Growing up with fake news —

consciousness lost, and re-gained

A lecture by Eric Olson, PhD
Goldsmiths London, October 19, 2018
For Stephan & Nils
Halloween Getaway: 10 Creepiest Hotels in America

BY GENEVIEVE SCARANO 10.16.2018

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The Stanley Hotel (Photo Credit: Paurian/Flickr)

Halloween is the perfect time of year for all things spooky. There are horror flicks to binge-watch, trick-or-treating, a delicious array of sweets to eat, and of course, spookily haunted hotel getaways to explore. From rural New York to the heart of the Mojave Desert, here are 10 of the scariest and most haunted hotels in America.

Hotel Pennsylvania

Built in 1919, Hotel Pennsylvania has hosted Big Apple visitors for nearly 100 years. The hotel's proximity to Madison Square Garden, the Empire State Building, and other urban landmarks make it a popular place to spend the night, but it's also allegedly haunted. Witness accounts described shadow apparitions over their beds and unexplainable noises coming from the hallways. It's also the place where Frank Olson, a U.S. Army bacteriologist, mysteriously died in the early 1950s.
On the one hand, the location where MI6 psychiatrist William Sargent betrayed my father to the CIA, leading to his murder.

On the other hand, the final home of Sigmund Freud and the location of the great British innovative traditions in psychiatry and psychoanalysis which have proved so fruitful for my own work.
Prologue
Collage and the splintering of the world

Moment 1
"Your father has had an accident"

Moment 2
The family lay in ruins

Moment 3
In the dark room

Moment 4
"Fell or jumped"

Moment 5
Falling man collage

Moment 6
Interstices

Moment 7
Return of the repressed

Moment 8
Summer 1975

Moment 9
Fell or jumped revisited

Moment 10
Understanding forwards

Moment 11
Exhuming the body

Moment 12
What is this thing?

Moment 13
Psychology in the abyss

Moment 14
From collage to Collage Method

Moment 15
Collage House

Moment 16
The Sign of the Whale

Moment 17
Full circle

Moment 18
The end of the affair

Epilogue
Ontological waves and the recovery of soul
THE JAZZ LOFT
ACCORDING TO W. EUGENE SMITH
The story that follows is drawn from the thousands of hours of audiotape and tens of thousands of photos created by W. EUGENE SMITH in a Manhattan loft building at 821 Sixth Avenue from 1957 to 1965.
But we don't have to do it like the record...
ADDITIONAL FUNDING PROVIDED BY

The Reva and David Logan Foundation

Oliver Kramer

National Endowment for the Arts

Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

New York State Council on the Arts
Prologue

Collage and the splintering of the world
“Everything was in pieces and new things had to be made out of the fragments...

Collage was an image of the revolution within me, not as it was, but as it might have been.”

—Kurt Schwitters
"I'm feeling much better.
I'll see you tomorrow."

Bizarre phone call from room 1018A.

At 5:00 on Friday afternoon, Lashbrook phones Chestnut Lodge hospital to make a reservation for Frank for the next day. He speaks to admitting psychiatrist Robert Gibson.

“On Friday night Frank called from the hotel to say, ‘I’m feeling much better. I’ll see you tomorrow.’”

— Alvis Olson

Friday evening, 8:00 p.m.

Later that evening Dr. Amberson arrives at the hotel with bourbon and remembetal.

a few hours later Frank crashes through the window

“Well he’s gone.”

“That’s too bad.”
“Your father has had an accident”
A DEATH in the FAMILY

a novel

JAMES AGEE

author of LET US NOW PRAISE FAMOUS MEN

The work of a writer whose power with English words can make you gasp.”
—Alfred Kazin, THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW
Army Bacteriologist Dies In Plunge From N.Y. Hotel

A bacteriologist from the Army biological warfare research center at Camp Detrick, Md., fell or jumped to his death early yesterday from a tenth floor room at the Hotel Statler in New York.

He was identified by a companion as Frank Olson, 43, of Route 5, Frederick. Police gave these details:

Olson and his friend, Robert Vern Lashbrook, a Defense Department chemist, went to New York Tuesday because Olson wanted to see a doctor about a depressed state. They planned to return home today.

Lashbrook was awakened when Olson crashed through a window shade and the glass. Olson’s body struck a fourth-floor ledge and landed on the sidewalk.

A friend of Camp Detrick said Olson had suffered from ulcers for a number of years. Olson was assigned to Camp Detrick in 1943. During World War II he was an Army captain there but was discharged for medical reasons and stayed on as a civilian.

