

The background is a gradient from dark purple on the left to dark blue on the right, with a starry or particle-like texture. On the left side, there are several overlapping circular elements: a large scale with numerical markings (140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260) and various circular arcs and dashed lines, some with arrows indicating direction. The main text is centered in the upper half of the image.

LIMINA'S INAUGURAL SYMPOSIUM 2023

LIMINA JOURNAL OF UAP STUDIES

UAP = Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena

(Rebranding of “UFOs” to dispel fringe connotations)

Air, space and marine
phenomena

Only 2-5% of sightings
can't be accounted for.

SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPANTS

- About 125 online at any one time
- From all over the world (NA, SA, Europe, Asia, Australia)
- University professors, journalists, ex-military, field study personnel, interested onlookers (like me)

My take:
about 50% of
participants were
convinced UAP are of
extraterrestrial origin.



SYMPOSIUM GOALS

- Introduce groups to one another's work in order to encourage synergies
- Launch The Journal of UAP Studies, which will be a peer-reviewed publication dedicated to this topic

MAJOR OVERARCHING QUESTIONS

- Now that NASA is involved in the study of Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena, what are the prospects for UAP studies going forward? (In light of the huge bump in credibility.) See NASA's May 31 first public panel at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oOFv7zF9JAA>
- Who will control the narrative going forward? Government agencies? NASA? A peer-reviewed publication like Limina's Journal of UAP Studies? Social media?
- Are we dealing with more than one phenomenon?

3-DAYS OF INTERDISCIPLINARY TALKS

- Friday: UAP and the Humanities (History of Science, Philosophy, Psychology, Religious Studies)
- Saturday: Organizations currently studying UAP
- Sunday: UAP case studies

FRIDAY KEYNOTE: GREG EGHIGIAN

PROF. OF HISTORY & BIOETHICS, PENN STATE

People are drawn to UAP due to the mystery of them, not the reality of them. It's our responses to UAP that are the real fodder for study.

No one escapes the currents of history. Accounts of sightings often reflect the current zeitgeist. During the Cold War, many accounts incorporated elements of human experimentation. From the 1980s to the present, many focus on genetic manipulation.

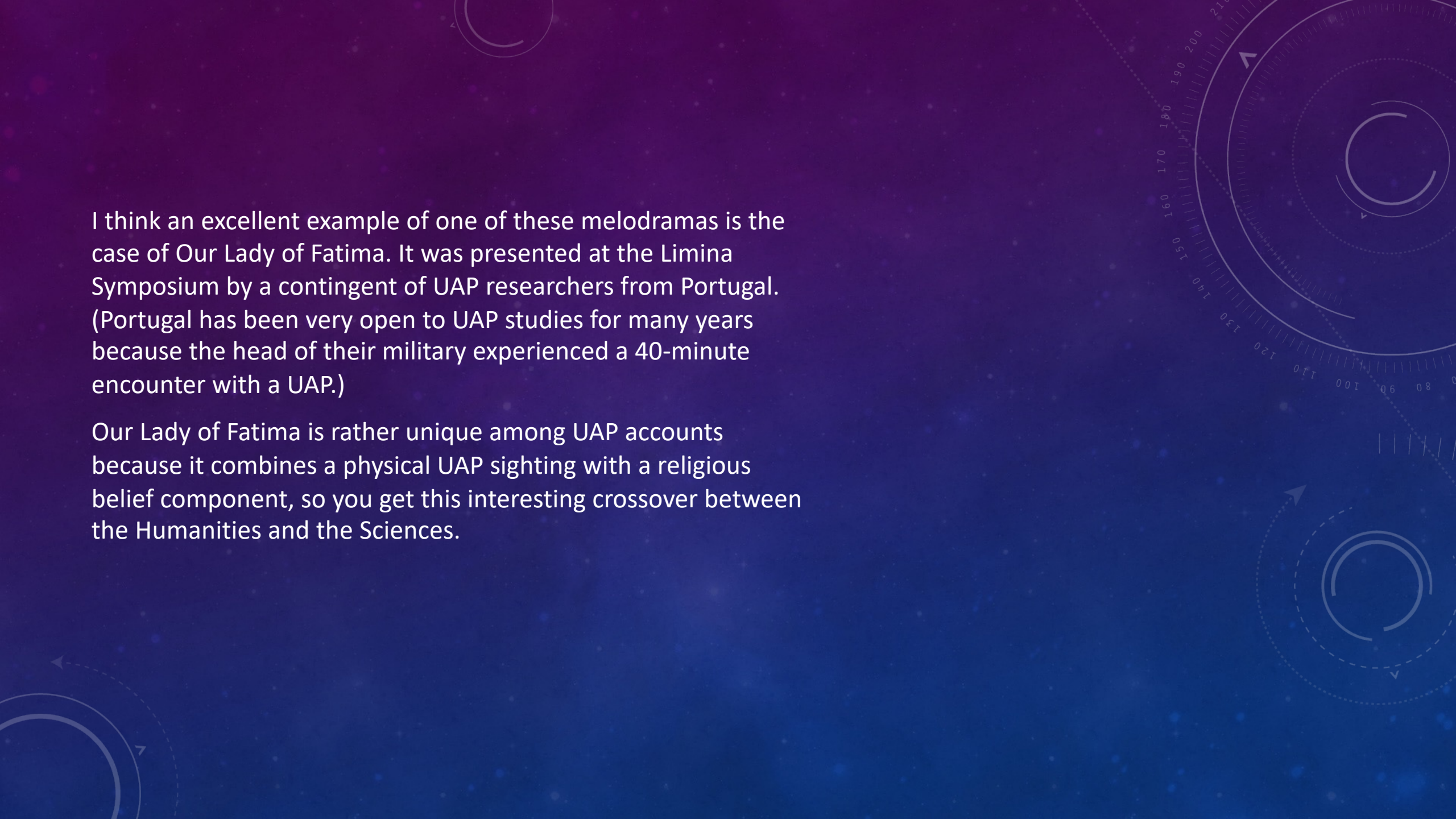
UAP reflect the anxieties and hopes of cultures through time.

