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ParaExplorers: Taking on the Paranormal with Science

By [Stephen Wagner](#), About.com

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Q: Using science to investigate many aspects of the paranormal has proved difficult because of its often fleeting nature. How do you plan to handle that?

Marie: While reproducibility of the event may be "fleeting," there are certain events and "triggers" which occur on a quantum level that are measurable. Piggybacking on ARPAST's research methodology and utilization of technology, we will approach our research and investigation of unexplained phenomena in a similar manner – by employing every state-of-the-art technological means at our disposal.

In addition, we both have such a broad background of knowledge in areas other than the paranormal that, when put together, give us the edge above many other groups and teams out there. Too many researchers come out of one area of interest, and their focus is very narrow. And way too few ever bother to learn a little bit about the various "other" arts and sciences that can help broaden their knowledge base.

Larry and I both bring so much to the table alone, but together, we just cover all the possible bases! Our bios tell it all (and we both had to leave out a lot)! We are both well-versed in many areas of science. Larry has a background in psychology, law enforcement, information technology – you name it. I have a background in journalism, writing, promotions, and metaphysical studies, and years in the field with MUFON. So put it all together and I think the only thing we cannot do is build our own website. But we have a wonderful person who does that.

Q: What is ARPAST's methodology?

Larry: The Arkansas Paranormal and Anomalous Studies Team is a science-based research group dedicated to furthering our measured understanding of anomalous and unexplained phenomena via the utilization of state-of-the-art equipment, methodologies, and techniques. ARPAST is not out to "prove" or "disprove" the existence of ghosts and other paranormal phenomena. We do not profess to be experts, either, as there is no such thing as an expert when it comes to unknown anomalies. People who call themselves experts are misguided, and they mislead the public as well. As of yet, no one has offered definitive answers or proof when it comes to the paranormal. ARPAST, working in conjunction with ParaExplorers, hopes to bridge that gap.

ARPAST's mission is to document, collect, and analyze environmental and corroborated data surrounding paranormal events while ruling out or uncovering any possible explanatory causes for such phenomena. We don't run around waving EMF meters and taking pictures of dust particles. Everything we do is meticulously planned and executed. We are looking for answers, not just a fun night out in a potentially haunted location.

Q: Besides you two, who have founded ParaExplorers, are there – or will there be – others on your team or that you'll work with?

Marie: Using the resources of ARPAST, we will be working with consultants and leading experts in the field appropriate to our work. We also plan to liaison with other authors and researchers and share information and resources. And we have our amazing web-mistress, Suzanne Weaver, on board, too. We may one day build a team with an official board and all that, but for now, Larry and I plan to take over the world on our own.

Q: Can others get involved with ParaExplorers?

Marie: Yes, we certainly welcome external involvement. Currently, we are seeking consultants and subject-matter experts to add to our growing stable of professional specialists. We also want other authors and researchers who might wish to network with us to contact us, too. Anyone interested in learning how they can get involved can go to the website, www.paraexplorers.com, and email us. We are just starting up, but already things are moving and growing fast, and the interest is high. As you said earlier, this subject matter is on fire in the media and on the Internet and shows no signs of slowing down, and neither do Larry and I.

Marie D. Jones is the author of [PSience: How New Discoveries In Quantum Physics and New Science May Explain the Existence of Paranormal Phenomena](#), [2013: End of Days or a New Beginning - Envisioning the World After the Events of 2012](#), and [Supervolcano: The Catastrophic Event That Changed the Course of Human History](#). **Larry Flaxman** is the President and Senior Researcher of the [Arkansas Paranormal and Anomalous Studies Team \(ARPAST\)](#), which he founded in February of 2007.

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