

## Remote Viewing Applications: A Survey of Present-Day RV Practitioners

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**Abstract:** The primary purpose of this review and exploratory survey was to discover which types of projects experienced remote viewers are engaged with today, and to what extent, and to understand their backgrounds, methods, approaches, practices, philosophies, beliefs, and phenomenological experiences related to this work. Another goal was to discover whether the original definitions and tenets of remote viewing defined within its specific historical context have changed. One-hundred-six remote viewers participated in the survey, although not all responded to every question. We consistently had between 70 and 73 responses per each question. Responses were analyzed through the use of a mixed methods approach. The main findings are that remote viewing applications are wide, spanning from business to scientific and intelligence applications, and for the use of personal, corporate and public agencies. Twenty-three percent of the participants declared that their remote viewing job was paid. The range of the training and experience with remote viewing was expansive, and the majority used mixed methods depending on the project. We found that most respondents expressed both awareness of and respect for the scientific principles related to blinding and separation of roles, yet there was a range of views regarding the practicality of adhering to these for application purposes.

*Keywords:* remote viewing, applications, survey, mixed methods

The term *remote viewing* (RV) was coined by Ingo Swann, Karl Osis and Janet Mitchell during the course of Out of Body Experiences (OBE) experiments conducted at the American Society for Psychical Research (ASPR) from approximately 1970 through 1973 (Mitchell, 1987). In 1972 Swann joined forces with physicists Harold Puthoff, and then Russel Targ, who formed the psycho-energetics program at the Stanford Research Institute (SRI). This was to become known as the research and training arm of the U.S. military's clandestine remote viewing programs (Puthoff & Targ, 1976; Puthoff et al., 1983), which spanned a period from 1973 to 1995 involving numerous supporting parties within the U.S. government (May & Marwaha, 2018), other research labs (Nelson et al., 1996) and the private sector.

*Coordinate Remote Viewing* was the brainchild of Swann, who questioned the dominant theoretical framework within parapsychology that a telepathic connection had to be present for psi-based information to be accessed. *Project Scannate* demonstrated that a viewer could perform remote viewing tasks with nothing more than a set of latitude/longitude coordinates (Kress, 1977; Swann, n.d.). To strengthen blinding protocols, these were later replaced with randomly selected numerical coordinates.

*Extended Remote Viewing* (ERV) was an approach developed by Lt. F. Holmes “Skip” Atwater who established the U.S. Army’s remote viewing program in 1977 at Ft. Meade Army Base. He combined recommendations from Swann and SRI researchers with lessons learned from Bob Monroe of the Monroe Institute (Atwater, 2001). Carefully selected military personnel were recruited as viewers. With the aid of monitors, they did their work in a reclined position with the aim of reaching brain wave states bordering on sleep. Atwater believed that one cannot prove that one is actually leaving their body during an OBE or RV experiment, but that one can make use of imagined visualizations of extending oneself outwards to a distant location and moving around much in the way the outbender experiments were conducted (Atwater, 2014).

*Controlled Remote Viewing* (CRV) was developed by Swann and Puthoff as part of a more formalized training program developed at SRI and funded by multiple government agencies from 1983 to 1986. It was later moved over for operational use by those in the Ft. Meade unit. CRV is a stage-based, highly structured methodology designed to decrease incidents of “analytic overlay” (Swann, n.d.). It also allowed viewers to make greater use of their somatic unconscious reflexes through ideograms, sketching, and clay modeling (Smith, 1998, 2005).

### **From Governmental to Popular Sector**

Since the defunding of the U.S. Government programs in the mid-1990s, some of the SRI researchers and remote viewers associated with the U.S. RV military programs would go on to teach those in the civilian population through courses, workshops, books, and films. They also established organizations such as the *International Remote Viewing Association*, which just celebrated its 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary and co-sponsored this survey. This work led to the formation of social networking RV themed communities – Ten Thousand Roads Online Community Forum, RV Facebook groups, and a RV SubReddit group with now over 45,000 members.

