

## Discussion Forum for Criticism of the “Skeptics” Movement

*Editorial note:* The so-called “Skeptics” movement has repeatedly struggled with the resignation of well-known members who accused the movement of inappropriately dealing with issues related to anomalistic topics. In the past, for example, the dissociations of Marcello Truzzi (1978), Dennis Rawlins (1981), Edgar Wunder (1998) and Stephan Matthiesen (2003) were relevant. Recently with the former GWUP member Professor Dr. Timm Grams a further such case was added.

The editorial staff takes this as an opportunity to discuss the critical questioning of the “skeptical” movement in this issue. To this end, we will first print what is probably the best-known criticism of this kind in the German-speaking world, the 1998 text “Das Skeptiker-Syndrom” by Edgar Wunder. This is useful for documentation purposes, since it has so far only been available on the Internet and has never been published in print. Edgar Wunder will then have the opportunity to comment on how he assesses this now historical text from the temporal distance of today’s 22 years. Then Timm Grams in his essay “Skeptic meets Skeptical Movement” represents his recent experiences, which he had within the “skeptics” organization *Gesellschaft zur wissenschaftlichen Untersuchung von Parawissenschaften e.V.* (GWUP, Society for the Scientific Investigation of Parasciences). The essay by Timm Grams and the review by Edgar Wunder were written independently of each other. Following are various comments on the texts of Grams and Wunder, to which we have invited representatives of “skeptical” organizations as well. Finally, Grams and Wunder respond to these comments.

Although the two texts refer to experiences gained with the German “skeptics” organization GWUP, the topics addressed are at least partly of international relevance, if only because the GWUP follows in many respects the American model *Committee for Skeptical Inquiry* (CSI, formerly the *Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal*, CSICOP). In order to be able to invite commentators on an international level, the editorial team has decided to publish the texts in both German and English. The German versions follow the English ones on pages 68–117.