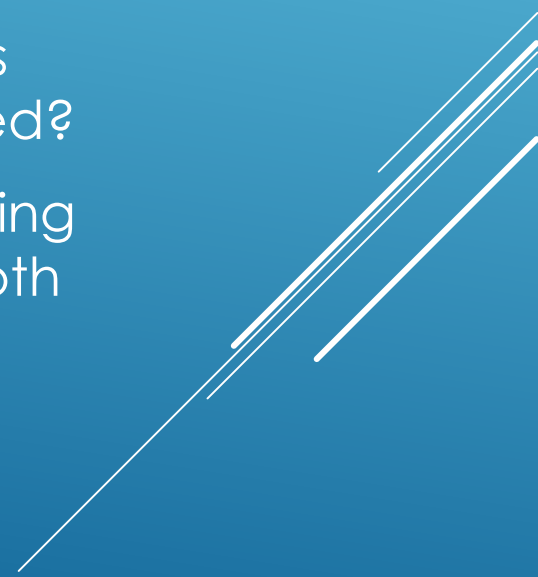


CHANNELING AND CREATIVITY


Erin Prophet
Houston IONS Meeting
October 12, 2014



WHY CHANNELING AND CREATIVITY?

- ▶ Can comparisons between channeling and creativity give greater insight into both phenomena?
 - ▶ Can viewing channeling as a creative process help understand why certain material is revered?
 - ▶ Is there potential therapeutic and self-actualizing value in wider adoption of techniques from both channelers and cultural creatives?
- 

WAYS TO EVALUATE CHANNELED MATERIAL

- ▶ Religious
 - ▶ Veridical: Truth-Testing
 - ▶ Historical-critical
 - ▶ Psychological
 - ▶ Acceptance
 - ▶ Both-And
- 

WHAT IS CHANNELING?

- ▶ How is the channeler described?
- ▶ Who is said to be channeled?
- ▶ Types of channeling
- ▶ What does the material say?
- ▶ Structure



VERIDICAL APPROACH



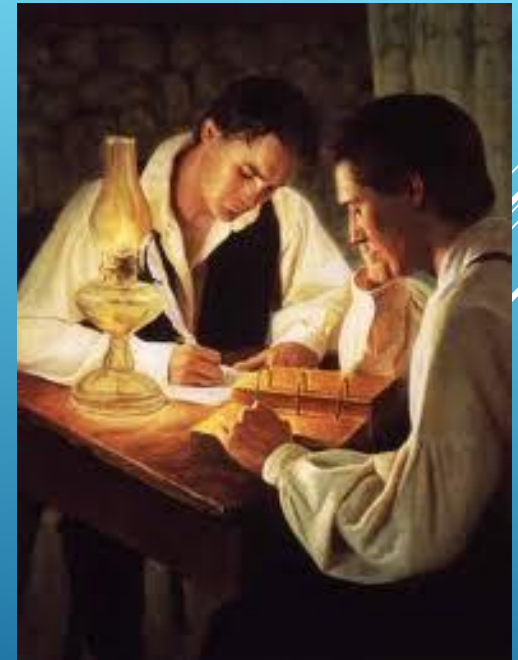
H.P. BLAVATSKY AND THE MAHATMAS





HISTORICAL-CRITICAL APPROACH

- ▶ Historical and cultural milieu
- ▶ Source that predates material presumed to have been used
- ▶ Material scrutinized for sources
- ▶ Fruitfully applied to Book of Mormon: Freemasonry, KJV Bible
- ▶ Blavatsky and her masters



PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACHES

- ▶ Janet (1901) Pathological view: channeling as dissociation; used hypnosis to treat; related to trauma
- ▶ Freud: Defense mechanisms, free association (dissociation theory less popular)
- ▶ 1970s: rise in dissociation theory: treatment of PTSD, multiple personality disorder (MPD)
- ▶ Therapeutic and creative stream: Mühl (1930) and others discover value of automatic writing
- ▶ Freudian or Jungian approach to evaluating material also possible



ACCEPTANCE

- ▶ Authoritative
- ▶ Corroborates other material
- ▶ Popular
- ▶ Sounds “Authentic”
- ▶ Other feelings accompany material