### **External Field-Work and Applied Projects**

During the past 20 years, RV applications-based projects have continued. A review of parapsychological peer-reviewed journals and informal RV based publications and conference proceedings revealed that remote viewers have been active in a number of areas since the declassification of the U.S. Military programs. These projects involved activities such as locating downed aircraft (Thompson-Smith, 2014); crime solving (Coronado, 2018); healing and medical applications (Atunrase, 2013; Calabrese, 2002; Husick, 2018; Klieman, 2004), locating adopted parents (Husick, 2017) and other humanitarian work (Liaros, 2004; Thompson-Smith, 2015); predicting elections (Katz & Bulgatz, 2013), scientific-based projects (Allgire & Akamatsu, 2013; Katz & Beem, 2015; Morse et al., 2011); business consulting and creative projects using employees and artists as viewers through training and project development (Cham-

tion et al., 2019), and music composition and performance (Mungia, 2019; Smith & Smith, 2014, 2016). “Esoteric” targets (Atwater, 2001; Smith, 2005) included planetary exploration (Brown, 2012; McNear, 2020; Thompson-Smith, 2014); the Sirius star system and UFO sightings by a 747-freighter flight crew (Atunrase, 2015); and Area 51 and the Phoenix Lights (Brown, 2020).

*Associative Remote Viewing* (ARV) is presently a popular application of remote viewing that utilizes a protocol involving the pairing of associated photos, objects, or sensory input with potential outcomes of a future event, such as sporting events, financial trading, horse-racing, the lottery, and so forth (Schwartz, 2020). ARV projects are sometimes undertaken for research and applied purposes within the same project. Substantial profits for predicting stock market movements have been reported by some researchers (Harary & Targ, 1985; Puthoff, 1984), while others have reported modest earnings using RV (Smith, Laham, & Moddel, 2014) and ESP dream work within an RV protocol (Katz et al., 2019). However, substantial losses have also been reported by Houck, 1986; and Katz et al., 2018. Some did not have earnings, but did have significant hit rates (Müller, et al., 2019; Samuelson 2016). ARV has largely been promoted by the Applied Precognition Project, with over one thousand current members and sponsoring two RV conferences a year.

## **Present Project**

The primary purpose of this review and exploratory survey of experienced remote viewers was to discover which types of projects remote viewers are engaged with today (and to what extent), and to understand their backgrounds, methods, approaches, practices, philosophies, beliefs, and phenomenological experiences related to this work. Another goal was to discover whether (and if so to what extent) the original definitions and tenants of remote viewing defined within its specific historical context have changed.

## **Method**

### **Survey Construction**

In designing our novel survey, we examined RV projects discussed in the scientific, archival, and popular literature spanning the past 50 years since remote viewing’s inception as defined above. These past projects along with their methods, approaches, and philosophical underpinnings informed our multiple-choice question construction (46 in all) as we operated from the hypothesis that we would likely see, at least to some extent, a continuation of these themes, or reminiscences of them, through present-day remote viewing applied work. Still, we anticipated there could be some changes related to the decentralization-deinstitutionalization of remote viewing from its shift to governmental and military culture into a far less structured one. We also anticipated there could be changes related to developing technologies.

Therefore, for most of our questions we included a comment section asking respondents to explain their responses or select “other” option with a prompt to explain their responses. In this manner we could satisfy the project’s purpose which was to discover whether that which is reflected in the past literature seems to be applicable to the present-day remote viewing professionals, and also learn what we can about their current practices, behaviors, attitudes, approaches and methods that may not have been previously revealed.

## Participants' Recruitment

Only respondents who have participated in real life applied/operational remote viewing projects other than for training practice or research purposes were invited and allowed to participate. We were interested in polling only those who would fall under the stricter definition of remote viewing, and not just any type of psychic practitioner such as an intuitive or clairvoyant reader or medium.

We used a Snowball sampling procedure (Babbie, 2004) in that we relied on participants to recruit other participants to take the study.

The survey was accessed via an online link provided by the SurveyMonkey program. Upon entry to the survey there was a statement that explained the project's purpose, advised prospective participants of the nature of the study, assured confidentiality and stated requirements for participation.

Average completion time was calculated to be 26 minutes, with an average of a 67% completion rate.

## Results

### Participants' Demographic Data

One hundred six remote viewers participated in the survey, although not all responded to every question. We consistently had between 70 and 73 responses per each question.

Respondents included 60 men and 44 women, and two non-gender specific. Only one participant was under the age of 24, and only six others were under the age of 34. Sixteen were between ages 35-44; 36 were between the ages of 45-54; 25 were between 55-64, and 22 were 65 or over.

Eighty-eight respondents were Caucasian (82.52%); 4.90% were Hispanic or Latino. Only three were Asian (2.94%), and two American Indian or Alaska Native. Eight (7.84%) indicated "another race."

