

# Speculative Realms

MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2010

## Rasputin Returns: David Jacobs versus Emma Woods

I'm as fascinated by weird tales as the next geek—tales about flying saucers, alien invasions, monsters, abductions, and planetary catastrophes.

I grew up on Jonny Quest mummies, Scooby-doo mysteries, and reruns of old horror movies and sci-fi classics. I'd fall asleep Saturday nights to Earth vs. the Flying Saucers, This Island Earth or Creature From the Black Lagoon. I'd wake up at 3:00 in the morning to the star-spangled banner, or a TV station test pattern, or a voice saying: "We now conclude our broadcast day."

Or white noise would explode into the room as the TV channel went dead. I'd jerk awake and hit the off button and go to bed.

Look, the world out there ain't so hot. There is death and destruction on a massive scale. We're in wars we shouldn't be in. People bring guns to political rallies. It is just plain nuts. It would be awfully nice if there were other people in the galaxy besides pig-headed, brute-mouthed, gun-toting humans. And it would be even nicer if they were not only interested in us but mated with us so we could have a diverse selection of sexual partners to choose from.

I would love for my personal world to reflect some of the notions about the Universe depicted on those Saturday nights long ago. There is perhaps even something spiritual to that yearning.

But there are times when, even in an era like this where things are so routinely screwed up, indulging certain spiritual yearnings can get you into trouble. I believe that is at least partly the case with Dr. David Jacobs, the abduction researcher who seems to be, in recent months, coming apart at the seams psychologically.

Jacobs is currently mired in a nasty controversy involving an ex-client. She claims he had psychologically abused her and had "engaged in extensive leading and suggestion" (from [Emma Woods' Introduction on her website](#)) over the course of 91 hypnotic regressions and 37 hypnosis sessions. The sessions averaged 5 hours, according to Emma Woods (EW, not her real name).

Jacobs counters that EW is suffering from Borderline Personality Disorder, a charge he attempts to substantiate in his webpost "[The Defamation Campaign](#)," by making reference to two encyclopedic-type entries on borderline personality and defamation or "vilification" campaigns on websites which do not reference a specific author for these entries. ([BPD Distortion Campaigns](#) and [BPD Distortion Campaigns —Angiemedial](#)) He also states EW made several hang-up phone calls to him in the middle of the night and sent nasty emails to him. According to Jacobs, she sent her dossier to "every member of the UFO and abduction community that she could find in the English-speaking world." (Defamation Campaign, hereafter [DC](#)).

"I've consulted confidentially with a variety of psychologists, psychiatrists, and therapists," Jacobs says on his website. "The overwhelming consensus is that [EW's] stalking and obsessive behavior is consistent with Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD), although these medical professionals cannot, of course, make a formal diagnosis without seeing her."

Given what we're about to contemplate, one wonders how these professionals would diagnose Dr. David Jacobs himself. The words paranoid schizophrenic leap to my mind.

Also involved in the controversy is Dr. Jacobs' webmaster, "Elizabeth Smith," a pseudonym. Miss Smith used to have a blog about her abduction experiences. It is no longer available on blogger.

After pouring over EW's claims on her website, listening to the tapes she posted there, listening to the three [Paratopia](#) podcasts by Jeremy Vaeni and Jeff Ritzman devoted to her claims and to the controversial role of hypnosis in abduction research, listening to Jacobs abortive attempt at addressing the issue on Gene Steinberg's [Paracast](#), and reading Jacobs' [DC](#), it is impossible to conclude that Dr. David Jacobs

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- [Emma Woods's Website](#)
- [Fact Check Dot Org](#)
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is a victim in this matter.

If Dr. Jacobs intended to exonerate himself of wrongdoing with his DC post to his website, I'm afraid he's accomplished quite the opposite.

The recordings of his phone calls with EW are pretty damaging to Dr. Jacobs' cause. There are several disputes playing out in those recordings. The primary dispute, however, is over the authorship of certain threatening instant messages Dr. Jacobs received concerning his work with EW. EW claims the messages were authored by Jacobs' webmaster, the AWOL Miss Smith. Jacobs says they were written by Alien-human hybrids upset over his involvement with EW.

Jacobs contends that EW described **human looking aliens**, AKA hybrids, in their sessions. Webmaster Smith became involved when Jacobs invited EW to post the record of her experiences on his website. He said "**I thought it would be instructive to others to learn how one person recovered memories through both recall and hypnosis sessions.**" Elizabeth Smith agreed to do the web work. Her access to EW's information in her webmaster capacity is in part what led EW to suspect that Elizabeth Smith had concocted the instant messages in dispute.