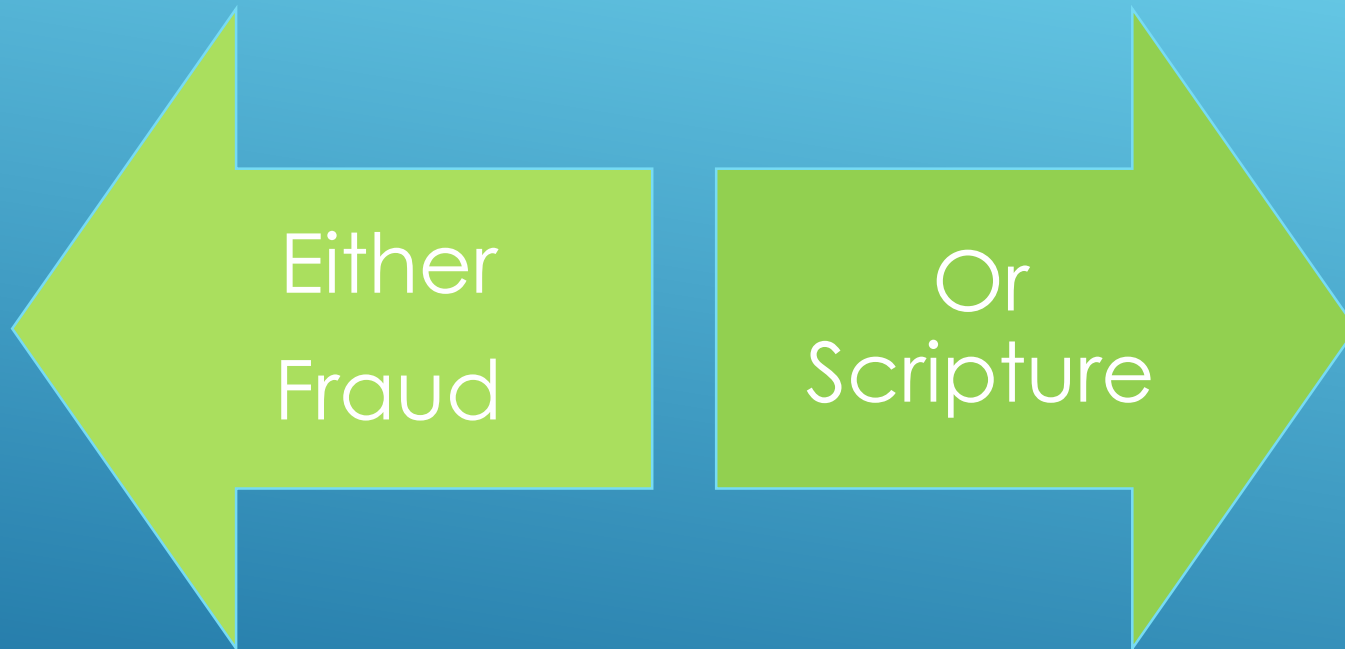


ACCEPTANCE – COGNITIVE APPROACH

- ▶ Embedded “natural” schema
- ▶ Conceptual metaphor theory
- ▶ Collective and social memory studies



PATH SCHEMA: A PURPOSEFUL
LIFE IS A JOURNEY



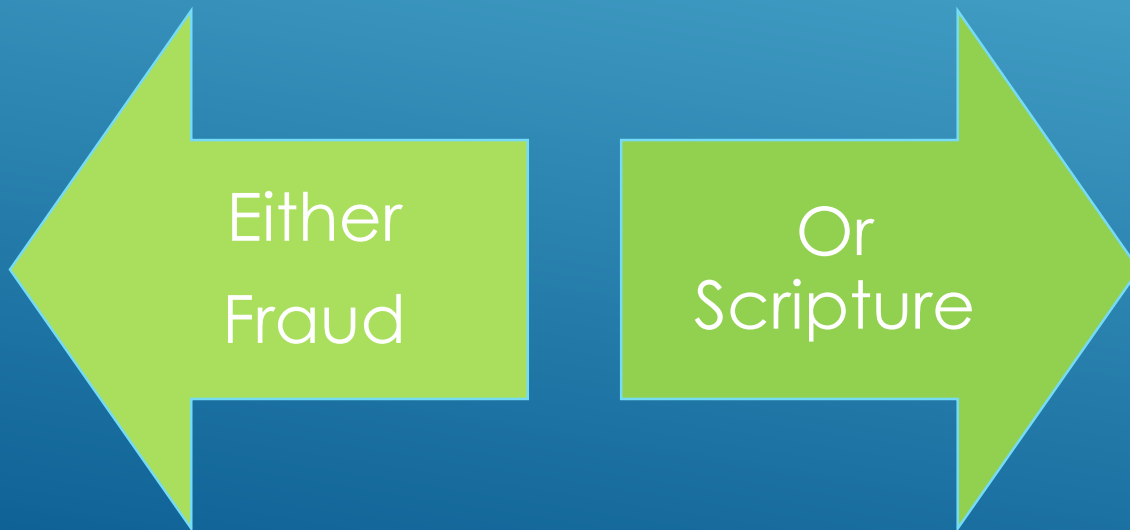
Fraud—Self-generated—ESP/telepathy—Spiritual beings—Ultimate reality

