



## CALL FOR PAPERS

*Special Issue of the Journal of Scientific Exploration*  
in collaboration with the  
*Journal of the Society for Psychical Research*

# “THE DARKER SIDE OF SPIRITUALITY”

**Special Issue Co-Editors:** Malcolm Schofield, Chris Howard, & Carrie Childs

**Deadline for submission:** January 31st, 2023

**Next Steps:** Submit a 200-word Abstract of your proposed contribution to:

[editor@scientificexploration.org](mailto:editor@scientificexploration.org)

### Introduction:

Spirituality is often studied, modeled, or discussed in terms of efficacious emotions and experiences. But religio-cultural beliefs and behaviors—and the quest for power, knowledge, or transcendence—can sometimes take darker paths. This thematic issue thus explores current thinking and research in this general domain to gain a more balanced appreciation for consciousness and the broad array of emotions, cognitions, and motivations that define the human condition.

### Article Types:

- Quantitative or Qualitative Research
- Important Case Studies or Multiple Studies
- Systematic or Scoping Literature Reviews
- Brief Reports
- Conceptual Works & Essays
- Book Reviews of Topical Literature or Media

### Possible Research Topics:

- Personality and the spectrum of supernatural behaviors
- Modern occultism: Psychology of curses, hexes, spells, and talismans
- Energy “vampires”
- Demonic possession
- Stigmata phenomena
- Negative NDEs or Psi Experiences
- Spirit Cleaning Rituals and Outcomes



***JSE Author Guidelines — Updated January 2022***  
**Submit to *journalofscientificexploration.org***

JSE publishes Regular Articles, Literature Reviews, Brief Reports, Book Reviews, Essays, and Letters/Correspondence. Invited content in these categories is also published periodically. Please ensure that your submission meets APA Guidelines (7th edition) and conforms to the parameters below.

There are **no strict word limits**, but guidelines for different types of submissions are given below. In all cases, authors should be as clear, direct, and concise as possible. The Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to mandate revisions to the lengths of accepted papers in the interest of readability, accessibility, and space.

Contributions can be empirical research, critical or integrative reviews of the literature, position papers, policy perspectives, and comments and criticism. Studies can adopt diverse methods, including qualitative, ethnographic, historical, survey, philosophical, case study, quantitative, experimental, quasi-experimental, data mining, and data analytics approaches.

- A. Regular Articles** (~12K words max). Primary research or interesting and important theoretical papers that foster the diversity and debate inherent to the scientific process. This entails novel or innovative ideas that have some ‘fragmentary’ experimental or empirical support that can be evaluated with logic and open-mindedness to present academia with provocative hypotheses that might be rejected by other more conventional journals.
- All empirical results that have not been replicated should be called ‘preliminary’ with the findings treated as such. Peer-review and publication priority will be given to studies that are (a) pre-registered or (b) replications. Note that ‘replication’ can involve repeating the research procedure in a (nearly) identical separate study to be reported within the same paper (e.g., ‘Study 2: Replication’). Or, large datasets can be divided randomly into ‘Training’ and ‘Test (or Validation)’ sets, i.e., the research findings are those results that replicated in the Test set.
  - To promote stricter transparency and context for readers, all analyses where appropriate should provide effect size statistics in the form of direct percentages of either association (correlative analysis) or mean percentage differences (ANOVA, t-tests, etc.). In the case of correlative analysis, reported results shall report  $R^2$  to provide a covariance percentage estimate. Mean tests shall provide a ‘percentage change’ indicating the actual percentage change between groups (e.g.,  $M = 3.44$  Group 1 versus  $M = 4.02$ , in Group 2, on a five-point scale is calculated by the following:  $ABS [M_1 - M_{2/5} / \text{scale range}] = 11.6\%$  shift or change in means). Standard effect statistics also are allowed, so long as the above percentage techniques are likewise reported. These statistics should be reported in results as ‘percentage effect’ and follow immediately after standard statistical analysis notation. For correlation, ( $r = .43$ ,  $p < .01$ , percentage effect = 18%), for means tests ( $M_1 = 3.44$  versus  $M_2 = 4.02$ ,  $t = 3.443$ ,  $p < .01$ , percentage effect = 11.6%).
- B. Systematic, Narrative, and Scoping Reviews** (~13K words max). All meta-analyses and systematic reviews should include a PRISMA flow diagram to clarify for readers how the exclusion/inclusion criteria were applied to create the literature set under consideration: See <http://www.prisma-statement.org/>
- C. Brief Reports**—Rapid Publications (~2K words max). These are usually pilot studies, direct or conceptual replication attempts of previous work, case studies, brief evaluations, reviews, or ‘citizen scientist’ efforts that are unique, first-time reports, with no more than two tables and/or figures and 10 references. This rapid publication option is especially appropriate for graduate-level student studies, pilot or preliminary research, or descriptions of important new methods or instrumentation. These reports are subject to blinded peer review in the same manner as research articles. Authors should follow all requirements for longer manuscripts when submitting Brief Reports, including that they have not been submitted or published elsewhere.
- D. Book Reviews** (~2K words max). Structured for readability and utility in which the content is suitably contextualized and includes links to general model-building or theory-formation in the respective domain(s). Please use the following headers, or otherwise incorporate these themes into the review: Author Disclosures; Content Overview; Pros, Cons, and the Book’s Contributions to the Literature; Recommendation; and References (if applicable). For an example, see: <https://www.spr.ac.uk/book-review/poltergeist-night-side-physics-keith-linder>