Main professions reported: medical surgeon, registered nurse, pharmacist, nutritionist, tax analyst, financial auditor, investors, insurance claims adjuster, economic development consultant, systems analyst, business school professor, software developer, software engineer, geophysicist, law enforcement officers, teachers, artists, etc. Several were retired. Five indicated as their *main* professions that they were psychics, mediums, remote viewers, and RV project managers.

Respondents reported they were originally from the United States (64), UK (8), Canada (5), Germany (5), South Africa (3), India, Saudi Arabia, France, Finland, Scotland, Switzerland, Poland, Netherlands, Italy, Ireland, Mexico, Guatemala, Thailand, and Sri Lanka. They reported the countries they are currently located in include United States (69). Canada (5), UK (7), Germany, India, South Africa (2), Australia, France, Guatemala, Saudi Arabia, Scotland, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Mexico, Italy, and Ireland.

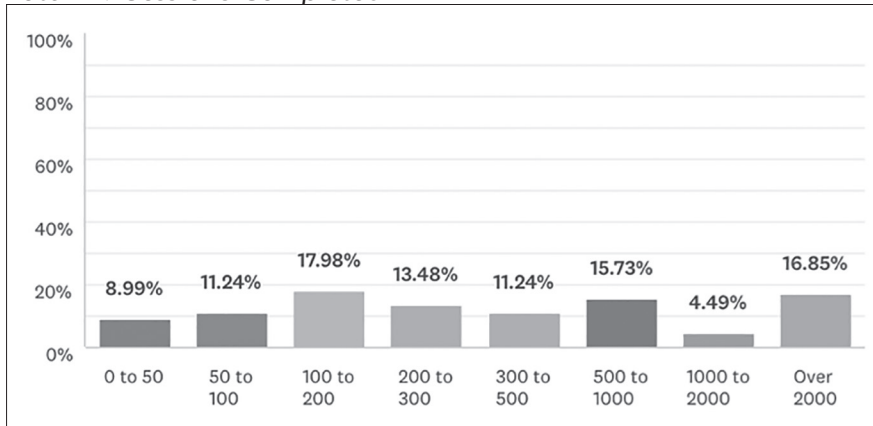
### Remote Viewing Experience and Training

When asked to define themselves as far as their psi-based work, 53 (51%) indicated they call themselves exclusively a "remote viewer," 41 (39%) indicated "more than one," one indicated "a clairvoyant," three (3%) indicated "a medium," eight (8%) indicated "none of the above."

Out of 87 respondents, when asked how long they have practiced remote viewing, only one responded: “less than 6 months,” three indicated “less than one year,” 13 (15%) responded “1 to 2 years,” 13 (15%) responded “2 to 5 years,” 13 (15%) responded “5 to 10 years,” 13 (15%) responded “10 to 15 years,” 16 responded (18%) “up to 20 years,” 17 (19%) responded “more than 20 years.” Fifteen did not respond.

When asked “How many total RV sessions have you completed in your life, including practice?” Eighty percent stated more than 100 sessions. Over half stated more than 300. The distribution of the percentages is displayed in Figure 1.

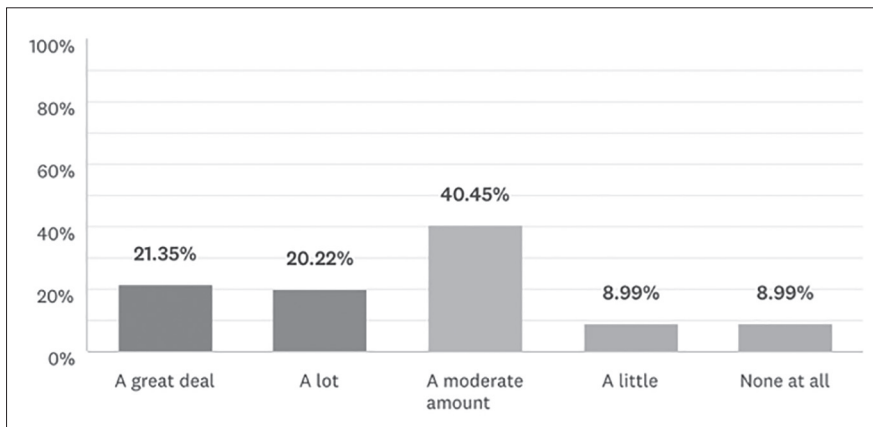
**Figure 1**  
*Total RV Sessions Completed*



Note. Distribution of responses related to the question: “How many total RV sessions have you completed in your life, including practice?”

