

Global Entanglements of Eastern Bloc Parapsychology during the Cold War

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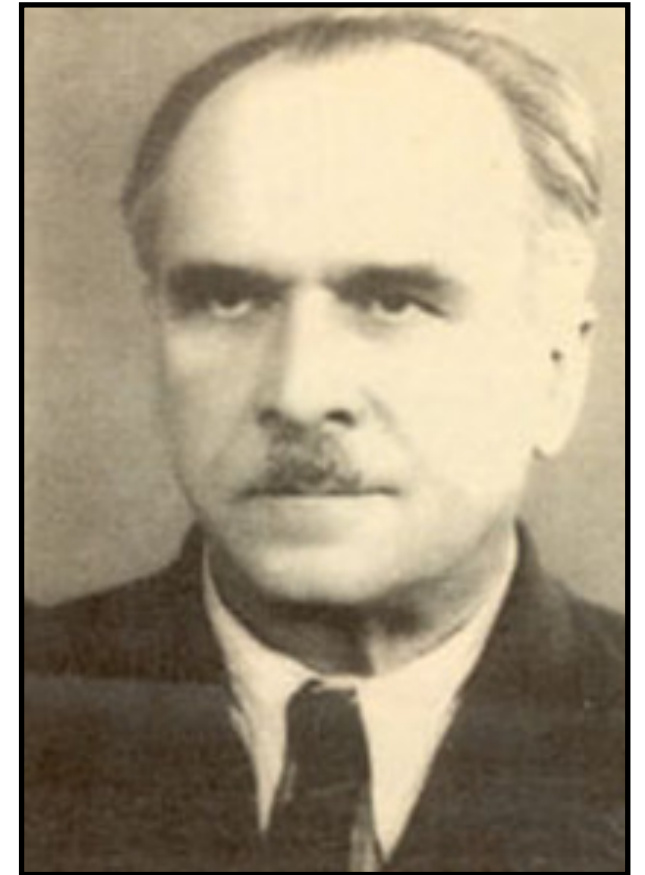
Parapsychology: an overview

- The 19 cent emergence
- A [scholarly] field to study paranormal phenomena
- In some countries blended with local occult milieux in its early stages
- 1882 *The Society for Psychic Research*
- 1930+ Famous Lab at the Duke University under leadership of J B Rhine
- 1959 The Nautilus telepathy experiment ~ hoax => psychic wars

Leonid Vasil'ev (1960s): „*The discovery of energy behind extrasensory perception would rival that of atomic energy.*“

=> *This belief* led the Soviet bloc and the US to spend over 13 million USD annually on parapsychology

Soviet backing unsystematic, varied, KGB



Situation differed also in the Soviet bloc states

Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria key hubs beyond the USSR

International knowledge exchange beyond the bloc: 1971 telepathy San Francisco – Moscow

Focus & Aims

- institutional backing of Cold War era parapsychology in the Soviet Bloc (less known)
- explore the researchers' involvement in international parapsychological associations and transnational knowledge exchange
- Study how they negotiated their agency between scholarly, political, military, and intelligence discourses and demands
- For example...

Global Entanglements of Cold War Parapsychology: **Czechoslovakia**

1967–1985 Secret police agent

Term psychotronics

1973 IAPR => conference
series

International connections

dozens of times to the USSR by
governmental or soviet aircraft

Published in the US

1980–1992 a Lab in Prague

Zdeněk Rejda (1934–2004)



(IAPR congress, Bratislava 1983)

