

Zofia Weaver



Zofia Weaver (b 1947) is a council member of the Society for Psychical Research with a particular interest in the history of mediums in her native Poland.

Life and Career

Zofia Weaver was born on 3 July 1947 in Katowice, Poland. Her early education was in Poland. She received a BA in Slavonic Studies and later a PhD in Language Universals from Nottingham University in 1980, then qualified as an English teacher at secondary level, but gave up her post to pursue a long-term interest in psychical research.

Weaver has over twenty years of experience in translation projects, specializing in translating Polish musicological studies and acting as English language consultant for major translation projects to do with music.

Psychical Research

Weaver became interested in psychical research through reading Rosalind Heywood's books *The Sixth Sense* (1959) and *The Infinite Hive* (1964), impressed by the author's evident rationality and the amazing nature of the phenomena she described, some of which Heywood experienced personally.

Weaver joined the SPR in 1982. She was editor of the *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* from 1999 to 2002 and is currently its associate editor.

Weaver's studies have been principally of Polish mediums, notably Franek Kluski, who produced striking physical and mental phenomena between 1918 and 1925. She is keen to ensure that the material on this subject, collected by French researchers [Gustave Geley](#) and [Charles Richet](#), becomes better known. Her 2015 book *Other Realities? The Enigma of Franek Kluski's Mediumship* describes his varied career and significance to psychical research.

Together with Michael Nahm, Weaver is working on a translation of Norbert Okolowicz's extensive work on Kluski.^[1] This highlights the variety of phenomena Kluski produced during his séances, including lights, movements of objects, materialized hands and their paraffin moulds, experiments with compass needles, apports, stigmata and other body marks, levitations, and apparitions.

Weaver has helped to expand knowledge of another Polish medium, Stefan Ossowiecki, describing in detail the experiments that were conducted with him.^[2] She has also translated into English descriptions of psychical phenomena observed by Julian Ochorowicz, a Polish philosopher and psychical researcher, notably during investigations with the Italian medium [Eusapia Palladino](#) in Italy and Warsaw. The latter were exceptionally well-documented, including detailed descriptions of the séances and commentary by attendees such as Bolesław Prus, the pen name of Aleksander Głowacki, a journalist, novelist and close friend of Ochorowicz, who wrote:

With so many various precautions, so much examination and self-examination, and with more than a dozen very successful sittings, I came to the conclusion that the mediumistic phenomena caused by Eusapia are not due to sensory illusions, nor suggestions, nor hypnotism. All the movements of objects, all the sounds, sounds of instruments, lights, etc.—all of these were real. And we, the witnesses, were normal observers and not victims of madness, possession, or hallucinations.^[3]

Works

Books

A World in a Grain of Sand: The Clairvoyance of Stefan Ossowiecki (2005, with M.R. Barrington and I. Stevenson). Jefferson, North Carolina, USA: McFarland.

Other Realities? The Enigma of Franek Kluski's Mediumship (2015). Hove, UK: White Crow Books.

Articles

The enigma of Franek Kluski (1992). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 58, 289-301.

Daniel Dunglas Home revisited - evidence old and new: An essay review (2008). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 72, 222-30.

Obituary: John Crabbe (2009). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 73, 249-50.

Creation is one. Franek Kluski's animal materializations (2016). *Paranormal Review* 80, 18-19.

Obituary: Mary Rose Barrington (2020). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 84/3, 186-88.

Translations (selected)

Mystery and Suspense in Creative Writing by Jacek Dąbała. (2012). Reihe.

Antoni Szałowski by Elżbieta Szczurko (2013). Peter Lang.

The Musical Culture of Polish Benedictine Nuns in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries by M. Walter-Mazur Publ (2018). Peter Lang.

Book Reviews

The Trickster and the Paranormal by G.P. Hansen (2003). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 67, 296-98.

European Cases of the Reincarnation Type by I. Stevenson (2004). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 68, 273-75.

Knock, Knock, Knock! Who's There? by P. Waddington (2008). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research*.

The Articulate Dead: They Brought the Spirit World Alive by M.E. Tymn (2010). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 74, 25-26.

Mind-Matter Interaction: A Review of Historical Reports, Theory and Research by P.R. Heath (2012). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 76, 122-25.

Science and the Afterlife Experience: Evidence for Immortality of Consciousness by C. Carter (2013). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 77, 191-95.

Web Posts

[Franek Kluski](#) (2018). *Psi Encyclopedia*. [Web post.]

[Research Abstracts Catalogue 1884-2011](#) (2005, ed.). Society for Psychical Research, C-FAR.

Melvyn Willin

Literature

Barrington, M.R., Stevenson, I, & Weaver, Z. (2005). *A World in a Grain of Sand: The Clairvoyance of Stefan Ossowiecki*. Jefferson, North Carolina, USA: McFarland.

Bernard, C., & Weaver, Z. (trans. & ed.) (2018). [Mediumistic Phenomena by Julian Ochorowicz Part II](#). *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 32/2, 349-411.

Okołowicz, N. (ed.) (1926). *Memoirs of sessions with the medium Frank Kluski: A collection of documents and evidence.*

Endnotes

Footnotes

1. ^ Okołowicz (1926).
2. ^ Barrington, Stevenson, & Weaver (2005).
3. ^ Bernard & Weaver (2018), 411.

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