

*Poltergeist Activity:*  
*Recurrent Spontaneous Psychokinesis*  
*(RSPK)*



# Poltergeist Activity



Poltergeist is German for "noisy spirit".

Today, parapsychologists use the terms *recurrent spontaneous psychokinesis (RSPK)*, to describe the activity, and agent to describe the focus of, or source of, the activity.

RSPK seems to occur when there are themes of liminality and marginality. That is, a person who is going through a transition in life, and/or someone who is ostracized from their community. Unsurprisingly, early researchers noted a teen going through puberty as a common catalyst. But, moving into a new home, or renovating a home can cause the activity, as well.



RSPK occurs suddenly, and is characterized by objects moving on their own, objects disappearing and reappearing in places that they were not left (called interpenetration of matter), phantom footsteps, strange rapping or tapping noises, unexplained fires that extinguish themselves, scribbles that no one admits to, and even, in some cases, physical assaults.

A focus item is an object, or piece of furniture, that seems to move more frequently. For a short time in 1958, bottle tops began popping whenever young Jimmy Herrmann was in his home. His parents, and even police tried to recreate the phenomenon, while keeping Jimmy monitored, but were unable to explain the occurrences.



Source:

Taylor, Troy. "Popper the Poltergeist", 1 Jan. 1970, [troytaylorbooks.blogspot.com/2013/02/popper-poltergeist.html](http://troytaylorbooks.blogspot.com/2013/02/popper-poltergeist.html).



Apports, or objects that appear out of thin air, can also occur in cases of RSPK, drawing a somewhat confusing parallel to the seances of physical mediums.

An extreme example of this is lithobolia, where stones and other objects are tossed around a home, with no discernible origin, cause, or source. These objects often seem to defy laws of physics, and appear to fall slower than anticipated, do not bounce when they hit the ground, and can be hot to the touch when examined.



Between the winter of 1981 and 1982, heavy rocks fell on five separate homes on Thornton Road in Birmingham, England. Despite authorities devoting 3500 man hours to try to uncover culprits, they were left baffled.

Source:

"Things That Go Bump in the Night." Arthur C. Clarke's World of Strange Powers, season 1, episode 2, Pacific Arts, 10 Apr. 1985.

Another feature is RSPK is telethoryby, or "imitative sound". These are sounds of items being broken, or tossed around, but, upon investigation, everything is secure.

Source:

d'Assier, Adolphe. Posthumous Humanity: A Study of Phantoms. London: G. Redway, 1887



William G. Roll (1926 - 2012) theorized that agents suffer from *focal onset aware seizures*, which somehow manipulate the environment.



Sources:

- 1) Roll, William G. The Poltergeist. Paraview Special Editions, 2004.
- 2) "William G. Roll." Wikipedia, 31 July 2020, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_G.\\_Roll](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_G._Roll).

These types of seizures decrease responsiveness and awareness of one's self and surroundings.

This could explain the occurrences where agents seem to be "in a trance" when objects are moving around them.

Sources:

1) Roll, William G. The Poltergeist. Paraview Special Editions, 2004.

2) Kiriakopoulos, MD, Elaine. "Focal Onset Aware Seizures (Simple Partial Seizures)." Epilepsy Foundation, Mar. 2017, [www.epilepsy.com/learn/types-seizures/focal-onset-aware-seizures-aka-simple-partial-seizures](http://www.epilepsy.com/learn/types-seizures/focal-onset-aware-seizures-aka-simple-partial-seizures).



Another medical hypothesis in parapsychology is that certain individuals with *Tourette syndrome*, externalize their "tics", whereas the suppressant medication relieves physical symptoms.