Global Entanglements of Cold War Parapsychology: Czechoslovakia

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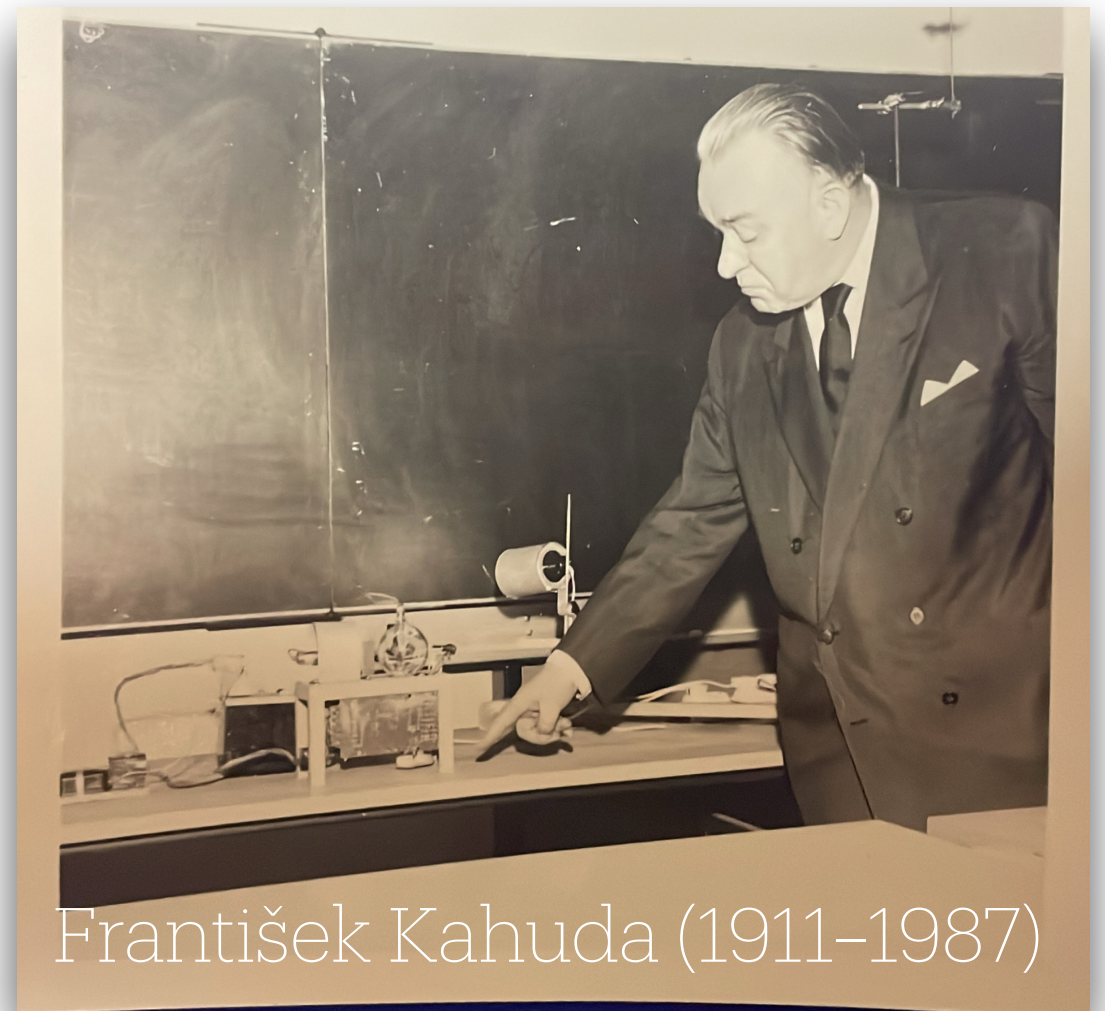
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František Kahuda (1911–1987)

Minister of education 1954–1963

„Socialist warlock“

Many times in the USSR

1978 Psychoenergetical Lab

Anna Ozhiganova: Soviet Research into "Dermo-Optic Perception" in the Context of the Cold War Interest in Paranormal

Viktoria Vitanova-Kerber: Suggestopedia Goes Global: Bulgaria's Parapsychological Network Around the World

Karolina Maria Kotkowska: Crossing Borders of Countries and Minds: Exteriorization in the Context of Polish Parapsychology and Psychotronics

