> 01:03:59,960

who you know and we're talking about

1381

01:04:05,140 --> 01:04:01,880

people who you know for instance are

1382

01:04:06,760 --> 01:04:05,150

experts on the history of rocketry folks

1383

01:04:12,069 --> 01:04:06,770

who are experts in the history of

1384

01:04:16,230 --> 01:04:12,079

astronomy people who done some really

1385

01:04:18,660 --> 01:04:16,240

great work on the popular the culture

1386

01:04:22,140 --> 01:04:18,670

the history of popular culture

1387

01:04:25,450 --> 01:04:22,150

surrounding space and space exploration

1388

01:04:28,000 --> 01:04:25,460

all of these things are vital to this

1389

01:04:30,190 --> 01:04:28,010

project I'm working on and so I'm really

1390

01:04:32,170 --> 01:04:30,200

looking forward to being able to sit

1391

01:04:34,120 --> 01:04:32,180

around with people who have so much

1392

01:04:36,730 --> 01:04:34,130

experience so much knowledge about these

1393

01:04:39,910 --> 01:04:36,740

things who can give me critical comments

1394

01:04:42,190 --> 01:04:39,920

and and reflect on my own work and gets

1395

01:04:43,480 --> 01:04:42,200

getting hopefully refine my arguments a

1396

01:04:45,730 --> 01:04:43,490

little better than they are at this

1397

01:04:48,519 --> 01:04:45,740

stage of the game wow that sounds great

1398

01:04:51,430 --> 01:04:48,529

I mean great it I highly respect what

1399

01:04:53,829 --> 01:04:51,440

you're doing both in and out of ufology

1400

01:04:55,599 --> 01:04:53,839

I think you really are tapping into

1401

01:04:58,300 --> 01:04:55,609

something that not many people have done

1402

01:05:00,820 --> 01:04:58,310

and I do consider you a pioneer

1403

01:05:03,100 --> 01:05:00,830

in that sense of moving this field

1404

01:05:04,660 --> 01:05:03,110

forward by looking at the past and

1405

01:05:07,630 --> 01:05:04,670

seeing what we can learn from that that

1406

01:05:09,820 --> 01:05:07,640

is what history is after all well where

1407

01:05:11,680 --> 01:05:09,830

can we find out more about the work

1408

01:05:14,290 --> 01:05:11,690

they're doing and keep up to date with

1409

01:05:18,360 --> 01:05:14,300

all of this well you can see I have a

1410

01:05:26,080 --> 01:05:18,370

blog it's called the UFO past and it's

1411

01:05:29,470 --> 01:05:26,090

my URL is UFO past comm and there I more

1412

01:05:31,630 --> 01:05:29,480

or less intermittently post information

1413

01:05:34,180 --> 01:05:31,640

about some things that are going on like

1414

01:05:36,250 --> 01:05:34,190

these talks and stuff that I'm giving in

1415

01:05:38,740 --> 01:05:36,260

London but every now and again I'll post

1416

01:05:41,020 --> 01:05:38,750

a brief little essay in there about

1417

01:05:42,460 --> 01:05:41,030

something I'm working on or post

1418

01:05:44,140 --> 01:05:42,470

something that that that's interesting

1419

01:05:47,320 --> 01:05:44,150

like an exhibit that I've heard about

1420

01:05:49,870 --> 01:05:47,330

that's up there um and yeah so anything

1421

01:05:52,810 --> 01:05:49,880

anything historical about UFOs I am

1422

01:05:54,370 --> 01:05:52,820

interested in so please come on and sign

1423

01:05:56,560 --> 01:05:54,380

up and subscribe so you can be updated

1424

01:05:58,000 --> 01:05:56,570

on your email on a regular basis

1425

01:06:00,190 --> 01:05:58,010

whenever I have something new to post

1426

01:06:02,260 --> 01:06:00,200

that's so great well we'll definitely

1427

01:06:04,690 --> 01:06:02,270

post links for your talks coming up for

1428

01:06:06,640 --> 01:06:04,700

our friends in England and of all of

1429

01:06:07,960 --> 01:06:06,650

Europe actually and great I can't thank

1430

01:06:10,150 --> 01:06:07,970

you enough for taking the time to do

1431

01:06:11,560 --> 01:06:10,160

this today I know you're a busy man and

1432

01:06:13,150 --> 01:06:11,570

the fact that you could sit down with us

1433

01:06:16,540 --> 01:06:13,160

for an hour or so to talk to you about

1434

01:06:18,550 --> 01:06:16,550

it was highly refreshing and excites me

1435

01:06:21,400 --> 01:06:18,560

about the future of moving forward with

1436

01:06:23,730 --> 01:06:21,410

ufology so thank you so much for joining

1437

01:06:26,110 --> 01:06:23,740

us Ryan always great talking with you

1438

01:06:28,480 --> 01:06:26,120

well that's all I got for you this week

1439

01:06:30,430 --> 01:06:28,490

guys for episode 3 if you enjoyed

1440

01:06:32,500 --> 01:06:30,440

today's show I'd absolutely love that

1441

01:06:34,780 --> 01:06:32,510

you'd consider rating and reviewing the

1442

01:06:36,880 --> 01:06:34,790

show on iTunes or wherever the hell you

1443

01:06:39,040 --> 01:06:36,890

happen to listen and please also

1444

01:06:41,860 --> 01:06:39,050

consider sharing the show across your

1445

01:06:43,570 --> 01:06:41,870

social networks I'm so unbelievably

1446

01:06:46,420 --> 01:06:43,580

amazed at how much the show has grown

1447

01:06:48,670 --> 01:06:46,430

only three episodes in and with your

1448

01:06:50,890 --> 01:06:48,680

help we can continue to grow each and

1449

01:06:53,080 --> 01:06:50,900

every week so thank you for your

1450

01:06:55,600 --> 01:06:53,090

constant support if you have any guests

1451

01:06:57,790 --> 01:06:55,610

or topic suggestions or a personal story

1452

01:07:01,390 --> 01:06:57,800

you'd like to share you can email me at

1453

01:07:04,150 --> 01:07:01,400

Sprague at saman sponce com you can also

1454

01:07:05,560 --> 01:07:04,160

join our active Facebook page somewhere

1455

01:07:07,870 --> 01:07:05,570

in the skies podcast

1456

01:07:11,350 --> 01:07:07,880

we're also on twitter at somewhere skies

1457

01:07:13,120 --> 01:07:11,360

that's it I'll see you here next Monday

1458

01:07:19,650 --> 01:07:13,130

remember keep your feet on the ground