(Continued...)

KEYNOTE: GREG EGHIGIAN (CONTINUED)

The study of UAP and alien encounters has actually been a conversation about the meaning of it all—life, the universe, and everything. The general public isn't interested in dealing with data. They're more interested in stories. But stories have forms and genres, and what comes about are “wonder stories”. The more spectacular ones turn into melodramas incorporating the day's concerns and they demand listeners take sides.

(Dr. Babich, an historian of science taking part in the symposium, claimed the first SF story came from the 2nd c. CE and told about meeting aliens and traveling between spheres.)

The background features a dark blue gradient with a starry space pattern. On the right side, there are several technical diagrams, including a large circular gauge with numerical markings from 80 to 210 and a smaller circular diagram below it. On the left side, there are faint, partially visible circular diagrams. The text is centered on the left side of the image.

I think an excellent example of one of these melodramas is the case of Our Lady of Fatima. It was presented at the Limina Symposium by a contingent of UAP researchers from Portugal. (Portugal has been very open to UAP studies for many years because the head of their military experienced a 40-minute encounter with a UAP.)

Our Lady of Fatima is rather unique among UAP accounts because it combines a physical UAP sighting with a religious belief component, so you get this interesting crossover between the Humanities and the Sciences.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA APPARITION

(aka “The Dancing of the Sun” or “Miracale of the Sun” Event)

Presented by Prof. Joaquim Fernandes, Francisco Mourao Correa, and Prof. Raul Berguel

May 13, 1917 to October 13, 1917 at Cova da Iria,
Portugal

Three children—Lucia dos Santos and her cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto—saw a glowing woman they believed to be the Virgin Mary, who told them to return on the 13th of each month and, on her sixth visit, she would tell them something of great importance.



OUR LADY OF FATIMA APPARITION (CONTINUED)

It's estimated that 50-70,000 people showed up on October 13th. A current day research team was able to find and interview 28 who were still alive and who's relative positions could be determined from photos of the crowd. These people reported the following experience:

- An unusually dull, silvery sun flashing several different colors descended what the researchers estimate to have been 33-77 feet from its place in the sky.
- It had been raining just before this and the witnesses reported feeling a sensation of heat as the sun moved approximately 320 yards from south to north overhead, drying their clothes and the muddy ground underfoot. Microwaves?
- Of the three children, only Lucia and Jacinta reported seeing the apparition October 13th. Francisco didn't, nor did a portion of the thousands of people present.
- The girls said they heard a commanding voice when the Virgin Mary spoke to them. Other witnesses just heard buzzing that sounded like bees. Modulated radio frequencies? [Note: it's a well-known phenomenon that a buzzing sound sometimes is generated inside the brain during auroras.]



OUR LADY OF FATIMA APPARITION (CONTINUED)

The children's original description of the apparition of the Virgin Mary is different from the image seen today in literature and at the shrine. Originally, they reported seeing a woman with a halo holding a glowing ball and wearing a knee-length dress and cape, both of which appeared to be of a quilted fabric.