Sources:

- 1) "Tourette Syndrome Fact Sheet." National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, [www.ninds.nih.gov/Disorders/Patient-Caregiver-Education/Fact-Sheets/Tourette-Syndrome-Fact-Sheet](http://www.ninds.nih.gov/Disorders/Patient-Caregiver-Education/Fact-Sheets/Tourette-Syndrome-Fact-Sheet).
- 2) Williams, Bryan, and Annalisa Ventola. Poltergeist Phenomena: A Primer on Parapsychological Research and Perspectives. [cpb-us-w2.wpmucdn.com/web.sas.upenn.edu/dist/b/160/files/2017/04/poltergeist\\_phenomena\\_a\\_primer\\_on\\_parapsychological\\_research\\_and\\_perspectives-247fv93.pdf](http://cpb-us-w2.wpmucdn.com/web.sas.upenn.edu/dist/b/160/files/2017/04/poltergeist_phenomena_a_primer_on_parapsychological_research_and_perspectives-247fv93.pdf).

Tina Resch was surrounded by RSPK activity when she was 14-years-old, in 1984. She was diagnosed with Tourette syndrome, as well.



Sources:

- 1) Roll, William G., and Valerie Storey. Unleashed: Of Poltergeists and Murder: The Curious Story of Tina Resch. Paraview Pocket Books, 2004.
- 2) "Tina Resch." Unsolved Mysteries Wiki, [unsolvedmysteries.fandom.com/wiki/Tina\\_Resch](https://unsolvedmysteries.fandom.com/wiki/Tina_Resch).



Most parapsychologists conclude that  
RSPK has a purpose, and that is to  
resolve some psychological conflict  
within the agent.

Source:

Layard, John. "Psi Phenomena and Poltergeists". Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research. July, 1944: 47, 237 - 247.



Tina, for instance, was surrounded by RSPK activity while living in a foster home, where one of her foster brothers was revealed to be sexually assaulting her. When removed from the environment, the activity lessened considerably.



Sources:

1) Roll, William G., and Valerie Storey. *Unleashed: Of Poltergeists and Murder: The Curious Story of Tina Resch*. Paraview Pocket Books, 2004.

2) Conrad, James A. "Tina Resch / Christina Boyer Paranormal Case." *The Tina Resch Spontaneous Telekinesis Case*, 13 Jan. 2016, [jamesaconrad.com/Tina/Tina-Resch-Boyer-paranormal-case.html](http://jamesaconrad.com/Tina/Tina-Resch-Boyer-paranormal-case.html).



