

TKR TRANSCRIPT: DR. RICHARD BROUGHTON IN CONFERENCE

25 July 2009 at www.dojopsi.com/chat/

Ten Thousand Roads Remote Viewing and Dowsing Project ("TKR")

Project Home: <http://www.tenthousandroads.com>

Discussion Forum: <http://www.dojopsi.info/forum/>

Viewer Studios & RV Galleries: <http://www.dojopsi.com/tkr/>

Email: "Remote-Viewing" at Yahoo and Google groups

Introduction to the chat guest:

A web page made to feature Dr. Broughton, this transcript, and other information about or from him now or in the future is located here:

<http://www.dojopsi.com/rvexpo/DrBroughton/>

Find him directly at: <http://www.rsbroughton.com>

TKR on Dr. Broughton's invitation to chat: *Dr. Broughton has spent most of his career investigating parapsychology with a focus on ESP and PK. In recent years he has been particularly interested in promoting an evolutionary view of ESP and has been researching the role of the emotional system in mediating ESP (or anomalous intuition) into effective decision-making. Dr. Broughton is currently a professor at the University of North Hampton in the United Kingdom.*

This transcript was obtained from a live chat held in the TKR chat room at the Dojo Psi. Copyright © 2009 to Dr. Richard Broughton and Palyne "PJ" Gaenir (www.palyne.com) on behalf of TKR and the Dojo Psi. (Transcript integrity notes: typos corrected, topical Q&A put more cohesively together, room traffic ignored.) Chat moderator: PJ Gaenir.

Dr. Richard Broughton in Conference at TKR

[moderated session July 25, 2009 at www.dojopsi.com/chat/]

We are Ten Thousand Roads Remote Viewing and Dowsing Project aka "TKR." The rules are simple: Relax, have fun, be cordial, no politics or religion. Remote Viewing rocks!

Palyne_Gaenir: I'd like to welcome researcher and professor Dr. Richard Broughton, a fellow American currently living in the UK. Dr. Broughton! Thanks for joining us!

Dr_Richard_Broughton: Pleased to be here, virtually.

Palyne_Gaenir: Alrighty! We have a bunch of questions already, even though we're sure to get more of our people over the course of the chat. Are you ready to go? :-)

Dr_Richard_Broughton: Fire away.

Palyne_Gaenir: Louisa Rhine's collection of PSI reports looking for patterns in the testimonies, saw around a 60% bias in the realm of dreams. Why do you think sleep is such a conducive state for these occurrence to manifest?

Dr_Richard_Broughton: Easy one first, eh? ... I have addressed that question in a couple of papers that can be downloaded from my web site, but in a nutshell I think it may be a particularly good time for anomalous information to be mediated into our awareness (via the dreams) through the emotional system. We know that the emotional system plays a major role in determining dream imagery, and that fits in well with other indicators that the emotional system plays a role.

Palyne_Gaenir: What's the kind of thing you're researching currently? Relates to that, yes?

Dr_Richard_Broughton: Indeed. For some years I have been following a variety of "hints" so to speak that the emotional system, particularly bodily feelings, etc. play an important role--perhaps the main role in making psi information available, whether by means of imagery, or decision-making.

Palyne_Gaenir: Hmmn. I'm thinking about how it's often at the moment of emotion, especially body emotion, that I feel a sense of knowing I'm on target in remote viewing--not that one is ever totally certain--but it seems more accurate than when I think so but that is lacking.

Dr_Richard_Broughton: That wouldn't be surprising. I think the emotional system--somatic sensations especially--feeds into the imagery process.

Palyne_Gaenir: How do you think emotion mediates psi, or facilitates it?

Dr_Richard_Broughton: One of the things that really piqued my curiosity about this is the large number, though mostly ignored, [of cases] of ESP that involve bodily sensations alone--no cognition, no images.

Palyne_Gaenir: Can you give an example?

Dr_Richard_Broughton: Louisa Rhine's collection (among others) has cases of the type when someone suddenly has chest pains (for no reason) and later learns his father suffered a heart attack at the same time. There are lots of cases of that general type. Less dramatic are the "feelings" on associates with anomalous intuitions.

Palyne_Gaenir: Hmmn. This seems like it might indirectly relate to the prestimulus response work that Radin, May et al. were doing that used biofeedback-style reading of the body to test for precognition, rather than verbal translation from the subject. That the body was getting the information, at least in theory.

Dr_Richard_Broughton: Yes, that is an important line of supporting research although it is limited to a few seconds.

Palyne_Gaenir: Although I seem to recall Dr. May recently telling me they had decided that was DAT. Drat that DAT. It keeps killing off all my most interesting research topics. ;-)

Dr_Richard_Broughton: Yes, DAT (i.e., a precognitive type selection process) is an alternative explanation for those results, especially in a series of experiments that I conducted with Dr. May. I was not pleased to realize that DAT is quite a plausible explanation for the presentiment work, because the presentiment work would be great support for my theory of emotional involvement, but one must let the scientific chips lie as they fall.