According to the Catholic Church, the children were told three secrets--predictions of future global wars if Russia wasn't brought into the fold of the Roman Catholic Church. (The battle between Catholicism and Communism came to a head in 1910 in Portugal, so this was top of mind for the populace.)



OUR LADY OF FATIMA (CONTINUED)

So, what actually happened on October 13, 1917?

- Mass hysteria? If so, how do you account for the drying of clothing and the ground underneath the path of the “sun”?
- Ball lightning? Experts on ball lightning say that that explanation doesn't tally up.

The case has now been passed from the hands of religion into the hands of UAP studies.

If you're interested in the event, I remember watching a Hollywood movie re-enacting it when I was a small child. [The Miracle Of Our Lady of Fátima \(1952\) - Catholic Film in English – YouTube](#) I see that there is also a 2020 remake of the movie.

PROF. GABRIEL G. DE LA TORRE

NEUROPSYCHOLOGY, NEUROTEK LAB, UNIVERSITY OF CADIZ

Project Archetype UAP – website collected information from his study subjects:

- 57% of respondents felt videos on website showed alien-built craft
- 37% had witnessed UAP; 52% of those felt the sighting had changed their lives
- 85% were intuitive; 44% were victims of psychological trauma; a large number were introverts.

The project showed an over connection of neurons between the head of the caudate and the putamen (organs of the brain) in those who had seen UAP. The putamen correlates with obsessive-compulsive behavior and also intuition and insight. This ties into his overall finding that spiritual, non-religious, introverted, intuitive individuals see UAP.

SATURDAY: STUDYING UAP IN THE FIELD

Uses multi-modal instrumentation: optical, electromagnetic, radiation, sound, radar, infrared, environmental conditions

How do you capture data? Hide and wait? Move to active area? Set up a network of observation stations?

Various organizations are coming at the problem from a lot of different angles.

PROJECT HESSDALEN (1981-PRESENT), NORWAY

It's set up multi-modal detection stations in a valley renown for UAP activity and has had unexplainable sightings and data from every year it's been operational.

http://www.hessdalen.org/index_e.shtml

It serves as the model for projects around the world and works in concert with other organizations, such as...



THE INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH CENTER FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL STUDIES

JULIUS MAXIMILIANS UNIVERSITÄT
WÜRZBURG, GERMANY

Goals:

- Development, construction, and operation of space systems, especially nano satellites for interplanetary exploration
- Higher autonomy (e.g., anomaly detection, autonomous planning, diagnosis and decision making)
- Search for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI) and research on UAP

<https://www.uni-wuerzburg.de/en/ifex/home/>

THE MADAR PROJECT

MULTIPLE ANOMALY DETECTION AND AUTOMATIC RECORDING

(1970-PRESENT)

A magnetic sensing warning system has been set up all across the United States and in several other countries too. There are over 100 sites, but none in the Dakotas or Minnesota. (Because there are scads of nuclear silos in those two states.)

<https://store.madar.site/info>

UFODATA

This is an international civilian network that depends on crowdsourced funding.

According to its website

(<https://ufodata.net/>), its goal is “to build a large network of automated surveillance stations with sensors that will monitor the skies 24/7 looking for aerial anomalies.”

[Essentially the Hessdalen Project on steroids.]

“Alarm triggers will initiate recording by all the equipment, permitting capture of a broad range of physical data that can then be analyzed by experts.”

THE GALILEO PROJECT

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Unlike so many other projects, this one is really well funded. It's tied in with Harvard's Center for Astrophysics.

Searching for extraterrestrial artifacts in the solar system, measurable phenomena that can be confidently classified as "scientific anomalies".

They want to determine what the physical properties of UAP are so they can get a handle on whether they're dealing with:

- A natural phenomenon
- A manmade object, or
- The effect of some propulsion mechanism of unknown origin

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THE GALILEO PROJECT (CONTINUED)

They've determined the physical properties of UAPs observed to date are:

- luminosities of up to 30,000 MW
- velocities of up to 12,000 Km/h
- accelerations of up to 5,000 g
- magnetic field strengths of 10 T to 1,000 T (1 T = 10,000 gauss; the strength of ball lightning is only 0.1 T)

These are pretty wild measurements when it comes to our current understanding of physics. Are the anomalies extraterrestrial craft? If so, another Symposium talk pointed out that it will likely be impossible for us to understand technology from a civilization more than one scientific revolution ahead of our own. [Imagine someone from pre-Newtonian times trying to understand relativistic physics.]