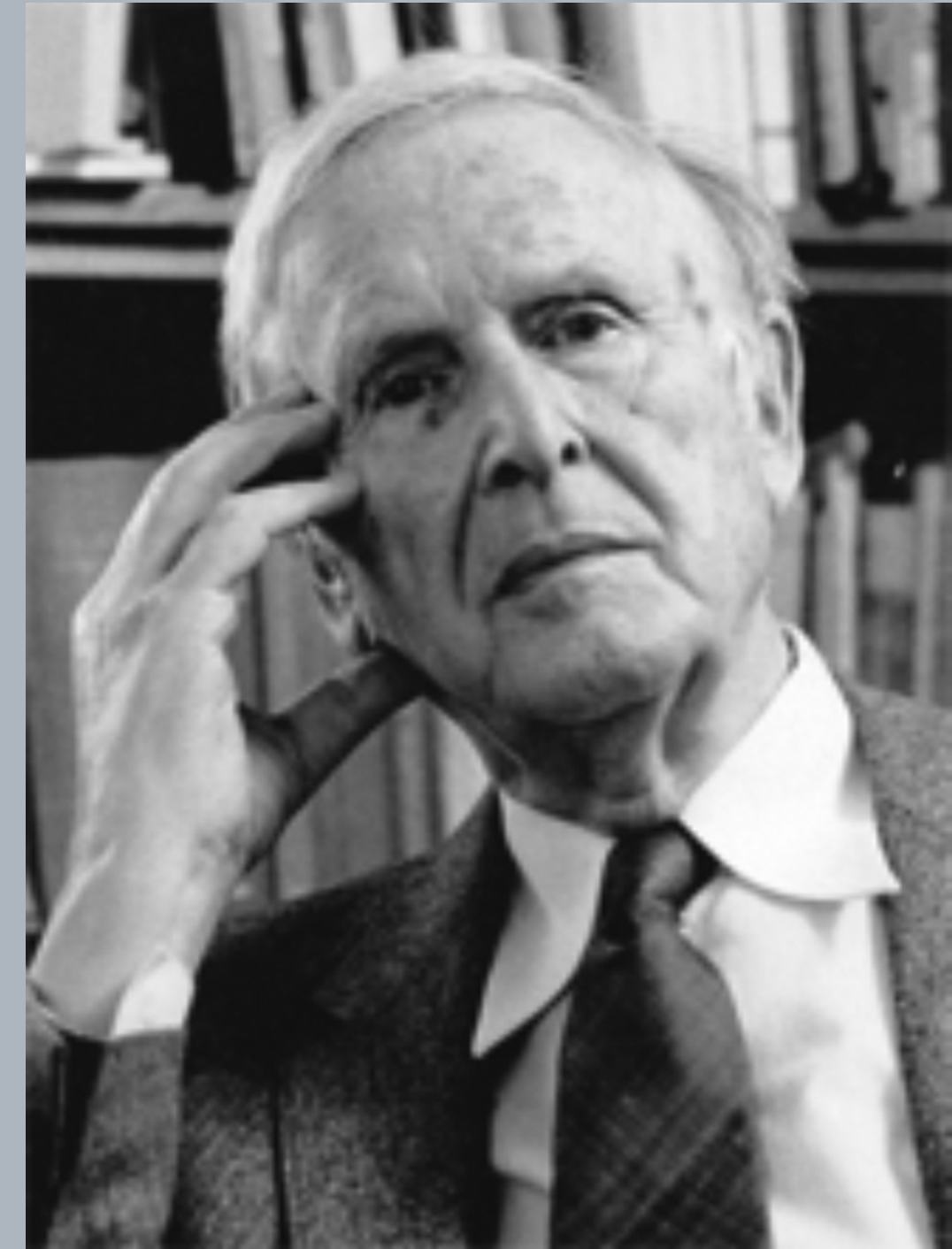
In 1967, Annemarie Schneider started working at the law offices of Sigmund Adam in southern Bavaria, Germany. When she walked in to the office, chandeliers would swing as she passed under them, the phone repeated dialed out, and equipment in the office would go haywire.



Source:

"Rosenheim Poltergeist." Wikipedia, 18 Feb. 2021, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosenheim\\_Poltergeist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosenheim_Poltergeist).

Parapsychologist Hans Bender  
was called in, and quickly  
concluded that Annemarie was an  
RSPK agent. When she was fired,  
the activity stopped. She also was  
relieved, because she did not like  
her job.



Source:

"Hans Bender." Wikipedia, 13 Sept. 2020, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hans\\_Bender](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hans_Bender).



In 1983, Donnie Decker's abusive and pedophilic grandfather passed away. He was staying with friends while on furlough, when suddenly, rain began falling inside of the home. Police even witnessed the water falling upward and even sideways in the house.



Sources:

- 1) "The Mysterious Abilities of Don Decker." Unsolved Mysteries, 4 Sept. 2020, [unsolved.com/gallery/don-decker/](https://unsolved.com/gallery/don-decker/).
- 2) H, Jim. "Don Decker: The Rain Man." Paranorms, 8 Aug. 2019, [paranorms.com/don-decker-the-rain-man/](https://paranorms.com/don-decker-the-rain-man/).

The trend continued, and mysterious rain would fall in locations where Donnie stayed, even when returning to jail. Yet, Donnie showed no sign of outward grief or outrage from his grandfather passing.

Source:

"The Mysterious Abilities of Don Decker." Unsolved Mysteries, 4 Sept. 2020, [unsolved.com/gallery/don-decker/](https://unsolved.com/gallery/don-decker/).



Donnie's case is a prime example of why an agent should never be given the suggestion that the activity has a spiritual cause. When the idea of demonic possession was proposed to him, he began to exhibit symptoms of possession.