When asked how much training they received, 90% indicated they had received some training with 80% having received a moderate amount to a lot. Only nine percent responded “none at all” (see distribution of responses in Figure 2).

**Figure 2**  
*Training Received*



Note. Distribution of responses related to the question: “How much training have you received?”

When asked, “What meditative, intuitive, or other development methods have you used prior to

any RV training, if any?” Eighty-two responded. Of these, 72 (87.8%) had diverse responses. Their backgrounds included: Edgar Cayce’s teachings, Celtic shamanism, target training, channeling, focusing daily on intuition/gut feeling, “brain machines,” autosuggestion, self-hypnosis, breathing, singing, meditating on target, TM, tea leaves, precognitive and lucid dreams, healing, Sufism, mantras, Monroe Gateway program, Buddhist mantras, Alan Watts meditation approach, running energy and grounding techniques, oracles, kriya yoga, clairvoyant reading and healing training with the International School of Clairvoyance, mediumship, Qigong, prayer, telekinesis, random event influence, pendulum, mindfulness, hatha yoga, visual arts, Zen yoga, Tai Chi, and vision-questing (fasting) with traditional medicine community.

When asked what their training has been in, 66 (73.5%) responded Controlled Remote Viewing (CRV) or a derivative/similar methodology such as Scientific Remote Viewing (SRV) from the Farsight Institute, Hawaii Remote Viewers Guild Method (HRVG), Trans-dimensional Systems (TDS); 26 (29.89%) responded Extended Remote Viewing (ERV) or similar; 18 (20.69%) responded only Associative Remote Viewing (ARV); 29 (31%) responded “other methods,” such as dream remote viewing, self-taught, mediumship techniques, automatic writing, and various remote viewing courses with instructors that teach a combination of methods. A few indicated they learned through watching online videos.

When asked, “Have you modified any RV training method you received for specific interests or applications?” Eighty-seven responded: 44 (49%) said “No,” and 45 (50%) replied “Yes,” explaining they sometimes combined methods or simplified techniques (specially for ARV projects). For example, one wrote, “For ARV I used a very abbreviated form of RV in order to get quick answers (note feelings, connect, sketch, describe in a few words, note Analytic Overlay, end) all usually within 5 minutes.” Another wrote, “ARV does not need all the steps and long sessions utilized in much of CRV.”

There were a few themes that emerged as a reason for changing up their methods. One was to work on different types of projects that they felt the original training protocols were geared towards, “such as for missing persons or working on classified cases,” or “making binary decisions,” or “medical RV,” or “making crypto predictions.”

Another theme for some was they wanted to be more spontaneous than the methods they learned called for in being able to “remote view on the fly” or to get “quick answers.” One said, “I take targets from the public, which means I had to create a strategy to nail the targets consistently with great accuracy in a short period of time that includes doing hyperdetailed drawings that are comparable to police sketches.”

