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### MUFON 99 - Jenny Randles - Comfort Zones

From: **Jenny Randles** <[nufon@currantbun.com](mailto:nufon@currantbun.com)>  
Date: Tue, 6 Jul 1999 20:14:43 +0100  
Fwd Date: Tue, 06 Jul 1999 22:43:55 -0400  
Subject: MUFON 99 - Jenny Randles - Comfort Zones

Hi,

I have just returned from the enjoyable MUFON 99 conference in Washington, DC. Thanks to all who played a part in inviting me. My presentation was rather different from the one included in the proceedings since I thought this gave better value to those attending and buying the book, so to speak. But as I was on early Saturday some who missed the paper asked me later in the weekend to put a summary on the net. Others who heard it asked for some help in the absence of a version in the proceedings. So here is my contribution. No revelations, as someone said. But, I hope, salient points that are worth considering whatever your perspective on the subject.

My paper focused on the conference theme of 'comfort zones' in ufology. I offered 12 problem areas within our field that serve as 'discomfort zones' and challenge the preconceptions of ufologists, the media, skeptics and science. For each we all should contemplate alternative scenarios and reflect on whether we are just sitting in our own personal comfort zone standing by a long held opinion.

It seems not many other speakers took the conference theme as literally as I did. I thought the idea was to build a paper around the theme. So I did!

In deference to the requests and for those not at Washington here is a brief account of my 12 points. I will happily elaborate if requested.

1: IFOs are not failures but success stories - How and why solving cases is a task ufologists can do well to the benefit of society and is an achievable goal as compared with the largely unachievable ones such as proving that aliens are here that tend to dominate our thinking.

2: There is not an answer to the UFO phenomenon, but answers to the UFO phenomena The quest for 'the truth' is misleading to all sides until we recognise there are multiple phenomena reported under the catch all term UFO and each requires a different form of answer. These phenomena may only be linked together by social factors and not by any actual connections. Thus a search for the unified field theory of ufology can actually be counter productive.

3: We can show that UFOs are of benefit to mankind Ignoring any hypothetical aliens, there are naturally occurring phenomena reported as UFOs that will stretch scientific knowledge (eg types of plasma) and may offer new energy sources, etc, for the 21st century. ufology's task is to persuade science of that. Science must escape its ignorance of what lies beyond the

tabloid imagery of ufology.

4: UFOs are not academic they can be dangerous Certain types of UAP, eg those involved in ongoing mid air encounters (over 40 above the UK alone post 1992) are a potential threat. They are natural in origin, not alien craft. But as modern aircraft fly by computers the EM fields of these UAP are a clear danger. The media need to find more honest and objective reporting. Science needs to pay heed to UFO data. UFOlogists need to show restraint in presenting such sober evidence without talking all the time about aliens.

5: Close Encounters do not just happen to anyone I outlined the clues that we have uncovered that there is a 'close encounter prone personality' - items cited included above average early life recall, acute visual creativity, etc. There were six key factors here.

6: Abductions occur inside a UFO This challenges a key comfort zone of ufology that during missing time the CE phase occurs inside a UFO. I showed why this is an assumption imposed onto the story by investigators and is open to some doubt. If an abduction does not occur inside a UFO then all bets are off as to the correct interpretation. As such this is a critical area because if we mistakenly jump to the conclusion that an incident occurs inside a UFO we are fundamentally misperceiving the enigma.

7: Close Encounters occur during an altered state of consciousness They are not real world physical events, even though they do have a reality. I set out why we must accept this (to many) quite disturbing premise via case evidence.

8: The ETH must be the answer I outlined reasons why it may be - pro ET evidence such as the 'Star Trek' effect I have uncovered within abduction cases. But I also showed the contradictions, via case evidence, such as that perception creates at least part of the CE experience and how the subconscious mind at work in the story lines is evident (eg one alien contact where the witness was told by the aliens that their Proxima Centauri home world translates as 'love and peace, everywhere and forever' but in English is 'Afonl' - say it phonetically to get my point here!! The ETH is an assumption and part of our comfort zone.

9: CE cases are a form of psychic experience In the broadest definition of that term, a paranormally experienced phenomenon, I showed why we have to conclude that it is. Rather than run from the threads that weave abductions, NDEs etc together we need to seek them out. I likened the result to a lucid dream - without arguing that it was a dream, which it isnt as such.

10: We are the architects, not just the archivists of the UFO mystery - decisions taken by ufologists as to how to investigate and interpret a case can push it down pathways and to adopt a format that may not be entirely its true nature. We hone and shape the data without realising it and can make an experience that under other circumstances would, for instance, be a ghost or NDE into an alien contact. We dont just record we actually influence the mystery.

11: Sometimes you just have to say you dont know It is not a necessity to come up with an answer all the time. There are puzzling cases where it is wiser and safer not to jump to a conclusion in any direction. To do so will have a negative effect on data gathering. We need at times to be humble enough to admit an answer is beyond us - be we skeptics or believers.

12: The cover up may not be what it seems yes, there is a cover up, but need there be sinister motives for it? I expressed arguments as to why such a thing is a natural consequence of what ufology represents and how, by pleading a massive conspiracy to hide an alien plan on earth, we actually damage our credibility and deepen the cover up as unpaid agents of the very conspiracy we deplore.

Hope this helps grasp what I was trying to say in DC.

Best wishes,

Jenny Randles

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