Source:

"The Mysterious Abilities of Don Decker." Unsolved Mysteries, 4 Sept. 2020, [unsolved.com/gallery/don-decker/](https://unsolved.com/gallery/don-decker/).

It wasn't the exorcism that caused the rain to stop. It ceased suddenly when Donnie began showing outward signs of bereavement and anger over his grandfather's passing.

Source:

"The Mysterious Abilities of Don Decker." Unsolved Mysteries, 4 Sept. 2020, [unsolved.com/gallery/don-decker/](https://unsolved.com/gallery/don-decker/).



In extreme cases, the suggestion of spirit involvement in RSPK can actually cause direct voice phenomena, or voices that appear to come out of thin air. This occurred to 11-year-old Janet Hodgson in 1977 and 1978.



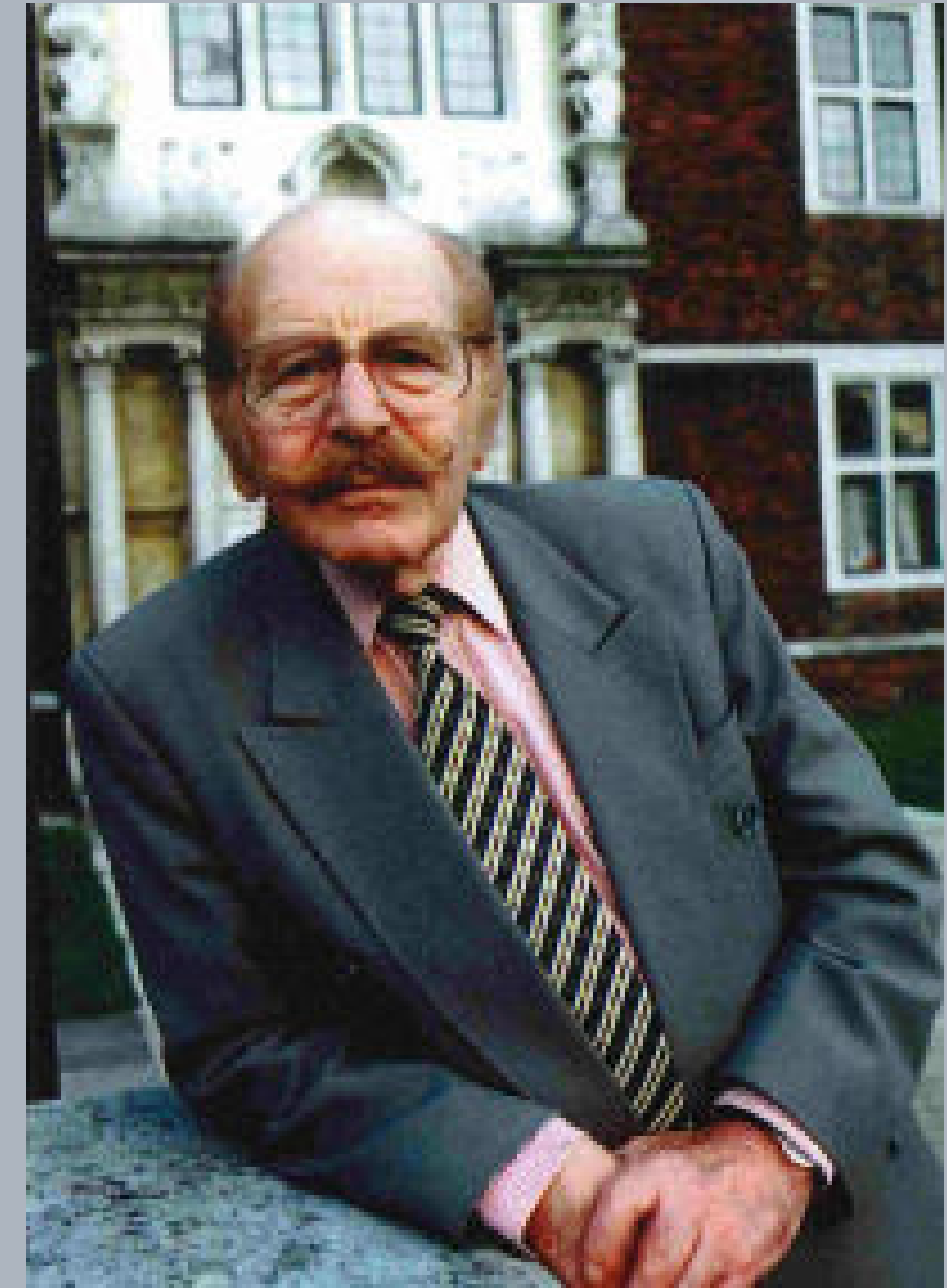
Sources:

1) Playfair, Guy Lyon. This House Is Haunted: The Amazing Inside Story of the Enfield Poltergeist. White Crow Books, 2011.

2) O'Neill, Marnie. The 'Possessed' Sisters of the Notorious Enfield Haunting. News.com.au, 17 June 2016, [www.news.com.au/entertainment/movies/new-movies/margaret-and-janet-hodgson-return-to-london-poltergeist-house-after-40-years/news-story/745ac33467c1ac744272740ce9f47166](http://www.news.com.au/entertainment/movies/new-movies/margaret-and-janet-hodgson-return-to-london-poltergeist-house-after-40-years/news-story/745ac33467c1ac744272740ce9f47166).



Paranormal investigator Maurice Grosse investigated the now infamous "Enfield poltergeist" case, and soon found that Janet confirmed many of the hypothetical causes for RSPK.



Sources:

- 1) Playfair, Guy Lyon. This House Is Haunted: The Amazing Inside Story of the Enfield Poltergeist. White Crow Books, 2011.
- 2) "Maurice Grosse." Wikipedia, 23 Nov. 2020, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maurice\\_Grosse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maurice_Grosse).



Janet's large, single-parent family lived in a tiny apartment provided by government assistance, her father was uninterested in keeping in contact with his children and refused to pay child support, effectively leaving the family in poverty, her younger, developmentally disabled brother was being picked on relentlessly in school, and, during the course of the investigation, she had her first mensuration.

Source:

Playfair, Guy Lyon. This House Is Haunted: The Amazing Inside Story of the Enfield Poltergeist. White Crow Books, 2011.

One day, a gruff, male voice began emanating from behind Janet's head. Ventriloquism was ruled out, when Janet was able to hold water in her mouth, as the voice continued to speak. This voice identified itself as a previous resident of the home, who died inside, years earlier.

Source:

Playfair, Guy Lyon. This House Is Haunted: The Amazing Inside Story of the Enfield Poltergeist. White Crow Books, 2011.



The RSPK and direct voice phenomena only ceased after Janet was hospitalized multiple times, and was allowed to work through her complex emotions.

Source:

Playfair, Guy Lyon. This House Is Haunted: The Amazing Inside Story of the Enfield Poltergeist. White Crow Books, 2011.

Direct voice phenomena doesn't usually start so abruptly in cases of RSPK, nor are they always located so close to the agent. In the early 1930's, in Doarlish Gap on the Isle of Man in the British Isles, an unseen force began mimicking sounds and voices, coinciding with other RSPK activity, centered near young Voirrey Irving .



Source:

"Gef." Wikipedia, 3 Feb. 2021, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gef](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gef).



Soon, the noises became a voice, that identified itself as Gef, a talking mongoose. Cases of apparitions in RSPK are rare, but can appear as malformed or monstrous creatures or humanoids. And, the inhabitants of the home did admit to seeing glimpses of a strange mongoose-type creature.

Source:

"Gef." Wikipedia, 3 Feb. 2021, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gef](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gef).

Much like the fabled Bell Witch of Adams, Tennessee, "Gef" exhibited extrasensory perception (ESP). The voice was able to reveal the goings on of others, and would reveal embarrassing secrets of visitors when there was an audience.