Jacobs claims that EW was abducted 50 times over the course of their work together. Thirty-two events included warnings from the perpetrators about her writing her record and 24 events included warnings about Jacobs. To Jacobs, these constituted two sets of "threats."

"One set of threats was directed at writing her records," he wrote in the DC. "[A] second set of threats was directed at working with me."

"If the situation [EW] reported was true and actual 'hybrid beings' were threatening her, I felt I had to try to protect her from them," Jacobs wrote. "And obviously if [EW]'s reports were true, I had to protect myself as well. If abduction research can be trusted, alien beings have telepathic abilities and know what people are thinking; therefore, protecting both [EW] and myself was a major challenge. I thought long and hard about what, if anything, I could do. I decided that one approach would be, during hypnosis, to give [EW] ideas to think about that would throw 'mindreaders' off my trail. I explained my thinking to her before I acted. Then at one point during a hypnosis session I told her that as a researcher I was interested not in abductions but in multiple personality disorder. I chose this because it is believable—the disorder has characteristics in common with the effects of abductions. I hoped that she would be able to keep this idea in her mind and convey it to her abductors, thereby relieving some of the pressure both she and I felt. At no time did I think that [EW] had multiple personality disorder, and of course neither did she." (Emphasis supplied.)

The fact is Jacobs did not just give EW ideas. He implanted into her mind a psychiatric diagnosis. Even if she understood the suggestion was a maneuver by Jacobs against the aliens, that was a psychologically irresponsible thing to do. If EW had integrated that hypnotic suggestion into her life, chaos would have resulted. Chaos obviously has erupted.

Let's go over what he said to EW in the hypnosis session in question:

*I am going to count from five to one. Just remember now my diagnosis is that this is multiple personality disorder and you should take medication for it. I have seen lots of cases of MPD and this absolutely fits the MPD profile. And my professional diagnosis therefore is multiple personality disorder. I am studying it. I am writing a book about it. That is my next book. I feel that the whole sort of alien business is all a matter of multiple personality disorder. It's a much more widespread phenomenon than people think. Lots of people are walking around with it. It's a public health problem and that you are unfortunately suffering from it. So now I'll count from 5 to 1 and bring you out of this and we'll talk about MPD a little bit more... five ... (Paratopia Episode 57.)*

Spurred by a fanatical belief that hybrid aliens exist and pose a threat to humanity, Jacobs irresponsibly conducts a schizoid covert operation in his client's mind against hypothetical beings he is personally obsessed with. He is attempting to infect his client with his own schizoid faith in aliens. He conducts this psychotic covert operation in his client's mind while she is under hypnosis.

Mr. Jacobs admits he is not "a psychologist, psychiatrist, or psychotherapist." (DC.) Were he such, he would have to be brought up on charges and stripped of his license to practice. How does using your client as a tool in your own schizoid phantasms adhere to her health, well-being, or aid her in recovering memories about traumatic experiences? This is narrative construction not memory recovery.

As it is, Mr. Jacobs should be stripped of any and all hypnosis certifications and licenses and sanctioned by any hypnosis boards of review or licensing authorities in his state—even if he presently possesses no such license.

There is no justification, in Jacobs' explanation of the EW events or in EW's writings or in what can be gleaned about her psyche from her behavior, for the hypnotic implantation of a psychiatric diagnosis of multiple personality disorder into EW's brain for ANY PURPOSE—certainly not for the purpose Jacobs champions.

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...and for that, I'm sure, certainly not for the purpose of... champions.

The justification Jacobs gives for doing so is insane.

Planting a hypnotic suggestion in a client's mind to stave off pursuit by alien-human hybrids and to keep oneself from being located is a psychotic act. It is something one does when one is paranoid to the point of psychosis.

Jacobs does not have a defamation case. Not because it isn't worth the amount of money he would have to invest in an attorney to pursue it, but because he has no case. In fact, he would lose to EW on counterclaim.

Where would the burden of proof take us? Jacobs would have to prove the existence of alien-human hybrids to establish the threat from such beings with any legitimacy. It isn't very bloody likely he will be able to produce an alien-human hybrid as a witness nor is it likely the Court would accept Elizabeth Smith transchannelling one in testimony. And what is the likelihood his covert operations in EW's mind against the "hybrids" would be seen by any jury or judge as therapeutic for EW in any way?

EW does have a case. And she is apparently [pursuing it](#), as she should. The question is which remedy will she pursue—criminal or civil? Quite possibly a crime was committed here.

This case certainly calls alien abduction research into question, at least with regard to researchers who utilize hypnosis in evidence collection. What is to prevent an abduction hypnotist from hypnotically stitching an abduction narrative into the minds of his clients and then writing about those narratives in books that eventually become bestsellers? Once could conceivably hypnotically concoct a great deal of corroborating data, all of it fictional, and create fictional superstructures or metanarratives that gain momentum in the culture and create crops and crops of new customers eager to experience something of wonder and awe in their lives.

You get the movie deals, the book signings, the residuals, the conference bookings, free marketing from all the podcast and radio broadcast appearances. The culture of contact has already gifted you with a healthy population of good hypnotic subjects. They already believe. They already want to go where you want to take them. You don't have to charge them. Your book goes to number one on the New York Times list. You get a TV movie of the week. You're going to make money. No problem.

The first law of hypnotic dynamics is satisfied: you can't make anyone do anything they don't want to do. But if they are sick with loneliness and starved for attention and are living an extremely impoverished life, why wouldn't they want to be part of a cosmic plot to take over the Earth? Why wouldn't they want their lives to be meaningful? They'll gladly partake in visualizing their own abduction.

Why wouldn't you, Mr. Abductee Hypnotist, want to be a part of the same cosmic plot, the same universal drama? Why not believe in your own horrible phantasm? At least it is a lot better than waking up every day and learning your country slaughters civilians and tortures goat-herders and monitors your every phone conversation. Why live in a real horror when a cosmic horror is much less lethal and you have some power over its story and can conceivably get a giant book deal out of it?

Why deal with real life alienation in the forms of joblessness, endless war, tea parties and riots when you can fight the Alien Nation invading us from another planet?

Is this mess emblematic of all abductee material? No. Are all abductees involved in some kind of phantasm invoked by a hypnotist? Not by a long shot. Some never try hypnosis. Many have trace evidence to rely on and corroborating witnesses who aren't their employees.

And not all hypnotists are as incompetent as the one in question here. Nor are all hypnotists ethically compromised to the extent apparent in this case.

We have here a schizoid man who has tried to create a religion to believe in where none in the real world satisfies him and has injuriously involved others in the quest.

He's a combination of Don Quixote and Rasputin. And it is going to cost him.

#### Follow-Ups

[The Defamation Campaign](#) by Dr. David Jacobs

[Emma Woods Website](#)

[Paratopia Episode 57: The Emma Woods Tapes](#) (Mp3 file)

[Paratopia Episode 60: World Exclusive - Emma Woods. The Interview.](#) (Mp3 file)

[Paratopia Episode 62: Threatened By Hybrids. The Aftermath.](#) (Mp3 file)

[The Paracast April 4, 2010 — Co-host Christopher O'Brien with Budd Hopkins, Dr. David M. Jacobs and Kevin D. Randle](#) (Mp3 file)

To download the Mp3 files, right click and choose *save as* or *save target as*.

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- [Skepticality #158 - Return to Lake Skepticamp - Featured Talk: Tim Farley](#)

#### THE SKEPTIC ZONE

- [The Skeptic Zone #145 - 29 July 2011](#)
- [The Skeptic Zone #144 - 23 July 2011](#)
- [The Skeptic Zone #143 - 15 July 2011](#)

Hypnotised abductees; Seeing truth or building confabulations? by Paul Novak

Code of Conduct National Council for Hypnotherapy

Professional Hypnotherapy Code of Conduct, British Society of Clinical Hypnosis

American Council of Hypnotist Examiners Code of Ethics

The False Memory Syndrome Foundation

Posted by Gary Haden at 7:40 AM  
Labels: [David Jacobs](#), [Emma Woods](#)

## 13 comments:

 **Bruce Duensing** said...

Bravo

April 13, 2010 7:14 AM



**Regan Lee** said...

Excellent post!

April 13, 2010 7:55 AM



**Brownie** said...

And that Jacobs performed the hypnotic regressions, over instant messages via computers, never having met Emma Woods who's on another continent....is mindboggling. How the heck could that even work?