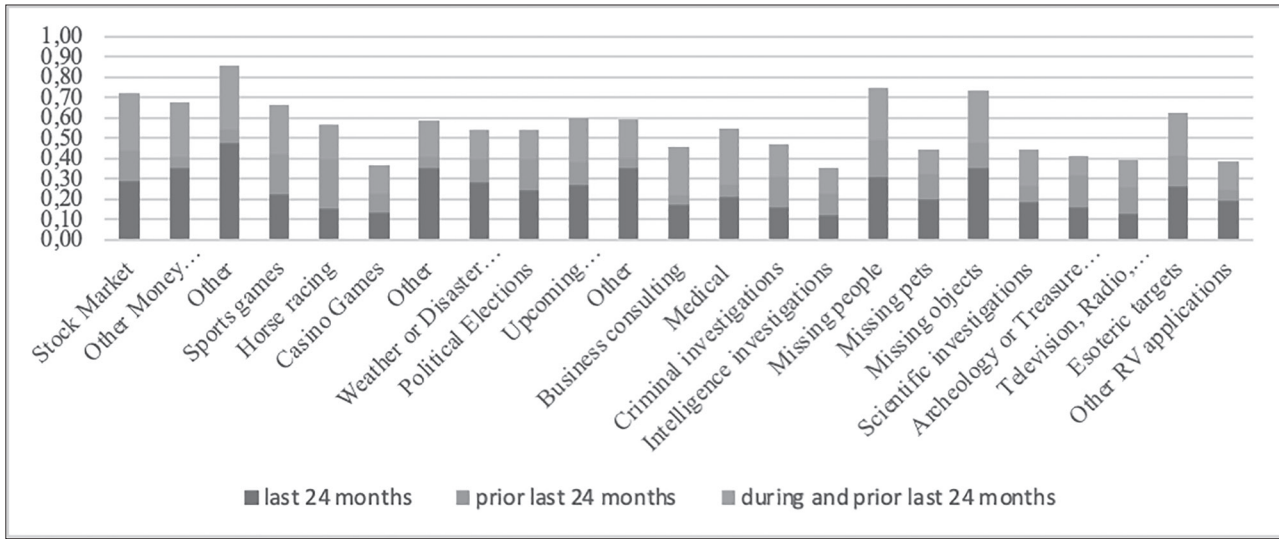
### ***Dreaming and Applied RV***

When asked, “Do you ever use dreaming to help you with your remote viewing applications work?” Thirty-nine (43%) responded “never”; four responded “once” (4%); 36 (40%) responded “occasionally”; and 11 (12.50%) responded “frequently.” One viewer stated, “Sometimes spontaneous dreams provide additional information.”

### **Applications’ Categories and Topics**

In Figure 3, we report the percentages of participants who declared to use RV for the different applications divided for their duration.

**Figure 3**  
*Percentages of Participants Using RV for Different Applications*

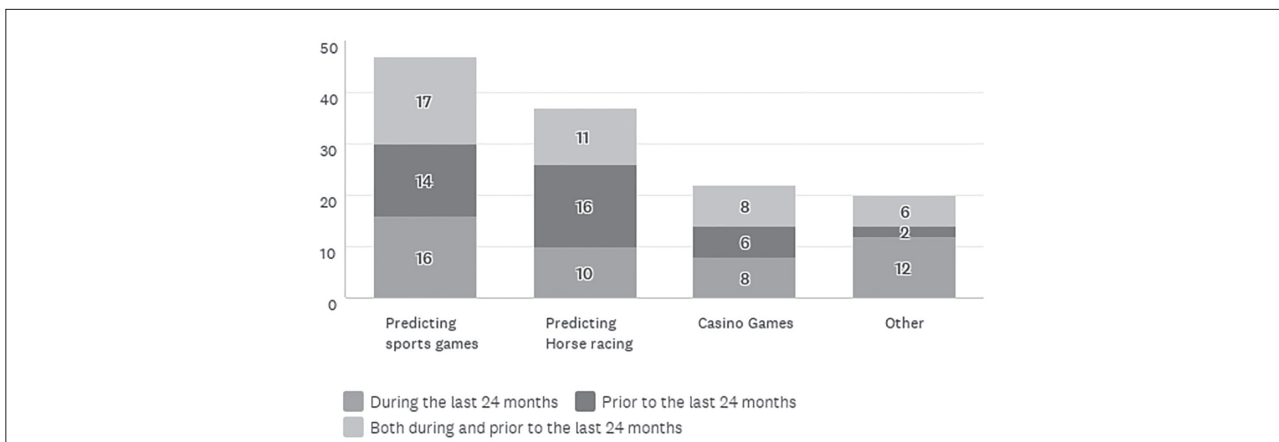


Note. In the last 24 months, prior the last 24 months, and during and prior the last 24 months.

**Financials.** Forty-eight (64.3%) out of 75 viewers responded that they had used remote viewing for stock market related predictions: types of trades, stock market increase/decreases including “S & P 500”; “SPY”; “Forex”; “DOW”; “commodity markets” and “cryptocurrencies,” which some referred to as “cryptoviewing.” Some viewers also indicated they had predicted the rise and fall of particular stocks.

It was reported these were done with groups, for clients and themselves. Some of the most frequently mentioned groups were the Applied Precognition Project, Daz Smith’s Cryptoviewing Group, and the ARV Tournament App.

**Figure 4**  
*Using RV for Prediction Purposes*



Note. Number of participants declaring using RV for predicting sports games, horse racing and casino games.