Sources:

- 1) "Gef." Wikipedia, 3 Feb. 2021, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gef](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gef).
- 2) Price, Charles Edwin. The Infamous Bell Witch of Tennessee. Overmountain Press, 1994.



Though Martin Ingram won his local Liars Club cash reward for publishing the first fictional account of a poltergeist, known later as the "Bell Witch", in his book *An Authenticated History of the Famous Bell Witch*, assaults do indeed occur in RSPK agents, from time to time.

Sources:

1) Ingram, M. V. *An Authenticated History of the Famous Bell Witch: The Wonder of the 19th Century and Unexplained Phenomenon of the Christian Era*. Pioneer Press, 1894.

2) Tom. FALSEHOODS. Blogger, 25 Mar. 2017, [bellwitchmts.blogspot.com/p/falsifications.html?m=1](http://bellwitchmts.blogspot.com/p/falsifications.html?m=1).



Between 1925 and 1926, Eleonora Zunun of Romania suffered attacks where she would be scratched and assaulted anytime her grandmother would criticize her actions or appearance. She was most commonly bitten or scratched by an unseen force.



Source:

The Paranormal Abilities of Eleonore Zugun: Genuine Or Fraud? TGNews, 19 Sept. 2020, [www.yougoneews.com/2020/09/19/the-paranormal-abilities-of-eleonore-zugun-genuine-or-fraud/](http://www.yougoneews.com/2020/09/19/the-paranormal-abilities-of-eleonore-zugun-genuine-or-fraud/).



Psychical researcher Harry Price  
(1881 - 1948) was even able to  
record these injuries appearing on  
video, under extremely strict  
guidelines, to preclude the  
possibility of Eleonora injuring  
herself.



Sources:

- 1) The Paranormal Abilities of Eleonore Zugun: Genuine Or Fraud? TGNews, 19 Sept. 2020, [www.yougonews.com/2020/09/19/the-paranormal-abilities-of-eleonore-zugun-genuine-or-fraud/](http://www.yougonews.com/2020/09/19/the-paranormal-abilities-of-eleonore-zugun-genuine-or-fraud/).
- 2) "Harry Price." Wikipedia, 15 Jan. 2021, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry\\_Price](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Price).



These attacks can, on rare occasions, become much more sadistic. For a short time in 1974, newly divorced and single mother to three began, Doris Bither, experiencing poltergeist activity, but was also sexually assaulted by an unseen presence.



Source:

The Haunting of Doris Bither - True Story Behind 'The Entity'. 10 Feb. 2020, [backpackerverse.com/doris-bither/](https://backpackerverse.com/doris-bither/).



Lead researcher, Dr. Barry Taff, documented 15 of these attacks, as well as photographing ball of light phenomena around Doris.



Sources:

- 1) The Haunting of Doris Bither - True Story Behind 'The Entity'. 10 Feb. 2020, [backpackerverse.com/doris-bither/](https://backpackerverse.com/doris-bither/).
- 2) Taff, Barry. "Bio." Aliens Above, Ghosts Below, [barrytaff.net/bio/](https://barrytaff.net/bio/).

# Investigating Poltergeist Activity



Consider that RSPK is, by definition, characterised by objects moving on their own. Also, keep in mind that there will always be doubt that the activity is somehow fraudulent. Next, keep in mind that even suggesting RSPK could be misconstrued as "victim blaming". Finally, never suggest that the cause of the activity is spiritual in nature.

Focus items should be carefully outlined with chalk or painters tape, and monitored on surveillance equipment. Cases of RSPK are notorious for exhibiting the ink fish effect, where objects will move when they are no longer being monitored.



The background features a large, solid grey triangle on the left side, pointing towards the top-left. The rest of the background is filled with a complex pattern of thin, wavy, light grey lines that create a sense of motion and depth. The overall color palette is monochromatic, consisting of various shades of grey and white.

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