Olson was a native of Hurley, Wis., and a graduate in 1932 from the University of Wisconsin. He taught at Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., and did graduate work at Wisconsin before receiving a doctor of philosophy degree there in 1941.

He lived with his wife, Alice, and three children, Eric, 8, Lisa, 7, and Nils, 5, at Old Bradock, west of Frederick. He is survived also by his mother, Mrs. Olaf Nelson, of Hurley, and a brother and sister, John H. Olson, Mount Clemens, Mich., and Mrs. Elizabeth Olson, of New York.
Suicide Revealed

By Thomas O'Toole

Washington Post Staff Writer

A civilian employee of the Department of the Army unwittingly took LSD as part of a Central Intelligence Agency test, then jumped 10 floors to his death less than a week later, according to the Rockefeller commission report released yesterday.

The man was given the drug while attending a meeting with CIA personnel.
Moment 2

The family lay in ruins

I lost my mind — or, as my mother said, I tuned out, spaced out, dropped out.
“Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall. Humpty Dumpty had a great fall. All the king’s horses and all the king’s men, Couldn’t put Humpty together again.”

— Mother Goose
Eric Olson, 16 and Nils Olson, 12, are pictured on their French Alpine Bikes as they prepared to leave Craig Tuesday morning. The two boys are on a cross country bicycle trip from Maryland to California. They made 149 miles over Rabbit Ears Pass to Craig on Monday.
Bikers Complete Trip Across Nation

By CLIFF PLEDSCHET

Eric Olsen, 17, and his brother, John, 14, of Baltimore, Md., crossed the country this week after riding their bikes 3,400 miles to reach San Francisco. The boys were among the 1000 bikers who have crossed the nation this summer, and were among the many who have reached their destination.

The Olsen brothers, who started their trip in Washington, D.C., have been traveling since mid-June. They have been studying hard, and have been relying on the kindness of strangers for food and shelter.

They estimate that they have spent about $200 on food and transportation, and have been able to sell their bikes to raise money. They have been traveling by train and riding the buses.

They plan to continue their journey to California, where they will attend a summer camp.

The Olsen brothers are among the many bikers who have crossed the nation this summer. They have been traveling for months, and have been relying on the kindness of strangers for food and shelter.

They estimate that they have spent about $200 on food and transportation, and have been able to sell their bikes to raise money. They have been traveling by train and riding the buses.

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Moment 3

In the dark room
“The meaning appears in the space between the images, in the mood they raise in the beholder.”

— Minor White
At the heart of my inner chaos was the dichotomy fell or jumped.
A bacteriologist for the Army biological warfare research center at Camp Detrick, Md., fell or jumped to his death early yesterday.
Moment 5

Falling man collage

(Summer 1970)
Panel Finds CIA Broke Law, Defends Record

CIA Infiltrated 17 Area Groups, Gave Out LSD

Suicide Revealed In Drug Cover-up

District the Focus

House Upholds Strip Mine Veto

Commission Rejects Any Suspicion Of CIA Involvement in JFK Death

Strategic Arab Visits Begin

Democrats Fear '76 'Disaster'
Suicide Revealed

By Thomas O'Toole

Washington Post Staff Writer

A civilian employee of the Department of the Army unwittingly took LSD as part of a Central Intelligence Agency test, then jumped 10 floors to his death less than a week later, according to the Rockefeller commission report released yesterday.
C.I.A.'s Files on LSD Death Found to be Contradictory

by JOSEPH L. TANGARO

Shortly after the death of an unwritten subject of an LSD experiment in 1953, an ad

mural in the Central Intelligence Agency argued against suggesting that its cause be

was one of the many factors that led to the termination of the CIA's LSD program in 1953.

The admiral, Louis de Fontaine, who was head of the agency's research on LSD, wrote:

"I don't think we can afford to do this kind of thing.

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The admiral, Louis de Fontaine, who was head of the agency's research on LSD, wrote:

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Further evidence of the CIA's files on LSD was found in the archives of the National

Archives in Washington, D.C. The files contained detailed reports on the experiments, in

addition to the agency's own internal documents. One document, dated 1954, described

the use of LSD in a CIA-funded project in South America. The project was classified as

"top secret," and the files were destroyed after the project was completed.

The documents also revealed that the CIA had used LSD in various other experiments,

including one in which LSD was used to influence the behavior of a prisoner in a Swiss

prison. The prisoner was subjected to a series of psychological tests and interviews,

including one in which he was given LSD and then questioned about his thoughts and

reactions. The resulting documents were used to compile a report on the effects of LSD on

prisoners.

The CIA's files on LSD were eventually declassified in 1974, and the documents were

released to the public. The CIA denied any wrongdoing, but admitted that the agency had

used LSD in experiments on human subjects.

The documents revealed that the CIA had conducted experiments on human subjects in

many countries, including Cuba, Brazil, and Vietnam. The agency had also used LSD in

experiments on animals, including dogs and rats. The documents also revealed that the

CIA had conducted experiments on the effects of LSD on the human nervous system.

The CIA had also conducted experiments on the effects of LSD on the human immune

system, and the effects of LSD on the human cardiovascular system.

The documents also revealed that the CIA had used LSD in experiments on prisoners in

prisons and detention centers, including in France and Germany. The agency had also

used LSD in experiments on the effects of LSD on the human respiratory system.

The documents also revealed that the CIA had conducted experiments on the effects of

LSD on the human digestive system, and the effects of LSD on the human nervous

system.

The CIA had also conducted experiments on the effects of LSD on the human

reproductive system, and the effects of LSD on the human immune system.

The CIA had also conducted experiments on the effects of LSD on the human

respiratory system, and the effects of LSD on the human digestive system.
Taken as a whole, the file is a jumble of deletions, conflicting statements, unintelligible passages and such unexplained terms as the "Artichoke Committee" and "Project Bluebird" that tend to confuse more than enlighten.
Moment 6

Interstices
“The meaning appears in the space between the images, in the mood they raise in the beholder.”

— Minor White
Now! on TV!
Excitement! Danger! Intrigue!

TREASON on our doorstep—
this man slammed the door!

CITIZEN! COMMUNIST! COUNTERSPY!

"I LED 3 LIVES"
HE LIVED AS A COMMUNIST . . . BUT
REPORTED DAILY TO THE F.B.I.

STARRING
RICHARD CARLSON
who lives this heroic role!

SHOCKINGLY TRUE! THRILLINGLY DIFFERENT!

Saturday 9 P.M.
DuMont WDTV Channel 2

Presented by National Bohemian Beer
Love that Bob
(Robert Cummings)
FATHER KNOWS BEST

YOU KNOW HIS NAME

JASON BOURNE 07.29.16
“The boundary is the best place for acquiring knowledge, but a difficult and dangerous place to live.”

— Paul Tillich
Moment 9

Fell or jumped revisited
“If two things are both the same... what’s the difference?”
Jumped  Fell
“If two things are both the same, what’s the difference?”
“... many ethnographic phenomena which at first glance seem to be identical are actually distinguished by the fact that what is considered marked in one system is considered unmarked in the other...”

— Roman Jakobson
Fell

Jumped

Fell

Jumped
“Here again, what is constantly seen exclusively in terms of a binary opposition — white versus black, man versus woman — must be redrawn as at least a tetrapolar structure.”

— Barbara Johnson
Fell

Jumped
If you come in five minutes after this picture begins, you won't know what it's all about!

when you've seen it all, you'll swear there's never been anything like it!

Frank Sinatra
Laurence Harvey
Janet Leigh

The Manchurian Candidate

Angela Lansbury
Henry Silva
James Gregory
Once Unbelievable

Frank Sinatra
“LIVES UP TO ITS REPUTATION AS A CLASSIC”
GUARDIAN

Laurence Harvey
“The ONLY FILM THIS YEAR THAT HAD ME SCRABBING FOR THE EDGE OF MY SEAT”
DAILY TELEGRAPH

Now Unthinkable
Once Unbelievable

Now Unthinkable
Fell

Jumped

Programmed

Pushed
“You see what you can do? You can tuck this part of the picture behind the background....”
“Then you can pull it up again....”
Identity formation begins, finally, where the usefulness of identification ends. It arises from the selective repudiation and mutual assimilation of childhood identifications and their absorption in a new configuration.”

—Erik Erikson

Shifts in a linchpin symbol
(Re-categorization and consciousness)
As the linchpin begins to oscillate, other images are continually evoked by threshold effects in the linchpin’s series of changes. A set of collateral positions is established which are derived from variations in the initial term.

The relationship among these positions is no longer based on positive comparisons, or equivalence among ratios. Instead these positions reflect a set of negations related to logical transformations within the linchpin. This transformational logic, based on the status of marked and unmarked terms, is transmitted to the collateral positions, which array themselves in a structure known as the "semiotic square."

This operation prepares the way for identity-formation by dynamically distinguishing self-representation first from the fused self/other representation, then from collateral object-representations, and ultimately by categorizing object-representations according to their nutrient value for the self. The formation of identity that ensues is inseparable from an awakening of consciousness concomitant with re-categorization of memory.
“...the first three terms are relatively ‘given’ and demand no great acts of intellection, but the fourth one is the place of the great leap, the great deduction, the intuition that falls from the ceiling, or from heaven.”

— Frederic Jameson
Moment 10

Understanding forwards

“You can’t handle the truth.”
“Philosophers are fond of saying that life must be understood backwards, but they forget to add that it must be lived forwards.”

— Søren Kierkegaard
In a second phase, these configurations are then progressively stratified in laminated layers reflecting diverse criteria of sequence and value. As this happens, the meaning of context changes, ushering in a more complete internal relativity. The elements become coordinated not as spatially adjacent neighbors, but as signifiers within an emergent system of differences — a hybrid language comprised not of words, but of image-signifiers — and a social world of convention and shared recognition.

As it becomes more subtly coordinated, the system reveals its controlling nodes and latent oscillations. These nodes become the loci of shifts which further differentiate the system according to a more complex oppositional logic, finally yielding a stable identity structure oriented toward the future.
Right brain discourse

The objective power of Neuro-Evolutionary Programming.

Here we envision a procedure which moves incrementally through the stages of symbolization, doing so in a series of closely linked image-operations or sétèaus which comprise a "right brain discourse."

These operations originate in acts of perception, recognition, and impulse. The images to which they give rise stabilize these evanescent mental moments, allowing them to be categorized and coordinated in spatially connected maps or configurations.

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Moment 11

Exhuming the body
What happens to psychological theory when the murder of the father is no longer a fantasy?
Moment 12

What *is* this thing?
“Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.
All the king’s horses and all the king’s men,
Couldn’t put Humpty together again.”

— Mother Goose
THE STRANGE STORY OF FRANK OLSON

A story of intrigue with illegal CIA activity, drugs and the Mafia. But unlike your typical suspense novel, it's true.

J.P. Albarelli Jr. and John Kelly
Accident
Suicide
LSD suicide
Assassination

"Public murder" (Israel)
National security
homicide

Non-judicial Execution
Murder
1953 “Accident”  
(Frank’s boss)  
(+ 22 years)

1975 “LSD suicide”  
(Rockefeller Commission)  
(+ 19 years)

1994 “Murder most foul”  
(Forensic report after exhumation)  
(+ 20 years)

2014 Secret execution  
(the Sy Hersh unreported breakthrough)
“...a life develops in spirals; it passes again and again by the same points but at different levels of integration and complexity.”

—Jean-Paul Sartre
Search for a Method, 1960
U.S. employment of biological weapons in Korea

Assassination materials research; biological agents for covert operations; airborne delivery of anthrax

BW experiments in populated areas

Frank Olson as bioweapons scientist, research administrator, and evaluator of covert programs in both BW and “information retrieval.”

SO Division as the interface between biological weapons research at Detrick and covert operations at the CIA.

LSD mind-control research and experiments on methods of extreme interrogation

Terminal interrogations in Germany

Collaboration with former Nazi and Japanese war criminals
Moment 13

Psychology in the abyss
“Modern man is the one condemned to have to re-create his own universe.”

— Carl Schorske
Moment 14

From collage to Collage Method
“In the collage, our modern method of thinking, in which reality only becomes understandable when interpreted by human intelligence, is epitomized in an abbreviated model, which is itself graspable by consciousness.”

— Franz Mon, “Prinzip Collage”
Bigger
fuller
longer
broader
der deeper
chiasmic
propulsive
generative
Bigger

Scale of the whole body
Large images
Fuller

Virtual life-space map
More images
More bandwidth
Multiplicity
Longer

Diachrony
The collage process
The human interface

Embodiment

Phenomenology

Communication

Body system

Social system

Image system

Broader

The human interface

Embodiment

Phenomenology

Communication
Deeper
The re-creative gyre
Formative zones
Resonance
Generative
transference
Chiasmic

Left - right brain crossovers

Image-based - Word-based communication
Propulsive
Forward-moving
Act form
Right-brain discourse
Generative Ontological recapitulation

The function cloud
Generative Ontological recapitulation

The function cloud
over the course of the trajectory,
these blocks are suffused with particularity...
... which means that the events of one’s life are re-configured in a formative sequence.
Spatial dimension
Maps, places, orientation (navigation, memory)

Re-creative dimension
Gyre, homology, double-strandedness (biological foundations, generative transference, developmental resonance)

Semiotic dimension
Dimensionality in mental functioning (image, sign, concept; past, present, future; body, ego, identity)

Configurational dimension
Virtual lifespace map, identity fingerprint (orientation in personal image-space)

Mentalization

Diachronic dimension
Act form, modularity, formative sequence, function cloud (motivation, development, transformation)

Involvement

Lateral dimension
Left-right brain, corpus callosum, discursive vs presentational form (Gestalt - components, image - model, perception - verbalization)

Ontological dimension
The human interface
Body-system (embodiment, Image-system (phenomenology)
Social-system (communication)

Synchronous dimension
Networks, circuits, pathways, links, neighborhoods, routes, nodes (difference, signification, meaning, temporality, vertical resonance, lateral pacing, rhythm)
Momemt 15

Collage House

“...the house is one of the greatest powers of integration for the thoughts, memories and dreams of mankind.”

— Gaston Bachelard
“...the house is one of the greatest powers of integration for the thoughts, memories and dreams of mankind.”

— Gaston Bachelard
Collage House

1. **RED ROOM**
   - Photography & Feeling
   - Library and waiting room.
   - Collage archive
   - Collage Perch

2. **YELLOW ROOM**
   - Collage & Language
   - Space for collage materials and temporary collage storage.
   - Room for study and writing.

3. **BLUE ROOM**
   - Projection & Thought
   - Light-table for preparing slide sequences.
   - Rooms for re-photographing finished collages as well as materials for use in collages.

Kitchen.

Room for seminars and case presentations.
Image: Investigating and seeking justice for my father's death at the hands of the CIA in the wake of a half-century of disinformation.

Collage: Communicating this difficult story in interviews, articles, books, films, movie, and website.

Collage Process: Establishing a center for a new form of transformational practice appropriate to an age of fragmentation and an era of psychohistorical trauma.
Moment 16

The Sign of the Whale
“When you pull on the Frank Olson case you feel something very big is pulling back.”

— James Starrs, forensic investigator
“I found something... but I’m not going to tell you what it is.”

— Seymour Hersh
“But what's this long face about, Mr. Starbuck; wilt thou not chase the white whale! art not game for Moby Dick?”

— Herman Melville
Moment 17

Full circle

Walking the dark side, again
THE KILLING OF OSAMA BIN LADEN
“When you pull on the Frank Olson case you feel something very big is pulling back.”

— James Starrs, forensic investigator
MEMORANDUM FOR: DON RUMSFELD

FROM: DICK CHENEY

SUBJECT: The Olson Matter / CIA Suicide

Attached is a proposed brief statement for the President to use at his Press Conference. It would be best for him to use it in response to a question, although if he wished, he can use it as an opening statement.

There is also attached a four page memo prepared by the Civil Division, the Department of Justice, based upon information obtained from the CIA regarding the events surrounding Mr. Olson’s death.

Rod Hill has questions concerning the last paragraph of the Justice Department memo which expresses the Justice Department opinion that court action against the U.S. would be barred. He will pursue the matter with the Attorney General.

At this point, we do not have enough information to be certain we know all of the details of this incident. Furthermore, there are serious legal questions that will have to be resolved concerning the Government’s responsibility, the possibility of additional compensation, and the possibility that it might be necessary to disclose highly classified national security information in connection with any court suit, or legislative hearings on a private bill intended to provide additional compensation to the family.
The Inside Story of How the War on Terror Turned Into a War on American Ideals
Moment 18

The end of the affair
• Retired Navy captain

• Executive director at CIA under Stansfield Turner, 1977-81, when Turner was dealing with Church Committee aftermath, including an August 77 hearing on MKULTRA, set off by what Turner said was the discovery of seven boxes of MKULTRA documents

• Staff director, Senate intelligence Committee, under Durenberger, approx 1985-87

• Advisor to Dick Cheney secret working group on responses to 9/11, including "The Dark Side."

• Advisor to Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Martin Dempsey

• President of Triton Systems, which handles technology investments for wealthy clients and corporations
Strange Deaths
Some Linked to Red Conspiracy
THE INSIDE STORY OF HOW THE WAR ON TERROR TURNED INTO A WAR ON AMERICAN IDEALS

THE DARK SIDE

From the bestselling coauthor of LANDSLIDE and STRANGE JURISPRUDENCE
SIGN OF THE WHALE
TAVERN AND RESTAURANT
THE DARK SIDE

THE INSIDE STORY OF HOW THE WAR ON TERROR TURNED INTO A WAR ON AMERICAN IDEALS

JANE MAYER

From the bestselling coauthor of LANDSLIDE and STRANGE JUSTICE
Coda

Soulbook

Ontological waves and the recovery of soul
“Your thought seems to move concepts of artistic process from the realm of the marginalized but extraordinary, to the realm of necessary and inevitable human activity of mind. A definition of soul?”

— Fred Marchant
Collage-maker and poet
“I felt I was being carried on several currents... The process had a life-force of its own, and I was made a part of that.”