“

WE DO NOT NEED TO ABANDON
AUTOMATIC WRITING; WE JUST NEED
TO STOP ADOPTING EXTREME
POSITIONS ABOUT IT.

”

Ian Stevenson, University of Virginia, 1978

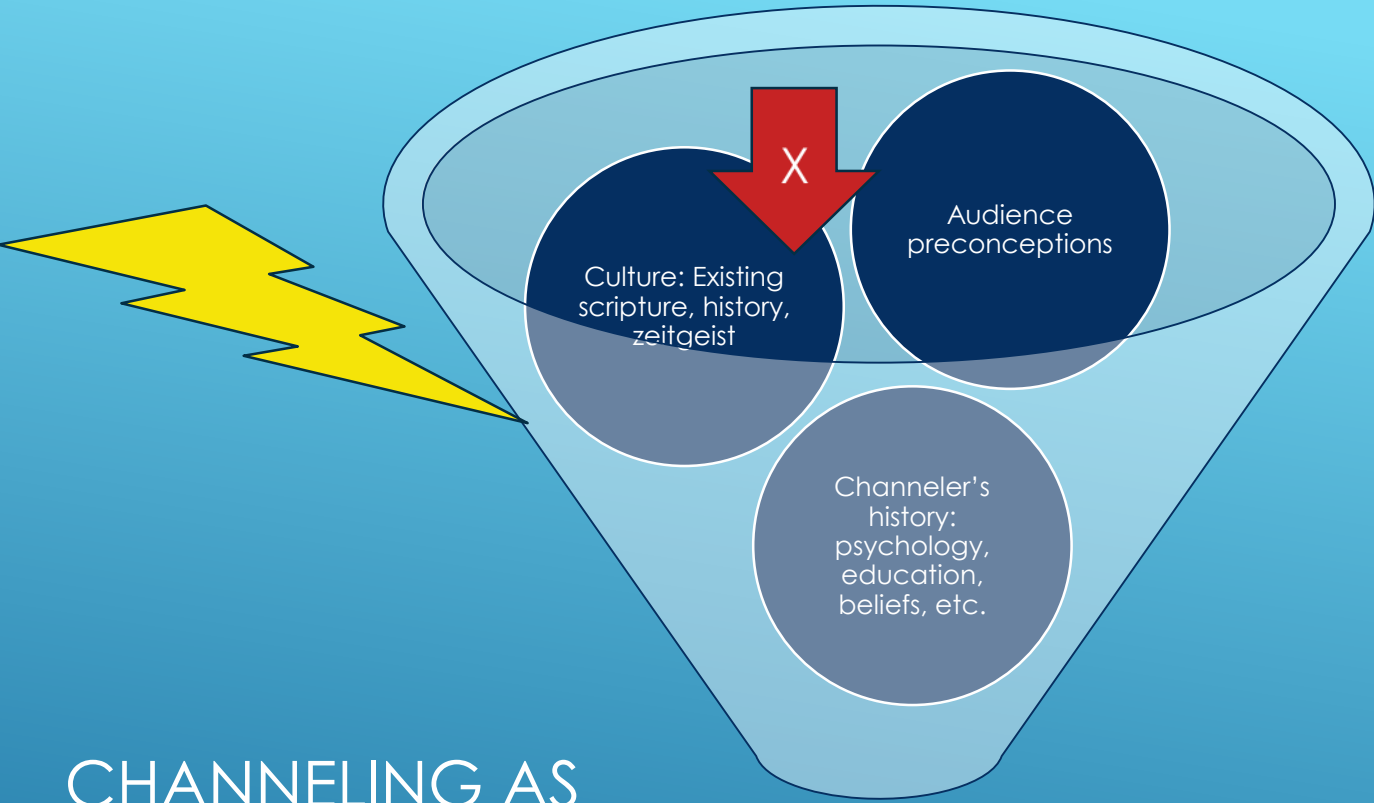




Both

And





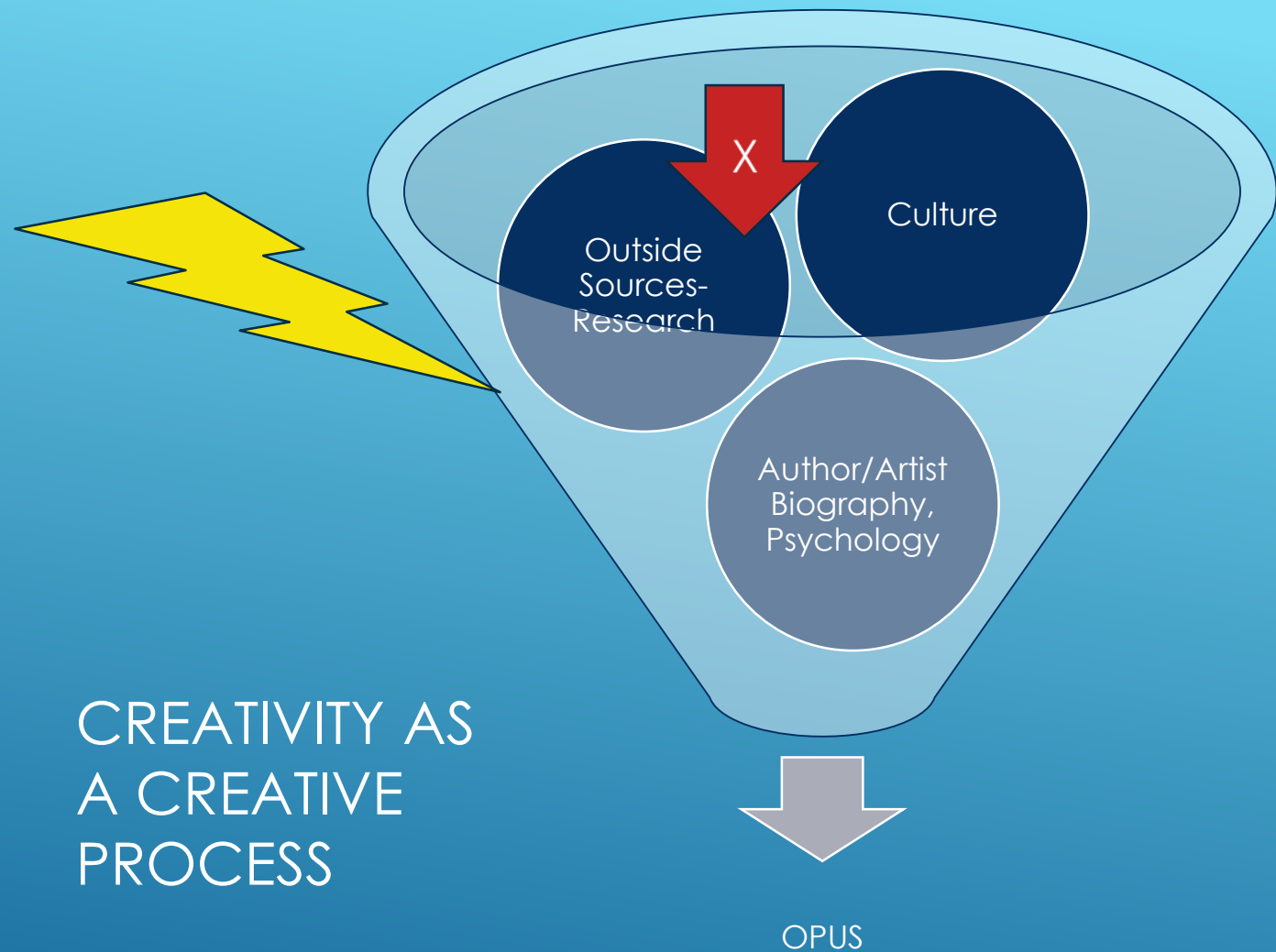
CHANNELING AS A CREATIVE PROCESS



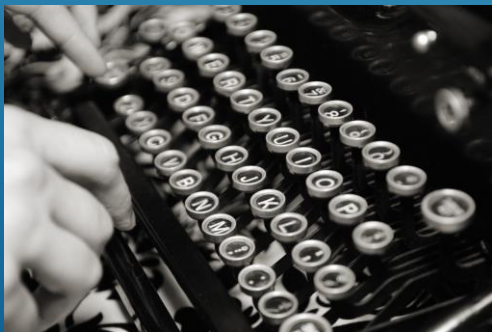
“ “ Mystical states...are excitements like the emotions of love or ambition, gifts to our spirit by means of which facts already objectively before us fall into a new expressiveness and make a new connection with our active life. ”

--William James, Varieties of Religious Experience