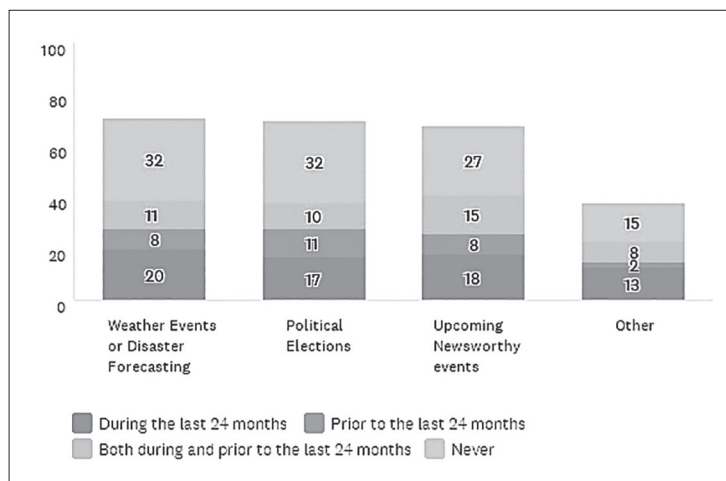
**Sporting Events.** Out of 72 respondents, 47 (65.2%) indicated they had predicted sporting events (see Figure 4). These included the “Superbowl,” “European soccer games” and “basketball.” Also, several

hundred sports games outcome predictions with ARV prior to the last 24 months. “There is more money to be made in the markets,” one stated, “I’m doing a year-long trial for sports betting testing different forms of ARV.” Thirty-seven (51.3%) predicted horse racing outcomes.

**Casino Games.** Twenty-two (30%) predicted casino games: “Roulette” (black or red), “Craps” (pass line or don’t pass). Several viewers wrote into the “other applications” comment box that they had used remote viewing for lottery type projects. These included “Colorado lottery” and “Pick 3.” Comments included: “I use ideograms to predict lotto numbers. Got all numbers 3 times in a row.” And “third attempt at a single-ticket purchase on our local Pick3 was a perfect hit (1:1000). Have yet to fully replicate.”

### Figure 5

*Participants Using RV for Predicting Weather, Politics, News and Other*



**Weather Events.** Out of 71, 39 (54.9%), see Figure 5, responded that they had participated in predictions involving weather events or disaster forecasting. Respondents answered: “development of the global climate”; “direction of storms, requirements for infrastructure repairs.”

**Elections.** Out of 70, 38 (54.2%) used remote viewing to predict political elections. Comments regarding elections included, “UK elections,” local elections,” “Brexit outcome,” “Predicted Trump presidency February 2016 (during R. Primaries).”

**Covid Pandemic.** Several remote viewers indicated that they had used remote viewing to understand various aspects of the Covid virus and ongoing pandemic. Statements included, “Covid-19 mandates will be over”; “I did a Covid-19 project back in mid-January (completely blind) highly accurate”; “predicting the course of Boris Johnson’s Covid infection (trinary ARV).”

**Other Predictions.** Within this category we included the “black swan event leading to BTC/Stock crash beginning on February 14th, 2020 (significant financial return)”; “finding out what happened to Kim Jong Un earlier this year (TDS)”; “predicting the Saudi oil attack six weeks before it happened.” Several people indicated they did not feel free to respond due to confidentiality purposes. We were surprised at this since we were clearly not asking for client details.



**Business Consulting.** Out of 77, 36 (46%) people reported having done remote viewing for business consulting; 31 (40%) reported they had participated in these projects recently, with 13 (16.8%) exclusively in the last two years, and 18 (23.3%) both during the last two years and before that; only four (5%) reported they had only done this prior to the past two years. Therefore, it appears business consulting is growing in popularity amongst these remote viewers.

Respondents indicated that they had used remote viewing to help clients with a variety of aspects of their businesses, including: “when to buy or sell investments”; “marketing trends, tariff negotiations, technology choices”; “projects for business owners that needed more information before making a financial and marketing decision”; “optimal trajectories.”

Some comments indicated a lack of access to feedback: “Internal business investigation identifying fraud or stealing. Sessions have provided clues to person of interest. Feedback was limited; person was associated with the prime suspect.” Some respondents indicated they have worked for the same clients for many years.

**RV for Medical Diagnosis, or Treatment.** Medical applications (“Med Apps”) include the use of RV for either understanding the cause, present condition, or solution to a person’s physical or mental health. It also includes attempts at influencing an outcome, referred to by viewers as “remote influencing” or “healing.” Out of 76 respondents, 43 (5%) of these indicated they had engaged in remote viewing for medical applications purposes, 16 (21%) had done so exclusively in the last two years, 21 (27.6%) reported having done Med Apps both in the last two years and prior to it, with five (6.5%) of these having done so only prior to the last two years. Some viewers indicated they had used this for seriously ill people who would go on to recover. For example, one stated, “I once had a real big success in getting a coma client awake gain (where the life supporting machines already should be shut down).”