THE VASCO PROJECT

NORDIC INSTITUTE OF THEORETICAL PHYSICS, STOCKHOLM

This is a global network of optical telescopes that are searching for and identifying UAP when they're far out from earth. Optical SETI, essentially. Looking to see if a star has really vanished or something else is going on. Maybe it's a UAP?

Also looking at Palomar Observatory glass plates (1957, pre-space junk, not sensitive to cosmic rays). AI identifies anomalous objects on the plates down to 10 centimeters across but has come up with no vanishing stars that couldn't be explained by transient known phenomenon. With one exception—9 stars vanished in 1951 within a matter of hours.

The project now has 83 potential candidates for further study.

They hope to image an "alien probe" then go out and bring it down to Earth.

THE UAPx PROJECT

UAPx is a team of naval veterans and public researchers.

Its first expedition concentrated on the area between Laguna Beach and Catalina Island, a known hot spot for UAP sightings.

Looking for time coincidence between multiple sensors.

Their most problematic event occurred July 16, 2021. It's a dark spot that appeared in the camera image that looked like a hole in the clouds in visible light. Two minutes later a cluster of bright dots appeared in the hole and the entire spot brightened. This was captured on several videos. There are also dark spots among the lights.

Can the object be seen when looking down from satellites? Efforts to get satellite photos have been stymied. And all FOIA requests have been denied.



SUNDAY: [MORE] CASES OF NOTE

Day 3 of the Symposium focused on examples of existing cases that UAP researchers believe are worthy of investigation.

California, Florida, and Washington State are the three states with the largest number of sightings because they are near water and have large populations. Sea water seems to be more relevant than fresh water. 623 UFOs and USOs (unidentified submerged objects) were spotted over the Atlantic during Project Blue Book.

Very few reported sightings qualify as being true scientific anomalies. Here are a few that do:

JAPAN AIRLINES FLIGHT 1629, PARIS TO TOKYO

NOV. 17, 1986

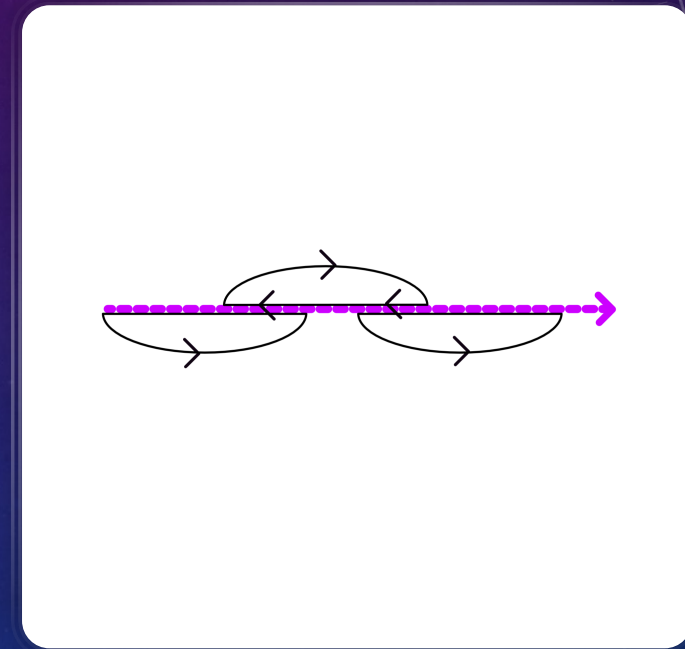
Incident happened over Alaska. It is supported by onboard radar.

At 5:19 the pilot reports a UAP; just before 5:30 he sees something extraordinary—the silhouette of a huge craft (more than 300 m across); by 5:40, 52 other aircraft in the area see nothing unusual, neither does the captain anymore.

Radar records the UAP jumping back and forth over 30 nautical miles in front of and behind flight 1629. This would impute a speed greater than Mach 300 on three different occasions (but no sonic boom) and over 250 gs (humans black out at ~12 gs, broken bones at 40 gs, death at 214 gs.) Achieved 9,400 gs on three occasions.

Pros for this being a case worth pursuing: the captain, co-pilot and flight engineer largely corroborate sensor data; astronomical explanations are unlikely.

Cons: no data from radars in Anchorage or NORAD, although there is corroboration in the official transcript of personnel viewing these radars in real time; the crew was not fluent in English (the language at the base in Alaska); flights UA69 and TOTEM71 did not confirm visual observation.



