

SECOND
WORLD
SKEPTICS
CONGRESS
HEIDELBERG
23-26 JULY '98
**ARMAGEDDON
AND THE
PROPHETS OF
DOOMSDAY**
CONFERENCE
PROGRAMME



CSICOP GWUP ECSO

Committee for the
Scientific Investigation
of Claims of the Paranormal

Gesellschaft zur
wissenschaftlichen
Untersuchung von
Parawissenschaften e. V.

European Society
of Skeptical
Organisations

THURSDAY 23 JULY

ary 1	Millenium Prophecies (E)	
ning	Fears of the Apocalypse	Paul Kurtz, Chairman CSICOP
ress	Doomsday Fantasies among new religious Groups	Hartmut Zinser, Professor of Religious Studies, Free University of Berlin
	The Bible and the Prophets of Doom	Gerard Larue, Professor of Biblical Archaeology, University of Southern California
	Doomsday Prophecies	James Lewis, Author, Encyclopedia of Cults, Sects and New Religions
	The Bible Code	Dave Thomas, Physicist, Albuquerque
ion A	Alternative Medicine (E)	
	Homeopathy in Europe	Willem Betz, Professor of Medicine, Free University of Brussels
	Why Alternative Medicine seems to work	Barry Beyerstein, Professor of Psychology, Simon Fraser University
	Alternative Medicine in a scientific World	Wallace Sampson, Editor, "Scientific Review of Alternative Medicine"
	The Fear of Amalgam Tooth Fillings in Germany	Rainer Schiele, Professor of Dental Medicine, University of Jena
ion B	Workshop on Critical Thinking (E)	Responsible: Ray Hyman, Professor of Psychology, University of Oregon; James Alcock, Professor of Psychology, Glendon College, York University, Toronto
ion C	Ad hoc Meetings (D/E)	
	Meeting of Philosophers etc.	
ote	Rich in Imagination, poor in Memory	Elizabeth Loftus, Professor of Psychology, University of Washington
ess		

FRIDAY 24 JULY

9-12 h	► Plenary 2	Natural Disasters (E)	
		Predicting the Catastrophic End of Time	Cornelis de Jager, Professor of Astrophysics, University of Utrecht
		Comet Hale Bopp: Portent or Disaster?	Alan Hale, Southwest Institute of Space Research, Co-Discoverer of Comet Hale Bopp
		Doomsday: the May 2000 Prediction	Tim Trachet, Journalist, Flemish Public Broadcasting Corporation, Belgium
		Cosmic Impacts - do they pose a significant Threat?	James McGaha, Major, US Air Force, retired
14-15 h	► Session D1	Environmental issues (E)	
		The great Climate Flip-flop	William H. Calvin, affiliate Professor at the University of Washington School of Medicine
		Global Warming and what we can do about it	Thomas Casten, President and CEO, Trigen Energy Corporation
15-17 h	► Session D2	Miscellaneous (E)	
		Theosophy and Anthroposophy in Education in Asia, Europe and America	Herman de Tollenaere, Historian, Netherlands
		Why the Scheunen Experiments do not prove dowsing	Jim Enright, Scripps Institution of Oceanography
		The Year 2000 Problem	Wendy Grossmann, Journalist and Author of "net.wars"
		Strange Metals in Antiquity	Gerhard Eggert, Rheinisches Landesmuseum Bonn
14-17 h	► Session E	Selbsthilfegruppen und Krebsinformation (D, Self-help Groups and Cancer Information)	
		Alternativmedizin bei Allergien und Neurodermitis - Aspekte der Patientenvertretung	Liz Isler, ATOPS Switzerland
		Wissen und Wahrnehmung - Informationen zu unkonventionellen Krebsbehandlungen durch den Deutschen Krebsinformationsdienst	Birgit Hiller, Cancer Information Service Heidelberg
		Praktische Erfahrungen bei der Betreuung von MS-Betroffenen zu Außenseitermethoden	Peter Koch, AMSEL Baden-Württemberg
14-17 h	► Session F	Kritisches Denken im Bildungssystem (D, Critical Thinking in the Educational System)	Responsible: Wolfgang Hund, Werner Schulz
20-22 h	► Podiums-diskussion (D)	„Der Esoterik- und Psycho-Markt - besteht Regulierungsbedarf per Gesetz?“ (D, The Psychic Market - is there a need for Regulation by the State?)	Panelists: Ursula Caberta (City of Hamburg Scientology Commissioner), Angelika Köster-Loßack (MoP, Bündnis 90/Die Grünen) Frank Sassenscheidt-Grote (Officer of SPD Parliamentary Party), Bernhard Firgau (Chairman of Society for Faith Healing), Hartmut Zinser (Professor of Religious Studies at FU Berlin), N. N. (Member of Federal Ministry of Justice) Host: Wolfgang Michaelis (Professor of Psychology at the Augsburg University)

