

14. Russell Targ: Unsuspected Connectedness

A pioneer researcher and inventor in laser technology and communication, Russell Targ is best known for his experiments in psychic phenomena. In 1972 he co-founded the CIA-funded Stanford Research Institute Remote Viewing Program.

He is the author of the memoir, *Do You See What I See: Lasers and Love, ESP and the CIA, and the Meaning of Life*. In 1987 Joseph Xavier Brillig, English professor at James Fenimore Cooper Junior College, met with Targ to discuss his work. Their conversation was published in the *jamais vu* newsletter, but not in the *Jamais Vu* novel or any other publication. It appears here for the first time since December 1987.

this is a chapter from the book

Jamais Vu VIEWS:
a companion to the classic
the Jamais Vu Papers

introductions by
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After more than a decade of ESP research at Stanford Research Institute, Russell Targ (whom you may remember from the first issue of **jama's vu**) has followed up his highly successful remote viewing experiment with an even wider investigation. Now, J.X. Brillig has gone to the National ESP Laboratory (80 Hayfields Road, Portola Valley, CA 94025) to chat with Targ. **Let's listen in.**

Mr. Targ, what firm results has the National ESP Test produced?



In an experiment just completed, we worked with many people from all over the U.S. who made use of "remote viewing" to forecast changes in the price of silver futures. In nine weeks of trials, eight out of nine of our majority-vote forecasts were correct. The odds against such a result by chance is less than one in fifty. We did a similar experiment a few years ago, working with a famous psychic. We achieved nine out of nine successes, and shared more than \$120,000 with an investor who backed the experiment. We failed to replicate that experiment the following year, but Dr. Harold Puthoff at SRI did; with significant success in more than thirty trials.

THE METHOD: Sally, a participant in the National ESP Laboratory study, receives her instructions in the mail.



Finding a relaxed time and place, she closes her eyes or stares into space until her mind becomes blank. She asks herself what the object looks like.

She makes sketches of her impressions and jots down terms as they come to her, recording her mental images as accurately as possible. Then she answers a series of written questions: is it made of metal? dark? twisty?



Each object chosen for the test has been assigned a connection with silver futures on the stock market. Sally's job is to identify an unknown object connected with the way the market **will** behave on a certain date **in the future**.



What is this remote viewing you are always writing about?

Remote viewing is a human capability that allows one to describe and experience objects, locations and events blocked from ordinary perception. It is not necessary to be a famous psychic to do remote viewing.

The most remarkable finding in this research is that the ability is latent in most people. We have found that it is no more difficult to describe activities across the planet than across town.

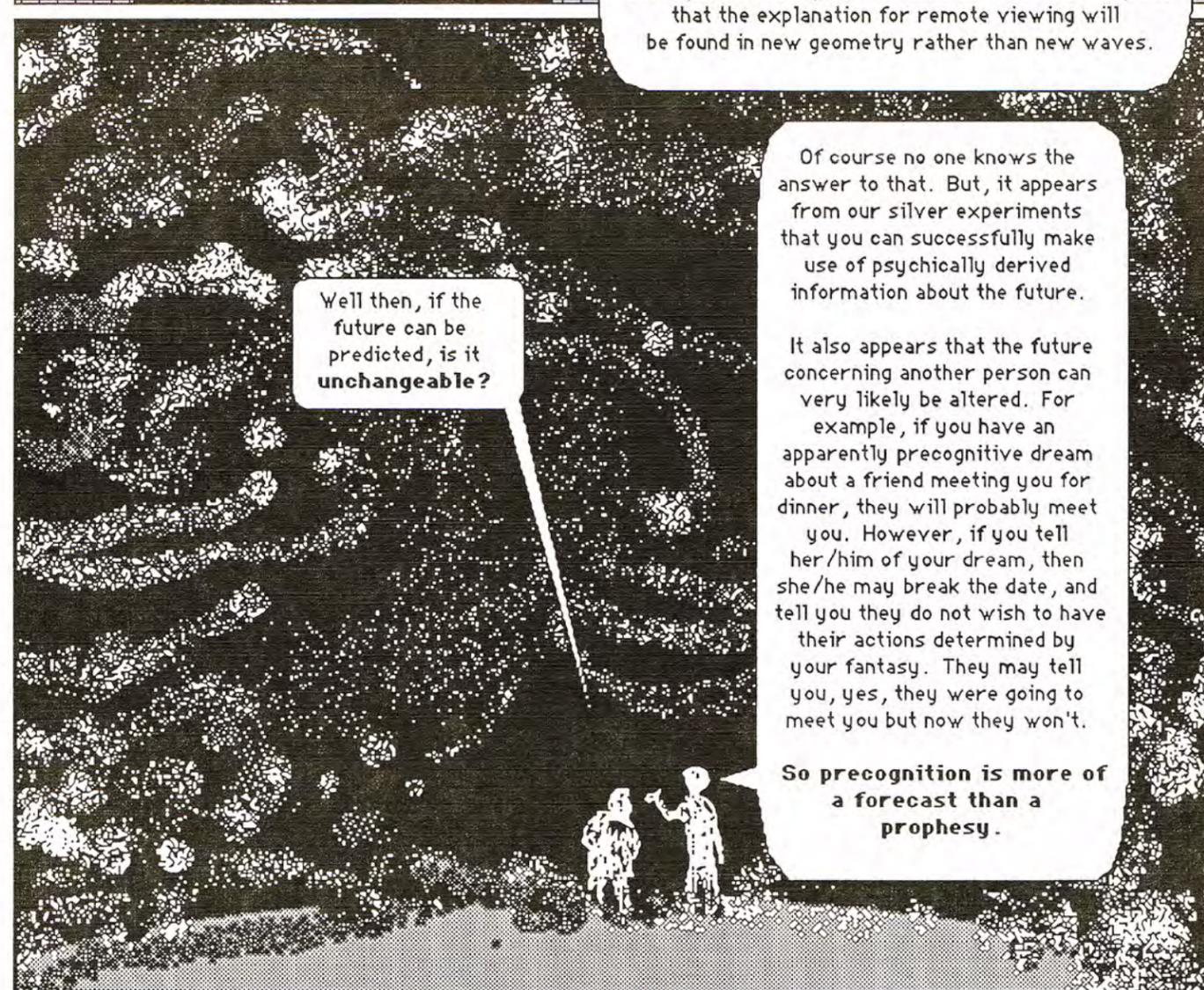
Recently, at the invitation of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, we did successful remote viewing demonstrations all the way from Moscow to San Francisco. Neither distance nor time appear to be a barrier.