That and the human-looking aggressive alien hybrids that Jacobs has been obsessively writing about in his books....which were now 'after' him because of Emma. Paranoia will destroy! As if these hybrids didn't have a chance to 'off' Jacobs long ago?!

Budd Hopkins comes off very bad too as he defends Jacobs and contacts Emma with essentially a personal and very manipulative attack.[EW read the letter during the Paratopia interview and the interviewers saw the letter].

If there's any fairness at all in abduction research, Jacobs should be kicked out, on his paranoid ass, from it. And Hopkins should be apologizing profusely for attacking someone on behalf of a 'friend' and 'colleague', then he should retire from the field.

April 13, 2010 7:48 PM

**codex** said...

Thank you for a marvellous erudite piece of writing. This is a wonderful summary of events. I find writing on another forum quite weird. Most of the contributors on that forum are convinced that Emma Woods has doctored the tapes - something I find quite ludicrous - they seem to forget what field they are actually involved in. Fancy being SKEPTIC when it suits. I do hope Emma gets it to Court, no doubt the SKEPTICS are counting on her not being able to afford such an action. The land of the free isn't really available to others overseas without the big buck. No doubt Jacobs would claim the tapes are fake and that he didn't give her permission to tape. Jacobs is a sick sick man and a bloody flake oops I should say fake. I wonder where Elisabeth has gone to? Here's hoping she spills the beans on the mad Doctor.

May 21, 2010 11:18 PM

**Anonymous** said...

Gary, you don't help your case by calling Jacobs insane and a paranoid schizophrenic. Are you, yourself a qualified therapist? Without taking sides, we can see that "Alice"/Emma looked rather odd to Jacobs when she, or possibly someone else, sent numerous emails to Jacobs yet she denied ever sending them. And when she wrote everyone in his History Department, plus places where he was about to do a speech or presentation, sending her accusations, she doesn't help her own, case, either.

She knew Jacobs wasn't a licensed therapist, so even if he did say something about MPD, it shouldn't have mattered. Jacobs should have cut her off, as suggested, when she became problematic. But, as both Temple Univ. and the US Health authorities note, he isn't in trouble.

Aliens and abduction are a complex issue. Jacobs work doesn't stand or fall on this one case.

June 7, 2010 7:52 PM

- [The Skeptic Zone #142 - 9.July.2011](#)
- [The Skeptic Zone #141 - 1.July.2011](#)

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Science  
Religion  
It is a tie  
Not a fair question

Votes so far: 45  
Poll closed

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**Emma@ufoalienabductee.com said...**

I thought I should respond to the points made by Anonymous.

Firstly, it is important to understand that I have a sleep disorder in which I engage in complex behaviors while asleep. I told Dr. Jacobs about my sleep behavior before I became his research subject, and I sent him video recordings of myself writing notes in my sleep.

A few months before I chose to end my work with Dr. Jacobs, I sent him, my former therapist, and Elizabeth, a number of emails while I was asleep. They contained short sentences repeating things that Dr. Jacobs had said to me while I was hypnotized, and that I had "remembered" myself under hypnosis.

Dr. Jacobs immediately told me that "hybrids" had written the emails. It was I who recognized my own language in them, and told him that I thought that had written them myself. He refused to accept this, and continued to say that "hybrids" wrote them. It was one of the problems between us.

Dr. Jacobs had received emails and instant messaging conversations from Elizabeth, who I believe is a hoaxer. He says that "hybrids" wrote them as well, and this was another area of disagreement between us.

The fact that Dr. Jacobs has omitted all these relevant facts from his statement, and has misled people about my sleep emails, is a clear attempt by him to distort the facts in order to try to portray me as mentally unbalanced. It is an example of the lengths that he is prepared to go to in order to cover up his misconduct.

Continued in next post.

June 11, 2010 3:21 AM



**Emma@ufoalienabductee.com said...**

Dr. Jacobs was not my therapist and I was not his therapy client. He is a researcher, and I was his research subject. He portrayed himself to me as an academic researcher at Temple University, and I signed Temple University research consent forms with him. I had a right to expect that my protections as a research subject would be observed.

Instead, Temple University has told me that the forms that Dr. Jacobs had me sign were "unauthorized" by them, and that they do not consider that he is doing "research".

Dr. Jacobs did not "say something about MPD" to me. He hypnotized me, and when I was in the vulnerable hypnotized state he put hypnotic suggestions in my mind that I had Multiple Personality Disorder. He did not tell me that he was going to do it, and I did not know that he was going to do it. Anyone with any decency knows that this was an extremely unethical and harmful thing to do a research subject. The fact that he was prepared to do such a thing, and that he has tried to defend it in such dishonest way, is a further indication that he should not be conducting research with human research subjects.