CREATIVITY AS A CREATIVE PROCESS

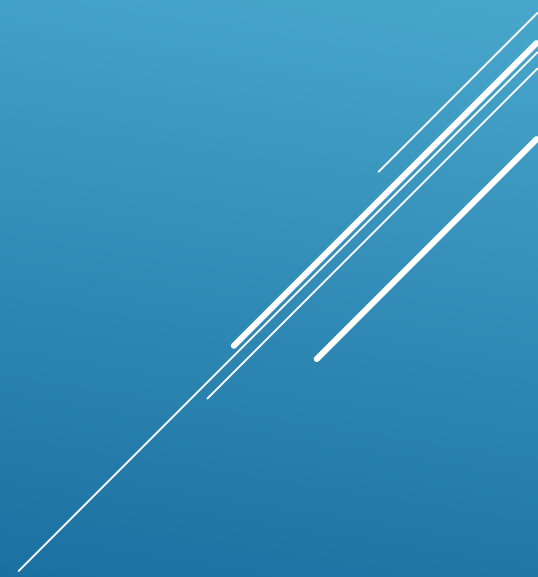


“

The position of the artist is humble. He is essentially a channel.

”

--Piet Mondrian



CHANNEL

- ▶ Denies role in creation
- ▶ Usually does not revise
- ▶ Often able to enter receptive state at will

AUTHOR/ARTIST

- ▶ Claims creation
- ▶ Often revises and polishes after initial creative burst
- ▶ Not sure how to “turn on” creativity -- blocked

DIFFERENCES: CHANNELING AND CREATIVITY

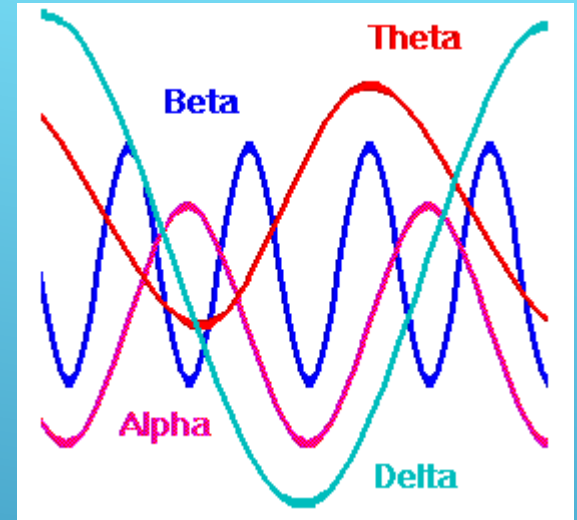


DISSOCIATION AS A TALENT

- ▶ Measures of channeling susceptibility
- ▶ Hypnotizability
- ▶ Biological correlates
- ▶ Connection with creativity



CULTIVATING DISSOCIATION



- ▶ Relaxation response (increased alpha)
- ▶ Techniques for increasing alpha and theta waves
- ▶ Music performance enhancement
- ▶ Beyond The Artist's Way
- ▶ Free Writing and Open Channeling: Similarities



“The belief in spiritual agencies, such as saints and guardian angels, seems to involve imaginative constructs that are useful in liberating exotic aspects of human potential.”

Michael Grosso, “Inspiration, Mediumship, Surrealism: The Concept of Creative Dissociation”