- E. **Essays** (~8K words max). Important conceptual or philosophical commentaries, observations, or arguments to spark constructive discussion or debate relative to theory, methodology, or practice.
- F. **Letters/Correspondence/Commentary** (~1K words max). Must address substantive issues relative to recently published content in the Journal.

Submissions (A) to (C), and (E) as appropriate, must also include the following sections:

- **Lay Summary / Highlights** (~50 words max). Placed at the beginning of the article before the scientific abstract, this is a short—1 to 3 sentences—bottom-line assessment of the value of the paper. Avoid technical terms and prepare the comments akin to a published quote to a non-specialist or uninformed journalist or student about the researchers' interpretation of the main results.
- **Implications and Applications** (~150 words max). Placed immediately after the Discussion section to succinctly summarize or suggest how the study's methods or findings can potentially inform the study of other issues, anomalies, fields of study, including interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches.
- **Author Contributions** (Contributor Roles Taxonomy). Please include this subsection under the Acknowledgments section. Follow standard guidelines such as this one from Elsevier: <https://www.elsevier.com/authors/policies-and-guidelines/credit-author-statement>. Also, please include ORCID numbers for authors where possible.
- **Data-sharing requirements**. Primary (raw) data (redacted for confidential or personally identifying information) must be uploaded to a freely accessible repository for independent verification or analysis by qualified researchers and the URLs shared in the paper and in a section called **Data Availability** under the Acknowledgments section. The Journal can provide space for supplementary files.

**Citation Style and References:** References will be published in APA Style Guide 7th edition style. All works cited in the text, appendices, figures, tables, and notes must be listed under References. Use full journal titles (not abbreviations), and include DOIs where possible. Citations in the text take the style (Smith, 1970) and are not numbered. Other notes may be numbered.

**Tables:** Tables and table files should be in Word, Excel, or PDF format.

**Figures:** All figures and figure files should be at least 300 dpi or ppi per inch. For example, a 4 x 5 inch (10.16 x 12.7 cm) image at 300 dpi is 1200 x 1500 pixels and a 7 x 10 inch (17.5 x 25 cm) image at 300 dpi is 2100 x 3000 pixels..

**Proofs:** A copyedited/formatted PDF proof will be sent to the corresponding author for review.

**Copyright:** Authors retain copyright to their writings, under a Creative Commons CC-BY-NC license (attribution required and no commercial use by others). However, when an article has been submitted to the Journal for consideration, *JSE* holds first serial (periodical) publication rights. Additionally, it has the right to post the article on the Internet and to make it available via electronic as well as print subscription.

**Disclaimer:** While every effort is made by the Society for Scientific Exploration and the Editorial Board to see that no inaccurate or misleading data, opinion, or statement appears in this Journal, the data and opinions appearing in the articles and advertisements herein are the sole responsibility of the contributor or advertiser concerned. The Society's officers, agents, Editors, and the Editorial Board accept no responsibility or liability for the consequences of any such inaccurate or misleading data, opinion, or statement.

**Privacy Statement.** The names and email addresses entered in the journal submission website will be used exclusively for journal purposes and will not be made available for any other purpose or to any other party.