Meanwhile, other viewers indicated they use remote viewing to help other medical professionals, some spoke of “influencing” or healing, some of using RV to investigate the mental health of subjects known to their clients.

**Pets.** Several respondents indicated they had utilized remote viewing for the diagnosis and healing of pets. One said: “Pet has lifelong hormone allergy. I remote viewed the animal —I got something about the tick/flea treatment. Vet changes treatment, lifelong health problems of animal immediately stop.”

**Who Is the RV/Healing Work For?** It appears respondents use remote viewing for Med Apps for themselves: “Self-healing, self-diagnosis and removal of disease or symptoms”; for family members: “husband”; “daughter”; “for a family member that needed information before making a decision about a surgery.”

**Ethical Considerations.** There were several mentions of ethical considerations such as: “Have taken part in some of these over the years, always with permission of the person being diagnosed or treated, and always in a group situation.” Some of those who indicated they do not use remote viewing for medical applications said this is because they are concerned about the implications of being incorrect, or not wanting to be perceived as practicing medicine without a license.

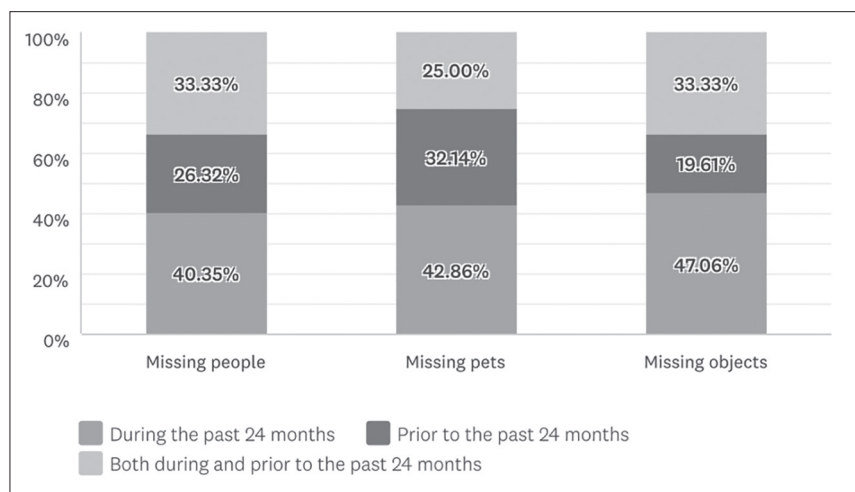
**Criminal Investigations.** Out of 77, 39 (49%) respondents reported having participated in remote viewing projects involving criminal investigations: 12 (15.5%) reported during only the last two years, 12 reported in the last two years and after that, 13 (16.8%) reported only prior to the past two years. Applications included: “Kidnapping cases as far as who is responsible, method, state of victim”; “missing persons”; “finding dead bodies”; “identifying lost people”; “arson”; “fugitive location”; “homicides: personality profiling”; “missing children”; “forecasting terrorist events”; “theft (whodunit, how to capture them, how to retrieve stolen items, etc.)” Participants indicated that they worked with detectives, federal and local law enforcement, remote viewing groups and instructors, with clients in need or family members seeking help with a missing relative. One viewer reported having over “500 case files for homicides and missing persons.”

Some voiced they hoped to do more of this work while others indicated that it was either not financially beneficial or “I feel adversely working with criminologists who immediately make you a suspect when you have any unknown information that is true.”

**Intelligence Investigations (Other than Police).** Twenty-eight (37%) out of 74 remote viewers responded that they had engaged in intelligence investigations other than police, nine (12%) reported being engaged in this work exclusively in the last two years, 10 (13.5%) stated they had done this work in the last two years and prior, and eight (10%) reported they had done this work prior to the last two years. Several viewers indicated they did not feel comfortable discussing their work on criminal cases due to NDA’s and confidentiality issues.

**Searching for Missing People, Pets, Items.** The percentages of participants declaring to use remote viewing for searching missing persons, pets or other things are presented in Figure 6.

**Figure 6**  
*Percentages of Participants Using RV for Missing People, Pets, Objects*



**Missing People.** Out of 77 respondents, 59 (75%), indicated they had used RV for looking for missing people, these included, “missing students”; “a lost male in the mountains”; etc. (see Figure 6).