Continued in next post.

June 11, 2010 3:26 AM



**Emma@ufoalienabductee.com said...**

It is important to understand that Temple University did not investigate Dr. Jacobs research, because they do not consider it "research". The US Health Department's Office for Human Research protections did not investigate it for the same reason. This does not in any way mean that his research has been endorsed by them, or that they support his actions.

I am aware that Dr. Jacobs has engaged in misconduct with other research subjects. However, in my opinion, his conduct as a researcher in my case alone has exposed the fact that his research is deeply flawed, and abusive.

I have made the issue known as a matter of public interest because nothing has been done about it, and it is something that should be known about.

June 11, 2010 3:28 AM

**Gary Haden said...**

Anonymous, Jacobs's body of work as a hypnotic regressionist is completely destroyed by this case.

He had a shot at being a historian in the field. He blew it when Budd Hopkins seduced him into learning hypnosis. Hynek warned him. He didn't listen. He left terra firma to take what he thought was a short cut to commerce with Aliens. Not coincidentally, that short cut was also, with the success of Hopkins and Whitley Streiber, extremely lucrative.

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- Searching For Sasquatch
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    - Evidentiary Disposition of the Extraterrestrial Hy...
    - The Zoo-Keeper Hypothesis
    - Misanthropic Disbelief and Seven-Foot Reptilians
    - A Special Compartment in Hell

#### LABELS

- Acting (2)
- alien abduction church (6)
- American Bullyism (1)
- anthropocentrism (1)
- anthropomorphism (1)
- argument from authority (1)
- Argument from Bloodbath (1)
- argument from ignorance (2)
- argument from omniscience (1)
- Attack on Iran (1)
- Banning (2)
- Blood Feud (1)
- Bozotopia (5)
- Centre for Global Research (1)
- Chronicles of the Dark Side (1)
- Couter-transference (1)
- Cyberbullying (1)
- Dan Burisch (1)
- David Icke (1)
- David Jacobs (21)
- Doctor Madblood (1)
- Doctor Who (1)
- Emma Woods (31)
- ETH (3)
- Eugenics (2)
- Extradition Act of 2003

Hypnotic regression is a tumor on the field.

Jacobs is the one who has become "problematic." Had we more sophisticated oversight of the practice of hypnosis in the States, he'd be in jail. He abused his authority and he abused Emma.

His work is a sham.

I think someone with severe brain injury would recognize that Jacobs's use of Emma's hypnotic state to evade the pursuit of Alien Human Hybrids was nuts. If that's rational, we're done for as a species.

Unlike Jacobs, I don't offer myself out as an expert in the hypnosis field, a field which is unregulated, unsupervised, and lacks significant ethical guidelines, even for practitioners who have degrees in psychology, nor do I meddle with people's minds to conduct free associational jam sessions for the purpose of coming up with material for my books.

Emma trusted him and was rewarded with violation.

I think I would have dogged Jacobs to the ends of the earth had he done to me what he did to Emma. I don't blame her one bit for her tenacity.

June 11, 2010 7:22 AM

**codex said...**

hear hear Gary Haden. Well said.

I also think Temple University is a sham and ducking for cover. Hardly a real university. Abloody sham actually. F\*\*\*ing appalling!!!!

June 17, 2010 1:05 AM

**Anonymous said...**

Given the enormity of the alien subject, it's best to separate this dispute from the larger question of whether aliens exist and abduct. A variety of researchers and abductees recount fully waking experiences, not only via hypnosis. Obviously, if one claims all abductions are false, then those who speak of aliens sound strange. But is that actually the case?

The larger pattern of evidence suggests otherwise

December 12, 2010 6:36 PM

**ty-hunter said...**

tell david jacobs they are here and have been here among us for 2500yrs. and look just like us humans. they now control the u.s. govt. Obama is one, no joke! yes they are telepathic and have been brainwashing us for many years. they are part human, part insectoid alien. they are in every race of humans now.

March 6, 2011 7:13 PM

**Anonymous said...**

fuck you deceivers

March 6, 2011 7:18 PM

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[Rasputin Returns: David Jacobs versus Emma Woods](#)

(2)

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- [False Memory](#) (3)
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