THE LONNIE ZAMORA INCIDENT

APRIL 24, 1964, NEAR SOCORRO, NEW MEXICO

Lonnie Zamora, a well-respected law officer, saw a white, oval object setting on the ground accompanied by two small humanoids. The craft had a red insignia, too small to resolve from where he was. It rose silently and went off to the west.

The object left four indents at the landing site in a trapezoidal arrangement. Each indent was 4.5" x4". Analysis of these gives a mass of 1,789.7 kg plus or minus 509.2 kg for the craft. The humanoids also left prints that indicate a mass of 41.9 kg plus or minus 16.8kg -- about the mass of an 11-year-old boy 4'10" tall (x2) or a 4-legged mountain lion or black bear.

Pros: Physical evidence (imprints, burn marks, soil samples); Zamora was well regarded; there were 9 independent witnesses on Rt. 85 North.

Cons: No sensor data; only 2 of the 9 independent witnesses actually saw anything that day; mass is consistent with a surveyor and helicopter; footprints consistent with a boy.



AGUADILLA, PUERTO RICO EVENT

APRIL 25, 2013

Interesting because it shows how very differently two researchers can interpret the same data. Mick West claimed what was seen was two Chinese wedding lanterns tied together adrift over the Aguadilla military base. Robert Powell said it was a bona fide UAP.

Essentially, a pilot saw a light-pinkish light in the northwest that went out, so he used an IR video camera to track it as it crossed over the base.

Powell argued the equipment was sensitive enough that it would have spotted two heat sources, but it didn't until the end of the video. Also, the target moved behind a telephone pole and a tree, and impacted the water, dropping speed when it did. The two objects at the end of the video moved apart and moved independently, and disappeared and reappeared at separate times.

Powell said the most interesting part was that the number of pixels increased over a matter of ~50 frames and split into two equal parts all in the matter of a few (4-5) frames. He felt it looked uncannily like mitosis. There were 6" waves that day, so the second heat source was not likely a reflection.

Powell calculated the speed at over 100mph; West at only 18mph.

See the full video at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gEhgnkQoPqQ>

LIMINA SYMPOSIUM WRAP UP PANEL

- Leslie Kean - Independent journalist; Contributor, NY Times; Author of "UFOs: Generals, Pilots and Government Officials Go on the Record"
- Ralph Blumenthal - Former reporter, NY Times; Author of "The Believer: Alien Encounters, Hard Science, and the Passion of John Mack"
- George Knapp – Long-time reporter and investigative journalist for KLAS-TV (Las Vegas); Frequent host of the show Coast To Coast AM; Peabody award winner and Recipient of the Edward R. Murrow Award for his journalism
- Ross Couthart - Award-winning investigative journalist; Author of "In Plain Sight: An Investigation into UFOs and Impossible Science"
- Andreas Muller - Independent journalist; Editor of grenzwissenschaft-aktuell.de; Author of "Deutschlands UFO-Akten" (Germany's UFO-files)

WRAP-UP PANEL

(CONTINUED)

Obstacles for reporters are:

- the steep learning curve
- determining who's a bona fide expert for interview
- working with taboo subject matter

Overseas, the big guys controlling publication budgets were shy of running UAP stories—until they saw there's money in it, then they changed their tune. But editors in the US are still skeptical. Publications want to run UAP articles as Op Ed pieces instead of features. At tipping point, though.

Kean and Blumenthal's last story in their 2017 NY Times series was written about crash retrievals but the edited version dealt primarily with general UAP information and included only a bit on crash retrieval at the very end.

Journalists are used to sharing what they've discovered, yet off-the-record, confidential revelations from government/military are off limits for publication. Even the President isn't allowed to know about what's going on. Scientists are infuriated they may be spinning their wheels in vain.

Coulthart believes the military is still trying to downplay the credibility of UAP reports. He said he'd been told by "high officials" that Project Moon Dust crash recovery material released to the public had fiction woven in with truth to confound FOIA.

FURTHER RESOURCES

Enigma collects and makes available historic databases. It's also a place to report sightings and ask questions. <https://enigmalabs.io/>

SCU: Scientific Coalition for UAP Studies (230 members) is creating partnerships between researchers and sponsoring public discourse at www.explorescu.org. They're having a virtual conference July 29 & 30, 2023.

<https://www.explorescu.org/>

The National UFO Reporting Center in Washington, DC, is one of the largest in the world and has publicly accessible online databases. <https://nuforc.org/>