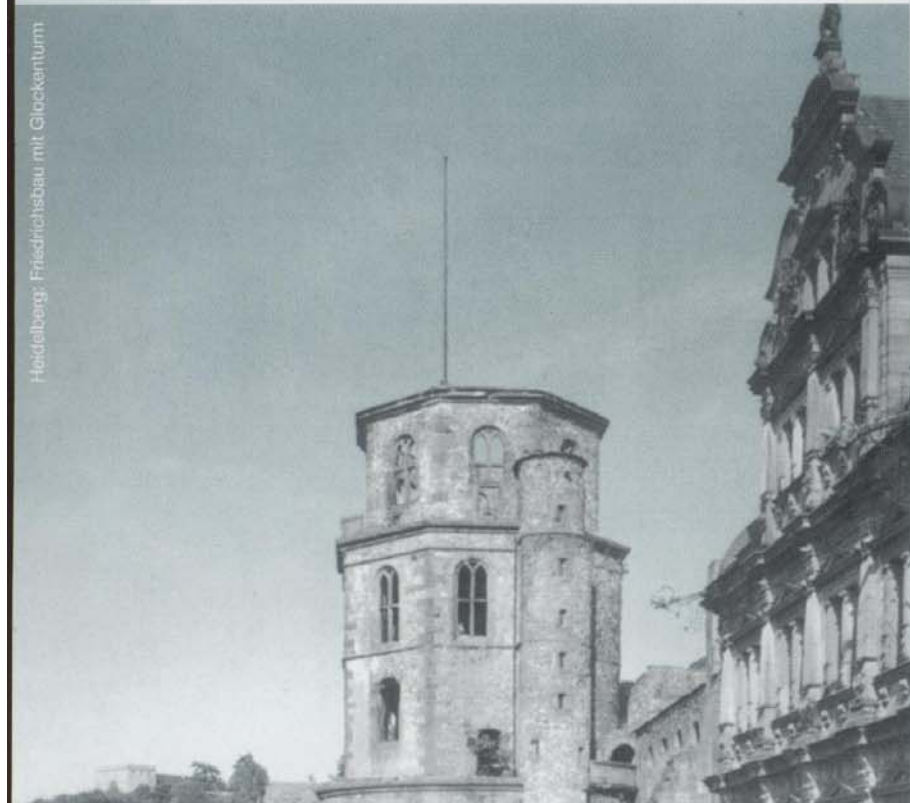
SATURDAY 25 JULY

9-12 h	► Plenary 3	Anti-Science and Post Modernists (E)	Chair: Paul Kurtz
			Evry Schatzman, Astrophysicist and former President of the French Physical Association
			Jean Claude Pecker, Professor of Astrophysics, Collège de France
		Intellectual Imposters	Jean Bricmont, Professor of Physics, University of Louvain
		Why People believe	Lewis Vaughn, Author
14-17 h	► Session G	Case Studies (E)	Richard Wiseman, Professor of Psychology, University of Hertfordshire, UK
			Jean-Paul Krivine, Union Rationaliste, France
			Joe Nickell, Senior Research Fellow, CSICOP
14-17 h	► Session H	The Paranormal & Skepticism in China	
		Status Quo and Strategies in fighting against Pseudo-Science in China	Lin ZXin, former Editor, Science and Technology Daily
		False Claims Expose and Empirical Philosophy	Shen Zhenyu, China Institute for Popularization of Science and Technology
		The Present publishing Situation and Evaluation of Fortune-telling Books in China	Sun Qian, Editor, Compiler, China Science & Technology Press
		Doomsday: It's Origin and our Counter-measures	Luo Yuhai, Professor, University of Electronic Science and Technology Chengdu
		Chinese Qigong Masters scorn Pseudoscience	Sims Nan, Magician, (China's James Randi)
14-17 h	► Session I	Alternative Medizin (D, Alternative Medicine)	
		Was macht die alternative Medizin so attraktiv? (Why is alternative Medicine so attractive?)	Elisabeth Nöckern, Doctor of Medicine, Berlin
		Der Binnenkonsens heute (Internal Consensus in Medicine today)	Barbara Burkhard, Doctor of Internal Medicine, Munich
		Ein Überblick der neuesten Studien (Survey of newest Studies)	Jürgen Windeler, Lecturer of Biostatistics, University Heidelberg
		Best Case Analyses (Best Case Analyses)	Gerd Büschel, Oncologist, Nürnberg
		Der Orgonstrahler (The Orgon Radiator)	Irmgard Cepen, Professor emeritus of Forensic Medicine, former President of GWUP
20-24 h	► Banquet	Ship Ride on the Neckar with special lighting Effects on Castles including Banquet.	Hosts: Paul Kurtz, Amadeo Sarma, Richard Wiseman

CONGRESS **VENUE**

- ▶ University of Heidelberg Theoretikum,
Im Neuenheimer Feld 306, Lecture Theatres 1 and 2
- ▶ Press Conference: Wednesday, 22 July 1998, 18 h
- ▶ Reception: Wednesday, 22 July 1998, 20 h

Heidelberg: Friedrichsbau mit Glockenturm



SUNDAY **26** JULY

9-12 h ▶ **Plenary 4**

Prospects of Scientific Skepticism worldwide (E)

Science and Pseudo-science in Russia

Sergei Kapitza, Russian Academy of Sciences

The "Recovered Memory" Debate

Vern Bullough

The Paranormal in Australia

Harry Edwards, Secretary, Australian Skeptics

Ken Frazier, Editor, Skeptical Inquirer Magazine

Public Opinion and the Paranormal in the United Kingdom

Mike Hutchinson, "Skeptical Inquirer" representative in Europe

A Report from Spain

Luis Alfonso Gomez, Journalist, El Correo, Spain

14-17 h ▶ **GWUP Members Meeting (internal)**