But **how** does remote viewing work?

As a physicist, I am sorry to say that we know more about the psychology of remote viewing than about the physics. Our success in these experiments comes from the fact that we are able to show people how to increase their psychic signal and decrease their mental noise. We show them how to separate the information they want from memories, imagination, and analysis, which all interfere with psychic perception. The result is that people improve their psychic performance.

On the physics side, it is evident that ESP is not some kind of mental radio, carried by electromagnetic waves. It is as though we have an unsuspected connectedness in which things that are far away by ordinary measurements, are close and accessible psychically. I believe it will turn out that modern physics seriously misunderstands some part of the space and time in which we live, and that the explanation for remote viewing will be found in new geometry rather than new waves.



Well then, if the future can be predicted, is it **unchangeable**?

Of course no one knows the answer to that. But, it appears from our silver experiments that you can successfully make use of psychically derived information about the future.

It also appears that the future concerning another person can very likely be altered. For example, if you have an apparently precognitive dream about a friend meeting you for dinner, they will probably meet you. However, if you tell her/him of your dream, then she/he may break the date, and tell you they do not wish to have their actions determined by your fantasy. They may tell you, yes, they were going to meet you but now they won't.

So precognition is more of a forecast than a prophesy.

Jamais Vu Views
Madeira Press 2013; Kindle and paperback editions

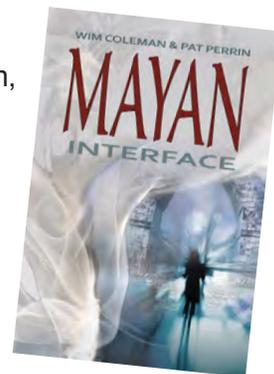
Jamais Vu Views is a work of fiction. Certain actual people agreed to appear as themselves in the fictional events of the original publications: *The Jamais Vu Papers* novel and the *jamais vu papers* newsletters. In this book, they are specifically identified at the head of each interview. With those exceptions, any resemblance to actual or fictional persons or events is entirely coincidental.

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Fiction: Metaphysical and Visionary
Nonfiction: Body, Mind, and Spirit

The newsletter *the jamais vu papers* was circulated to subscribers only. The book *The Jamais Vu Papers* was published by Harmony Books (Crown) in 1991 and reprinted by Plays on Ideas (Coleman/Perrin) in 2013.

See more about *The Jamais Vu Papers*.

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Drowned in Madeira wine, two flies began to recover life.
—Benjamin Franklin

“They had been drowned in Madeira wine.... Having heard it remarked that drowned flies were capable of being revived by the rays of the sun, I proposed making the experiment upon these.... In less than three hours, two of them by degrees began to recover life. They commenced by some convulsive motions in the thighs, and at length they raised themselves upon their legs, wiped their eyes with their fore feet, beat and brushed their wings with their hind feet, and soon after began to fly.... I should prefer to an ordinary death, the being immersed in a cask of Madeira wine, with a few friends ... then to be recalled to life by the solar warmth of my dear country!”

— The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin