

35 years of ESC... 20 congresses

A personal view and overview

TIM TRACHET

- founder – honorary chair SKEPP, Belgium
- vice president ECSO
- asteroid 7013



Bad Tölz 1989



Bad Tölz 1989



Bad Tölz 1989



Bad Tölz 1989

08:30 - 09:30	OPEN FORUM "WHAT SHOULD CSICOP DO IN EUROPE" <i>Moderator:</i> Claude Benski, Secretary General, Comité Français pour l'Étude des Phénomènes Paranormaux, Grenoble, France
09:30 - 10:45	SESSION VII GRAPHOLOGY (English) <i>Chairperson:</i> Prof. R. König, Dept. of Psychology, University of Giessen, FRG: Mr. M. Plummer: Graphology, An Evaluation of the Evidence Dr. P. Halder-Sinn, Dept. of Psychology, University of Giessen, FRG: Graphology in Germany - Methodological and Conceptual Issues.
11:00 - 12:45	SESSION VIII PHILOSOPHY OF PSEUDOSCIENCE 1 (English) <i>Chairperson:</i> Mr. R. Wiechoczek, Head, Public Observatory Paderborn, Chairman, Astrology Subcommittee of GWUP Dr. J.A. Lord, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Surrey, UK: Parapsychology, the Suicidal Pseudoscience Dr. S.O. Hansson, Dept. of Philosophy, University of Uppsala, Sweden: Anthroposophy, the Philosophy of a Pseudoscience Dr. C. Roslund, Section of Astronomy, University of Gothenburg, Sweden: Astrology, Science or Pseudoscience
12:45 - 14:30	FUND - RAISING LUNCH Hosted by James Randi and Mark Plummer
14:30 - 15:45	SESSION IX PHILOSOPHY OF PSEUDOSCIENCE 2 (English) <i>Chairperson:</i> Dr. R. König Dr. C. Benski: Three Risks in Hypothesis Testing Dr. J.P. Van Bendegem: New Arguments for Drawing the Distinction Between Science and Pseudoscience from Modern Philosophy of Science
14:30 - 15:45	SESSION X PHILOSOPHY OF PSEUDOSCIENCE 3 (German/English) <i>Chairperson:</i> Prof. P. Knipschild Mr. A. Dill, Journalist, Rudolstadt, German Democratic Republic: Pseudowissenschaft und Faschismus - Gestern und Heute (Pseudoscience and Facism - Past and Present) Dr. H.J. Fischer, Free-lance Journalist and Consultant, Bristol, UK: Pathological Science in the U.K.

Bad Tölz 1989



Bad Tölz 1989



Brussels 1990



Brussels 1990



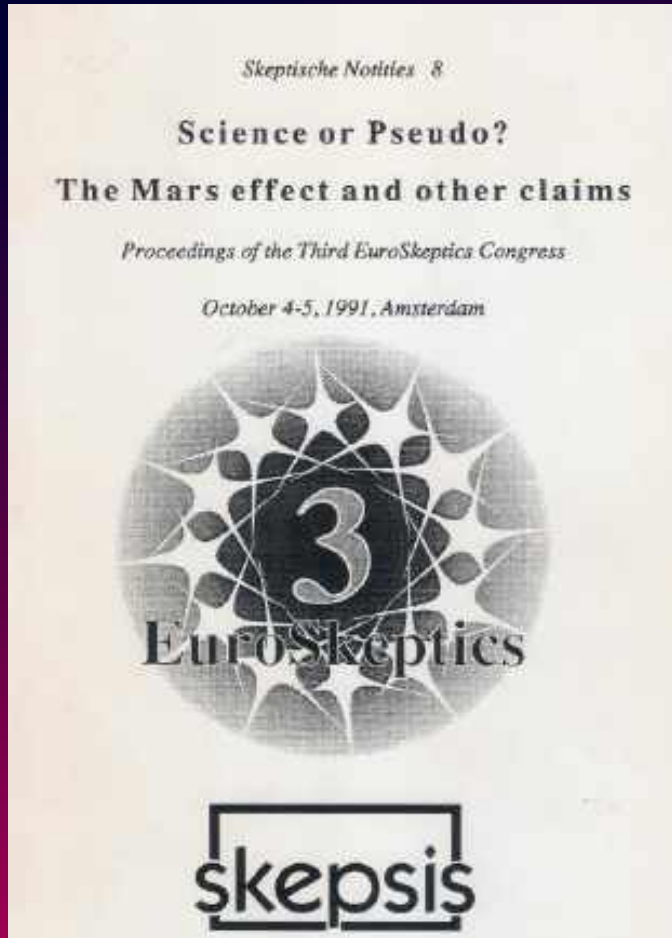
Brussels 1990



Amsterdam 1991



Amsterdam 1991



Amsterdam 1991

Paul Kurtz:	
In the Eye of the Beholder: The Psychology of Paranormal Belief	1
J. Hilgevoord:	
The world according to Quantum Mechanics	11
Steven F. Hartkamp:	
Should the state interfere in paranormal practices?	19
Rob H. Nanninga:	
Skeptics and parapsychologists. Let's cooperate!	33
Wim Betz:	
The Struggle of Alternative Medicine for Recognition	42
M. Heap:	
Science in Everyday Life	49
Terence Hines:	
Placebo Practitioners.	
Psychotherapists as Native Healers from Park Avenue to Borneo	59
Michael E. Howgate:	
Looking for a Witness of the Flood	69
Claudio Benski:	
A Pedagogical Project of Paranormal Research	
in an Engineering School	77

Amsterdam 1991



Saint-Vincent 1992



Saint-Vincent 1992



Saint-Vincent 1992



Saint-Vincent 1992

allo stato solido;

Il sangue di S. Gennaro
allo stato liquido



Saint-Vincent 1992



Saint-Vincent 1992



Keele 1993



Keele 1993



Keele 1993



Keele 1993



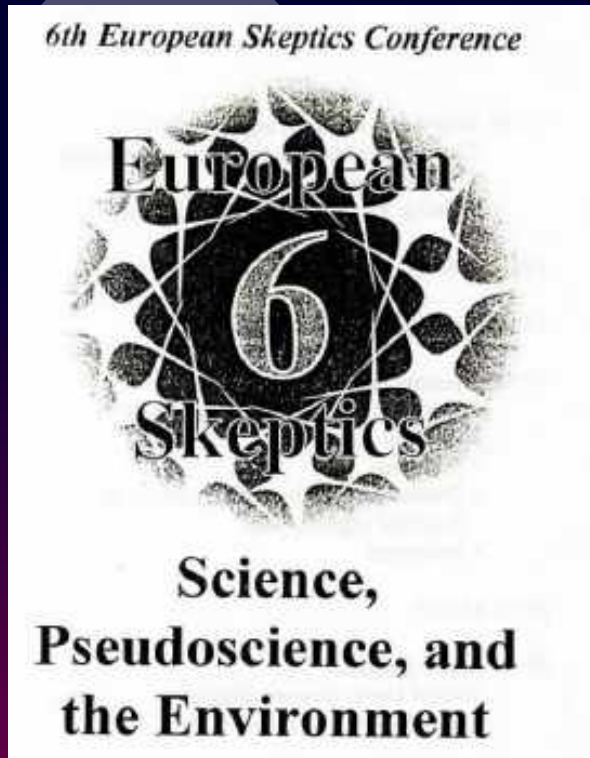
Ostend 1994



Ostend 1994



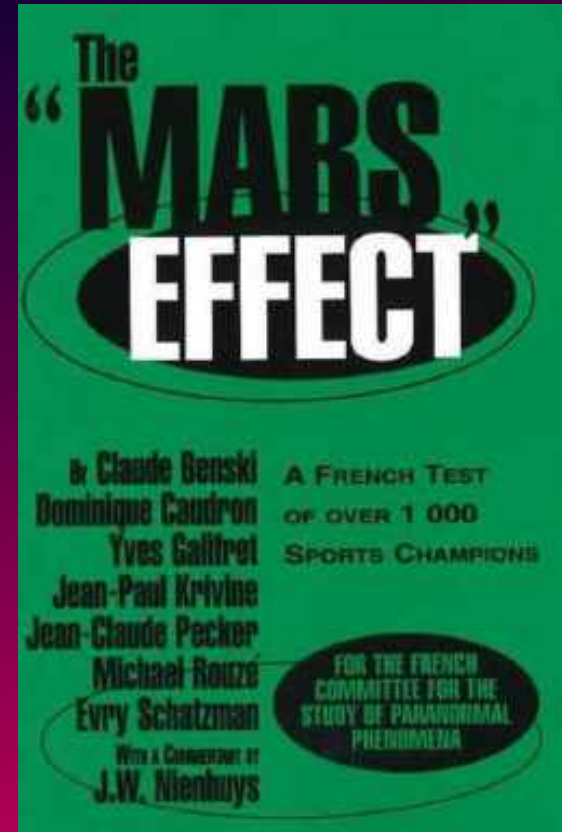
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Ostend 1994



Ostend 1994

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	Bradley	Alan	Ja	23/09/94	25/09/94	0
	Brett	Ivor	Ja	23/09/94	25/09/94	1
	De Ceuster	Jean	Nee			0
Z	De Jager	Cornelis	Ja	23/09/94	25/09/94	2
	De Marre	Lue		25/09/94	25/09/94	0
	De Neeling	Albert	Ja	23/09/94	25/09/94	1
Z	Dill	Andreas	Ja	23/09/94	25/09/94	0
	Dommanget	Jean	Ja	25/09/94	25/09/94	0
	Fougnes	Arlotte	Ja	23/09/94	25/09/94	0
	Gauguelin	Francoise		25/09/94	25/09/94	0
	Geilhaupt	Michael	Ja	23/09/94	25/09/94	0
	Hall	Richard	Ja	22/09/94	25/09/94	1
	Howgate	Michael Edmund	Ja	22/09/94	26/09/94	1
2	HUS	Hugo	Ja	23/09/94	25/09/94	1
Z	Hutchinson	Mike	Ja	22/09/94	26/09/94	4
	Hyvarinen	Lassi	Nee	23/09/94	25/09/94	2
#	Krivine	Jean-Paul	Ja	23/09/94	25/09/94	0
	Louwagie	Renauld	Nee			0
	MAGIELS	GEERDT	Ja	24/09/94	25/09/94	1

Ostend 1994

	Bat	Wim	Ja	22/09/94	25/09/94	0
	Bradley	Alan	Ja	23/09/94	25/09/94	0
	Brett	Ivor	Ja	23/09/94	25/09/94	1
	De Ceuster	Jean	Nee			0
Z	De Jager	Cornelis	Ja	23/09/94	25/09/94	2
	De Marre	Lue		25/09/94	25/09/94	0
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	Fougnes	Arlotte	Ja	23/09/94	25/09/94	0
	Gauguelin	Francoise		25/09/94	25/09/94	0
	Geilhaupt	Michael	Ja	23/09/94	25/09/94	0
	Hall	Richard	Ja	22/09/94	25/09/94	1
	Howgate	Michael Edmund	Ja	22/09/94	26/09/94	1
2	HUS	Hugo	Ja	23/09/94	25/09/94	1
Z	Hutchinson	Mike	Ja	22/09/94	26/09/94	4
	Hyvarinen	Lassi	Nee	23/09/94	25/09/94	2
#	Krivine	Jean-Paul	Ja	23/09/94	25/09/94	0
	Louwagie	Renaud	Nee			0
	MAGIELS	GEERDT	Ja	24/09/94	25/09/94	1



Ostend 1994



AGREEMENT

The Organizations signing this Agreement establish the European Council of Skeptical Organizations (ECSO).

ECSO is a scientific and educational organization. A Statement of Aims of ECSO is given in the appendix to this Agreement. To fulfill these aims ECSO will

- organize an annual congress,
- exchange information,
- act as a source of information for European and other supernatural institutions,
- intensify and stimulate collaboration in activities such as research projects, lectures and conferences,
- encourage and promote the setting up of new national or regional groups.

Applications for the membership by European skeptical organizations will be considered by Council.

Each Member Organization appoints one delegate to Council. Council will meet at least once a year. At the annual meeting a chairman and a secretary will be elected and the administrative budget of ECSO will be fixed, as well as the financial contributions from the Member Organizations.

This Agreement will come into force on the first of January, 1995.

Signed at Ostend on September 25th, 1994 by the representatives of the Founding Member Organizations:

Belgium:

Comité Para

SEPP

[Signature]
[Signature] (Jean Van der Vliet)

Germany:

EWLP

Netherlands:

SEEPSIS

Spain:

ARP

U.K.:

UK Skeptics

USA:

ECSOP

[Signature] (Antonio Sarma)
[Signature] (Cornelis de Jager)
[Signature]
[Signature] (Paul Kuntz)

Ostend 1994



Roßdorf 1995



Roßdorf 1995



Roßdorf 1995



Rosßdorf 1995



Roßdorf 1995



Roßdorf 1995



La Coruña 1997



La Coruña 1997



La Coruña 1997



La Coruña 1997



Maastricht 1999

Skeptical Challenges of the 21st Century

The conference will focus on the skeptical challenges of the coming century in the fields of environment, physical and mental health, secularisation and the media. Despite the continuing growth of our scientific knowledge and the clear need for science and rationalism to face our global problems, there is little indication that pseudo-scientific ideas and unfounded claims of wonder are about to disappear. Instead, the continuing individualisation and globalisation of modern culture facilitates the spreading of new myths and belief systems in various sectors of society. The unstoppable commercialization of the media, will only add to this development. Skepticism should prepare for these challenges, finding better ways to reach new audiences.

The tenth European Skeptics Congress will take place on 17-19 September at the University of Maastricht. It is organized by Skepsis, the Dutch Foundation of skepticism, and sponsored by Stichting Wetenschap en Techniek Nederland.

skepsis
Stichting
Wetenschap en Techniek Nederland

weten

10th European Skeptics Congress

17-19 September 1999
at Maastricht University

website: www.skepsis.org
e-mail: skepsis@skepsis.org

Skeptics Congress



Maastricht 1999

Friday 17 September

Tongersestraat 53
Chair: Prof. dr. Jacob van Noordwijk

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 11:00 - 13:00 | Registration and lunch |
| 13:00 - 13:05 | Prof. dr. Kees de Jager
<i>Welcome by the chairman of ECSO</i> |
| 13:05 - 13:20 | Prof. Joop Doorman
<i>Opening address by the chairman of Skepsis</i> |
| 13:20 - 13:50 | Rob Nanninga
<i>Myths about brainwashing cults</i> |
| 13:50 - 14:20 | Dr. Herman de Tollaere
<i>Antisemitism in esoteric and pseudo-scientific tendencies</i> |
| 14:20 - 15:00 | Prof. Willem Betz
<i>The alternative's progress</i> |
| 15:00 - 15:30 | Tea break |
| 15:30 - 16:00 | Eis Boshuizen
<i>The creation of medical expertise</i> |
| 16:00 - 16:30 | Dr. Gerben ter Riet
<i>The placebo effect: Seminal papers</i> |
| 16:30 - 17:00 | Ab de Neeling
<i>Ghost surgeons (slide show)</i> |
| 21:00 - 23:00 | ECSO meeting |

Maastricht

Maastricht is one of the

Saturday 18 September

Minderbroedersberg 3
Chair: Prof. Joop Doorman

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 10:00 - 10:30 | Registration |
| 10:30 - 11:00 | Wayne Spencer
<i>Skepticism in the twenty-first century</i> |
| 11:00 - 11:30 | Coffee break |
| 11:30 - 12:00 | Prof. dr. Jean Paul van Bendegem
<i>Argumentation theory and pseudoscience</i> |
| 12:00 - 12:45 | Mogens Winther
<i>Youth, astronomy and big business astrology</i> |
| 12:45 - 14:00 | Lunch break |
| 14:00 - 14:30 | Dr. Massimo Polidoro
<i>Investigating old mysteries</i> |
| 14:30 - 15:00 | Dr. Christopher French
<i>Skepticism, the paranormal and the media: A British perspective</i> |
| 15:00 - 15:30 | Dr. Michael Heap
<i>Hypnosis, the place for skepticism</i> |
| 15:30 - 16:00 | Tea break |
| 16:00 - 16:30 | Prof. dr. Peter van Koppen
<i>The unshakeable belief in witnesses and suspects</i> |
| 16:30 - 17:00 | Mark O'Leary
<i>The genetically manipulated food scare</i> |
| 17:15 - 18:30 | City walk |
| 18:30 - 22:30 | Moonlight Cruise with dinner on the river Meuse |

Prague 2001



Prague 2001



Prague 2001



London 2003



London 2003



London 2003



Brussels 2005



Brussels 2005



Brussels 2005



Brussels 2005



Brussels 2005



Dublin 2007



Dublin 2007



Dublin 2007



Dublin 2007

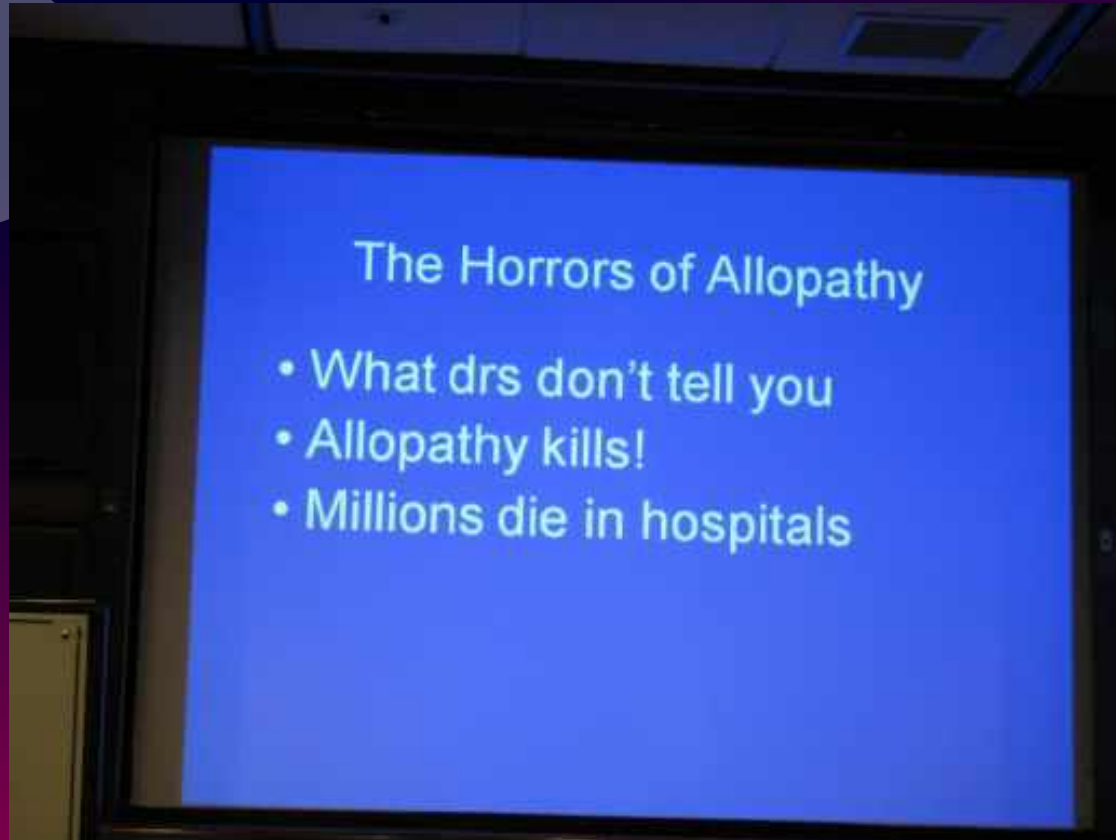


Dublin 2007

What is Pseudoscience?

- A pseudoscience is a boastful pretender to scientific status.
- Pseudosciences have the outward trappings of legitimate sciences, but they lack most or all of the attitudes, methodologies, rigour, replicable findings, and institutional safeguards that a genuine science would have.

Dublin 2007



Budapest 2010



Budapest 2010



Budapest 2010



Budapest 2010



Budapest 2010



Stockholm 2013



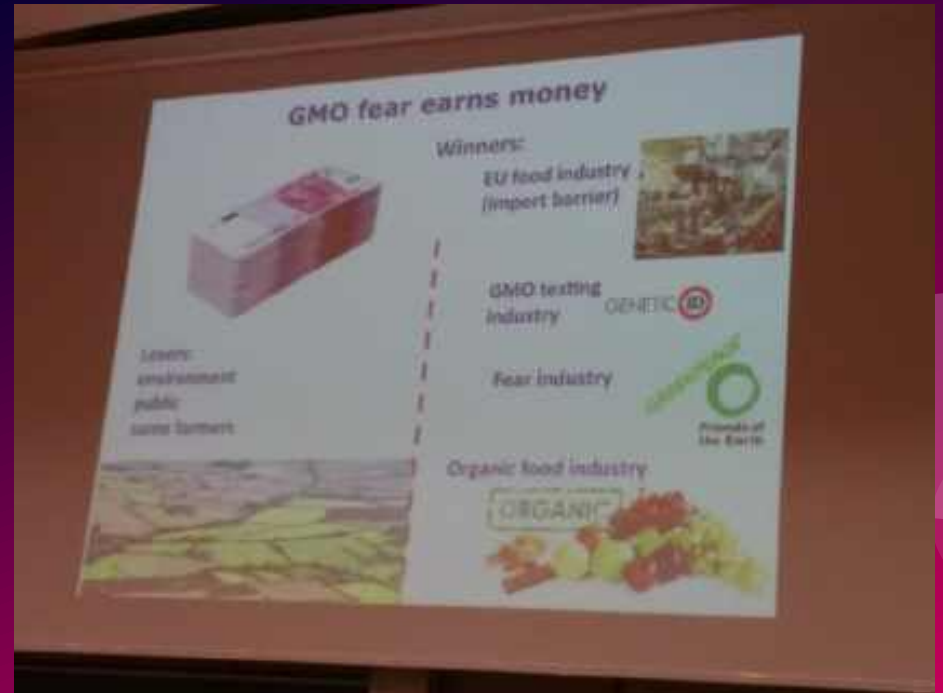
London 2015



London 2015



Wrocław 2017



Wrocław 2017



Ghent 2019



Vienna 2021



Vienna 2021



Vienna 2021



Conclusions: evolution in 35 years

- More and more “European”, thanks to ECSO
- Some subjects became “classics”
- Enlargement of topics: less “paranormal”, more societal
- Fewer attention to works of skeptical groups and individual skeptics

And what now?

- More and better ESC's
- Look at new formulas?
- More and better research of our past
-

Bad Tölz 1989