Palyne_Gaenir: (folks: DAT stands for 'decision augmentation theory', which postulates that many measured-effects of psi, both receptive and allegedly-projective, are actually an artifact of the scientist or person making the decisions.)

Palyne_Gaenir: Speaking of killing off fascinating research avenues by it turning out to be DAT instead... what do you think of the RNG work currently so popular with the public as well as a few scientists? Some say they think it's DAT, some not. What's your perspective?

Dr_Richard_Broughton: To which RNG work "popular with the public" are you referring. The church of the Global Consciousness Project?

Palyne_Gaenir: Yes. That one. I was being generic! Diplomacy... whoosh! There it goes! ;-)

Dr_Richard_Broughton: I thought you turned moderation off and I was being immoderate... Well there are differing interpretations of the GCP results, but my opinion is that the evidence for a DAT/precognition interpretation (i.e., by the selectors of the events to evaluate) has the weight of argument on its side.

Palyne_Gaenir: Ingo Swann postulates that there is a physiological sensory system throughout the entire body that facilitates psi information transfer. Like 'receptors'. I had a fabulous meditation on that once. Do you think there's anything to that idea?

Dr_Richard_Broughton: Well, I'm not familiar with Ingo's notion in any detail, but it would not be incompatible at all with my notions of the involvement of the emotional system. I am particularly interested in what might be called somatic memories of emotional states that are keyed to our cognitive memories (Damasio's Somatic Marker Theory) and I think they might be one part of the puzzle. So Ingo may be pointing to a similar interpretation of what he experiences.

Palyne_Gaenir: I'm sure I should know this, but I don't. When you refer to the emotional system, somatic (body) feelings... what physiological system(s) in specific are we talking about here? I'm looking for keyword terms I can Google later to learn more about this part of human functioning.

Dr_Richard_Broughton: Well, that's a bit complicated...

Palyne_Gaenir: Your college is over the sea, so a chat is the best I get. ;-)

Dr_Richard_Broughton: At one level there is the emotional system of the of the brain, of which we are developing a reasonable understanding but that system is very much tied up with our visceral (gut) system and other parts of the body that one doesn't normally think of as emotional. If you want a personal experience of this, think of either (1) an especially sad event in your past, or (2) an especially embarrassing event. In the former case, you may feel your body going into a state not unlike what you experienced at the original event (something like a recent bereavement is what I am thinking of) or in the latter, your face might flush with at least a hint of the same embarrassment. Not something you can control, but it is your body's emotional memory that is being raised. To a lesser extent, practically all of our memories have some level of emotional valance attached to them, and our bodies "remember" that. For more on that read Damasio's book "Descart's Error".

Palyne_Gaenir: OK, this question might make a western scientist want to run screaming into the night, but... have you seen any indication that the parts of the body most correlated with the placement of the chakras in eastern philosophy, have the most body-entwined response? I ask because in the practice of viewing I do get a lot of body ('gut-feeling') data on occasion but sometimes I have associated this with characteristics assigned to chakras, more than being merely a 'body' thing.

Dr_Richard_Broughton: Very interesting question. I must confess that I haven't really thought of the chakras (or associated phenomena) in the context of my emotional psi theory, but it is certainly worthy pursuing.

Palyne_Gaenir: Do you think memories are better held, or more strongly held, with an emotional correlate? Is that what some of your above comments imply?

Dr_Richard_Broughton: That is a well established finding of psychology that episodic memory (of events) is very strongly strengthened by emotional impact. Just to follow on. While that has been recognized for some time, what is new is the notion that the body, in a sense, can have its memory of emotional states that were associated with episodic memory.

Palyne_Gaenir: Say a person had a traumatic experience correlated with a certain... emotion/event. Do you think they would be more or less likely to accurately perceive similar information psychically about other things? Or is there any way to predict hyper vs. hypo sensitivity?

Dr_Richard_Broughton: I really don't know if we have enough data to answer that. There is, of course, the anecdotes about some of the psychics, such as the Dutch "paragnost" Croiset, who had nearly drowned in a canal as a child and was particularly good at finding lost children (I think i have that right). So there could be something to that, but it is not above the level of interesting possibility.

Palyne_Gaenir: In what way do emotions mediate in complex intentional psi such as RV? Is there any simple overview way to explain how memory plays a role?

Dr_Richard_Broughton: Whenever we have to make decisions, or deliberately choose to bring up imagery (as in RV) the emotional system (physiologically) plays a role in determining what particular images parade across consciousness at any moment. When we want to think about what we might have for dinner we tend to bring up images of what is in the fridge, or in the cupboard, and the particular focus of the images will be influenced by our emotional state. If we are particularly carnivorous mood we might remember the steak in the freezer before the leftover ratatouille. In RV, typically one just waits for the images to come forward, but they will ultimately come from memory--the RVers memory... but the role of the psi in that is to activate the memories that pertain to the target (when it works). I contend that it is the emotional system contributing to the selection of those memories, and if psi is involved the emotional system is the pathway. (It's all in my paper :))

Palyne_Gaenir: Fascinating. That could explain why there are two conditions I often find that work better for me in viewing: either I genuinely am optimistic but totally unconcerned about the outcome (no emotional investment at all) or I had an emotion (e.g. anger interruption) and am deliberately discarding it. Perhaps our normal state could be mentally focused -- but emotionally distracted.

Dr_Richard_Broughton: Good point. If you were especially "governed" by a strong emotional feeling that was not related to your RV task that could just obliterate whatever channel there is for psi information.

Palyne_Gaenir: One of the not-questions someone suggested is interesting. We were talking about DAT in research often canceling-out other ideas, in the end. Perhaps emotional involvement is actually an instrument involved in DAT itself.

Dr_Richard_Broughton: Well, in the grand scheme of things, I see the role of psi as an aid to advantageous decision making. Humans have evolved as the reasonably successful species that we are (at least for now) because of our... ability to do long term planning. Our prodigious memory capacity is not for reminiscing, but for storing information that we can use in anticipating future situations. Of course, most of that is completely "normal" but if we were to have developed psi--particularly precognition or somehow gaining information from the future--then that might be just one component of the planning we do and it may act as a bias toward one decision or plan rather than another. To that extent I would expect that a future-oriented process such as DAT to function off the same emotional system. Ultimately DAT is an advantageous decision making model, even if those decisions simply involve getting the experiment to come out is a way that makes you happy.

Palyne_Gaenir: Are there any emotional states or non-states you think are most conducive, or most harmful, to accurate conscious psychical functioning? Related Q: is there any practical way to apply this theory at the moment, during psi work?

Dr_Richard_Broughton: To the first, question, I really don't know if there are emotional states that help. I rather think that your previous point about sort of getting out of any strong emotional state might be better, but I really don't know. Too early in the game. To the second point, I don't have any well focused way to apply my thoughts (I am certainly premature in calling a theory BTW), but perhaps the words of Obi-wan may have merit... "Trust your feelings, Luke."

Palyne_Gaenir: Wow, a star wars analogy! Now if you can get a car analogy in here too, you can officially join my internet-programmer geek-squad. ;-) Do you think that 'altered state' work which often makes emotion 'more accessible/surface' in persons (esp. those so-called left-brain sorts) might help? And/or an environmental protocol that is sensory numbing like Ganzfeld?

Dr_Richard_Broughton: Yes, I think the altered state work may be achieving a sort of minimized emotions that could help, but that is speculative. As to the brain, there is much evidence that the hemispheres of the brain are differentially involved in emotional processing, but whether what is happening in a left-brainer in the Ganzfeld is some sort of reduction or heightening of emotional sensitivity, I really couldn't say. But it is a very interesting question that could be studied.

Palyne_Gaenir: Have you studied dowzers in regard to this body-emotion question? It seems like they more obviously have to rely on their body for answers.

Dr_Richard_Broughton: I've thought a lot about what dowzers experience and wondered along the lines that you suggest, but, no, I haven't studied them. Too many interesting research questions, not enough time (or willing scientists) to tackle them.

Palyne_Gaenir: I remember years ago, Dr. May telling me he suspected that the Local Sidereal Time results might not be specific to psi. That if the research money was around we might find that people did *everything* better/worse as predicted by that statistical finding -- math, music, sports, etc. That maybe it was merely happenstance it got found in psi research as they were so desperately looking for correlates to a human performance. This would suggest it was something not esoteric or quantum or whatever, but very physical. Do you think it's possible that the LST 'effect' might also relate to the emotional body (so to speak) you are interested in? In other words that the effect might actually be on the somatic system with 'performance' merely the secondary result of that?

Dr_Richard_Broughton: I see psi as a product of human evolution--one that fits in well with our success as a future-oriented species. If that is the case, and if it involves mediation through the body/emotional system, then we have to remember that we have evolved over eons on the planet bathed in the natural phenomena that surround us. Before the LST correlate emerged the interesting relationship (which remains solid) was a correlation with geomagnetic activity. Not surprising as we are sensitive (normally) to geomagnetic fluctuations, so why not psi. LST, however, remains a puzzle because of itself so far. It is simply a correlate with the position of the stars above us. Not sure what to make of it, really.

Palyne_Gaenir: If this is tied to human evolution, do you feel that means psi is likely to get more common as time goes on -- perhaps as 'information overload' makes it more necessary in fact because the brain can't as easily keep up or evaluate all the variables -- or LESS common as time goes on, as the mind shifts to a more information-processing model and less intuitive-feeling model?

Dr_Richard_Broughton: To the extent that evolution has seemingly focused on adapting humans to be this future-planning species, I think that psi, especially one that gave us a window on the future, would be a recently "added" component to the considerable capabilities humans already possess, but that does not necessarily mean that we will become more "psychic" as further eons pass. I think the main role of psi is to help us survive more effectively (in the evolutionary sense) and that isn't necessarily though what we commonly think of as being psychic. It would be more along the lines of being more intuitive, or relying on non-analytic decisions. And yes, this might be all the more useful in a world where we are buried under more data than we can process logically.

Palyne_Gaenir: Have you found the scientific/ academic community friendlier to psi in England than in the US?

Dr_Richard_Broughton: Yes. I wouldn't say it is welcomed with open arms, but there is a far greater willingness to tolerate it as a legitimate academic pursuit. I would have to attribute much of that to the considerable work the late Bob Morris did while he was a Koestler Professor.

Palyne_Gaenir: Is there a need for more psi researchers? My impression is that there wasn't even funding for those already existing. How difficult would it be for someone to 'break into the field' as a researcher?

Dr_Richard_Broughton: There is absolutely a need for more psi researchers. Yes, there is very little funding for parapsychology by name but the advice I have always given prospective psi scientists is to not think about becoming a parapsychologist, but get the training to be a good scientist in any field (that might be related) and then make psi your particular research interest. As you can see from this chat, we need neuro-scientists who are willing to tackle the questions of parapsychology and I am sure other chat sessions have highlighted how we could use physicists, and other fields. In other words, do as I say, not as I did.

Palyne_Gaenir: Can you tell me about your experience with studying PK? Do you think there is something to it? If so, do you think somatic-emotion plays a big role in PK manifestations?

Dr_Richard_Broughton: Yeah, PK. Quite frankly I don't see any obvious connection between my thinking on the emotional system and PK. My thinking is all about the human body/brain system developing ways to capitalize on future information. As far as PK goes we must remember that we don't necessarily need to expect that all the weird stuff we study will be explained by a single theory. We tend to lump ESP and PK into the same category because we can't explain them and they seem connected to the human mind. I have to say there is some pretty convincing evidence for PK (macro) and possibly for micro, DAT notwithstanding, but I haven't connected my thinking on emotions to that.

Palyne_Gaenir: I have a process I came up with years ago to lead into RV sessions I call 'emotional sequencing' where I go through a certain list of emotions (evoking them) to kind of gear up for a session. I'm going to pick up that idea again now. Thanks for the inspiration. :-) Can you tell me what kind of evidence for PK? That you mentioned above?

Dr_Richard_Broughton: For the macro-PK, for the most part one has to rely on human testimony, but I am willing to trust the testimony of my colleagues who have investigated poltergeist cases, or my colleagues who studied Nina Kulagina, or Falica Parese (in Honorton's lab) so it is that sort of evidence. Not that would be convincing to CSICOPpers or their ilk, but one has to make personal decisions as to what evidence is enough to say that there is a scientific case to be answered. Haven't a clue what the answer will be, however.

Palyne_Gaenir: I love this topic because I think Jung's archetypal quality of anomalous experience, the connect between psi and such experience, psi work, and more could all tie together in the middle there somehow though I'm not sure how yet. I could keep you in this box for hours more if you would let me!! Alas we're out of time. :- (Thank you so much for coming Dr. Broughton, and for talking to us about your current research interests. I hope we can talk you into a return visit someday! I think we all would volunteer as guinea pigs for any experiment that could be done online. :-) Thanks again!!

Dr_Richard_Broughton: Thanks. Time has flown, so I must have been enjoying it. I'll check on those emotions later. If I do get something on line, certainly I'll let your gang in on it. Cheers, all.

[end chat, July 25, 2009]

This interview is a part of the **REMOTE VIEWING EXPO JULY 2009** held by **TKR**, the **Ten Thousand Roads Remote Viewing and Dowsing Project**. Expo: <http://www.dojopsi.com/rvexpo/>. The page for Dr. Richard Broughton's materials/info is <http://www.dojopsi.com/rvexpo/DrBroughton/>. To talk more about this conference or its ideas, visit the TKR Remote Viewing Forum at <http://www.dojopsi.info/forum/>. To try some hands-on remote viewing, visit Viewer Studios and RV Galleries at TKR at the Dojo Psi, at <http://www.dojopsi.com/tkr/>. To casual chat with other viewers, visit us Monday nights 8:30-10:30pm Eastern at <http://www.dojopsi.com/chat/>.