

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Historical and Current Investigations of Instrumental Transcommunication

To the Editor:

When electronics made its appearance in the world in a systematic way, the physically deceased apparently began to communicate with humans on Earth through electronic means. This phenomenon is termed instrumental transcommunication (ITC). My purpose in this letter is to alert readers of this *Journal* to some of my recent publications about the history of ITC—as well as my own experiences—that may be of interest to them.

As early as the 19th century, Allan Kardec, the systemizer of Spiritism, had already announced the advent of a new way to contact the physically deceased:

Electricity will later on make its mediumistic revolution and since everything will change with respect to the reproduction of the Spirit's thoughts you will no longer find those sometimes regrettable blanks, particularly when the communications are read in the presence of strangers. (Kardec, 1864; see also Cardoso, 2010, pp. 26–27).

Indeed, electricity plays a fundamental role in ITC. In the early 20th century in Holland, physicists Matla and Zaalberg Van Zelst (1912) reported their consistent results to contact the dead through ingenious and complex devices, the 'manometer' and the 'dynamistograph.' One of their most interesting conclusions reads, "the very element of our personality that survives death is partially electrical in nature and has an affinity for manipulating electrical energy" (Rogo & Bayless, 1979, p. 139). A century later, while I was receiving direct radio voices (DRV) from the allegedly deceased, Rio do Tempo communicators seemed to provide confirmation of this idea when they said, "our [their] bodies are made of a kind of electricity" (Cardoso, 2010, p. 29).

The Portuguese-Brazilian researcher Oscar D'Argonnel received what I believe was the first telephone messages from communicators who identified as the deceased. They were coherent and extensive, as he reported in his marvelous little book, *Vozes do Além pelo Telefone* (D'Argonnel, 1925), of which I have a rare copy. Much later, American parapsychologists D. Scott Rogo and R. Bayless (1979), in their book

Phone Calls from the Dead, transcribed many telephone messages from the dead that they had investigated. That volume has more recently been updated by Callum Cooper (2012).

A specific subset of ITC involving anomalous messages obtained specifically via tape recorders and radios from purported physically deceased communicators is termed electronic voice phenomena (EVP). Sporadic voices of this type were recorded by Attila von Szalay around the middle of the 20th century (Rogo & Bayless, 1979, pp. 82–93). However, as early as 1952, two Italian Catholic priests and scientists recorded the voices of the dead and reported to Pope Pius XII (Cardoso & Leopold, 2023). One of them was the distinguished Agostino Gemelli, founder of the Catholic University and the University Hospital Agostino Gemelli, the largest in Italy, where several Popes have been treated. The voice identified himself as Gemelli's deceased father.

However, the great pioneer of EVP was the Swedish film director, singer, and painter Friedrich Jürgenson (2004) who began publishing on the topic of ITC in the 1960s but knew nothing of the results of his predecessors (Cardoso & Leopold, 2023). Leopold and I (2023) detailed Jürgenson's activities in this regard. We addressed his stature as a brilliant artist, self-proclaimed atheist, and painter for and confidant of the two Popes of his time, Pius XII and Paul VI, with whom he frequently discussed EVP. We also discussed researchers who studied, endorsed, and were influenced by his work, including Hans Bender (1970, 2011); philosopher and psychologist Konstantin Raudive (1971/2021; see also Bander, 1972); Marcello Bacci (1991), who specialized in facilitating contacts between deceased children and their parents to the satisfaction of the latter; and German physicist Ernst Senkowski who coined the term ITC, whose *Instrumentelle Transkommunikation* is rightly considered the 'Bible of ITC' (Senkowski, 1989/2000), and who closely examined and described the work of the most eminent ITC experimenters (Cardoso, 2017).

Among these experimenters were Maggy and Jules Harsch-Fischbach from Luxembourg, the first to receive the whole panoply of high-level electronic contacts: voices, images, computer texts, and telephone calls. The contacts were allegedly directed by superior beings of non-human nature who also talked with Senkowski and other scientists. These contacts conveyed anti-paradigm information that refutes deeply held human convictions, from social behavior to God, religions, and nature (Locher & Harsch, 1989; Senkowski, 1989/2000).

Another of these experimenters was Adolf Homes, whose communications were examined by numerous investigators (Senkowski,

1989/2000; Cardoso, 2017). Primarily through computer texts, he served as a conduit of communication between higher entities and Senkowski, who published a compilation of over 200 of Homes' texts (Senkowski, 1999), from which I offer selected quotes:

God consists of incomprehensible cosmic values and neither heaven nor hell have anything to do with It

God is the principle proper, the cause of everything that exists. God is in every being; God is in everything

The concept of God is an information

[But] your concept of God is an idea projected by yourselves

Every life—animal, plant, mineral, and all kinds of coarse matter as well as subtle matter—consists solely and absolutely of information.

Our request to you is that of identifying yourselves with your planet and all life in it because everything of you is formed of identical elementary particles. To us silicon, nerve cell and consciousness are absolutely identical . . . , [consequently] . . . we do not need your electromagnetic technique to switch your instruments on" (Senkowski, 1999, pp. 19, 39)

Senkowski remarked about Homes:

It is my conviction that the Homes' phenomena in their entirety have been the most comprising worldwide. They present the full ITC spectrum and as Dr Delavre and I followed the case closely we are absolute sure of Homes' sincerity and reliability. In many cases he was completely overrun by what happened. He had no technical-electronic background at all, and in a certain way was a 'drop-out' barely apt to support his family. . .

Along the years there was never any reason to doubt Adolf's sincerity. The contents of the contacts by far surpassed his knowledge; his background in electronics was practically zero. In some cases, our questions were answered before Adolf came to know them, in other cases there were cross-correspondences—up to identities in the computer-texts—between his and those of the Harsch. (Personal communication, October 21, 2009)

In my own ITC research, I have focused primarily on voices because, with the exception of computer texts, I consider voices to be the most reliable source of information. As previously mentioned, I have received DRVs from communicators who claimed to be speaking from Rio do Tempo Station; William T. Stead (1922/2020) may have been the first to mention special centers for the transmission of information to Earth (Cardoso, 2021).

Many of my DRVs have involved dialog between myself and communicators, and some of these dialogs have been quite loud and clear. Carlos de Almeida, my main communicator, seemed to facilitate my contact with my deceased family members and some of my dogs, including a moving dialogue with my dog Nisha (<http://www.itcjournal.org/?p=4690>).

Professor David Fontana (2005) studied my voices thoroughly and published his findings in his book, *Is There an Afterlife?* (pp. 352–381). Without previously informing me, he carried out a protocol of verification that yielded positive results. At his request, the voices repeated sentences in English that he dictated to them (pp. 375–376).

In 2010, I was invited to devise and direct a research project on electronic voices at the Acoustics laboratory of the Faculty of Engineering in Vigo, Spain. I obtained positive results under the most controlled conditions available. The study was subsequently published in the peer-reviewed journal *Neuroquantology* (Cardoso, 2012), and the article is followed by an interview of me (Wright, 2012).

In conclusion, I hope that *Journal* readers interested in ITC find the information in this Letter useful. Overall, in my and other operators' ITC work, communicators tell us that "It is the dead who speak." Personally, I see no reason not to believe them until a verifiable alternative comes forward.

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