**Missing Pets.** Thirty (37%) had searched for missing pets: “lost dog”; “bird”; “cat.”

**Missing Objects.** Fifty-one (66%) had looked for objects, such as “missing guns”; “books”; “plane”; “jewelry”; “earphones”; “wallets.” Viewers reported using remote viewing to help themselves (finding purse, car keys, etc.). Others indicated they were able to find items for others very quickly.

**Scientific Investigations.**<sup>1</sup> Seventy-five responded, 35 (46.6%) said “yes.” Of those who said “Yes,” 14 indicated in the last two years, 14 indicated both in the past two years and earlier, and six indicated only prior to the last two years.

Participants interpreted this in two different ways: (a) projects whose purpose was to advance a field of science other than remote viewing, and (b) research projects related to remote viewing considerations.

Topics that remote viewing had been used for to advance scientific knowledge in all areas included: “A cure for cancer”; “EMF/gravity/light and brain function”; “Covid and other diseases or syndromes such as OCD, etc.”; “Crispr genes...that’s a big one and we’ll see that in our lives”; “levitation”; “the ability to reconstitute stone”; “super elastic metals”; “future technology AI”; “Remote viewing Coronavirus, Remote viewing other virus”; “choice of scientific technology in industry and for purchase (I am an engineering manager)”; “I am managing our RV group which is working on a Covid 19 Dream Project to increase immunities, with very fascinating results.”

Research to advance knowledge of RV or Psi was also mentioned. This included: “I ran an informal project to investigate whether remote viewers can detect a wholly audio target.”

**Archeology or Treasure Hunting: Finding Items Either on the Ground or in the Water.** Thirty-two (16%) stated they used RV for archeology or treasure hunting, 12 indicated in the past two years, seven indicated in the past two years and prior, 12 indicated prior to the past two years.

Viewers mentioned the things they looked for, who they worked with, and the approaches they took. It was mentioned by some that they never knew what exactly was being looked for. A mixture of results was reported, some saying artifacts were found and others not. Some said they were not found but the clients still found their reports useful.

Mentions included: dowsing for water holes, looking for artefacts such as dinosaur bones, discovering what is underneath an existing structure, and describing an archaeological site prior to excavation for which a viewer wrote, “I was able to describe layout of site, buildings, occupants, time frame of occupation, and activities there. Feedback from the site was positive.” Other items included searching for precious metals, such as gold, along with under water and deep-sea exploration. Other objects included “a part from the old aircraft,” a lost treasure in PA for a client; “hired by a client to find missing money he buried and then left the area and came back and it was gone.” A viewer indicated: “These types of projects are problematic as treasure hunters do not want to pay upfront for projects and often disappear following the receipt of RV information.”

**Television, Radio, Media Projects.** Out of 77, 31 (39%) responded they had been involved in TV, radio, and media projects. Of these, 20 had participated in the last two years, equally divided between

<sup>1</sup> This would not include being a subject in an experimental study, but rather using RV to explore a scientific topic, in order to advance science.

just in the past two years and the past two years and earlier; 10 of these participated only prior to two years ago.

The themes identified were TV news, television/video programs, radio/podcast, social media/web-site, print, lectures, and documentaries. They responded they were involved in either group work or as individuals. Reasons cited were both to speak about their work, do demonstrations of remote viewing, and for real cases. They shared some specific and general show titles. These included the following: *CBS Sunday Morning News*; Oprah Winfrey channel; Vice TV show *Mister Tachyon* (episode 1); “My solved cases (13) were re-enacted for Court TV’s show *Psychic Detectives*.”

**Applications Involving Esoteric Targets.**<sup>2</sup> Out of 75 total respondents, 47 said that they had participated in remote viewing applications involving esoteric targets. Twenty had indicated they had participated in the last two years in these projects; 16 in the last two years and previously, and 11 prior to the last two years. Types of esoteric targets mentioned had to do with UFOs, alien lifeforms, planetary bodies, and mysterious locations, such as “Skinwalker ranch”; “underground tunnels” and “caverns”; “subterranean pyramids”; “mysterious ruins”; “portals”; odd places in “Antarctica”; “cattle mutilations”; “strange sounds in Kiev”; “lights in the sky”, and “the great pyramids of Egypt.”

There were also unusual objects explored such as the “origin of the Nazca mummies” and “ancient artifacts.” It was expressed that clients and viewers sometimes wanted to know these things not because they expected feedback, but to “fulfil someone’s curiosity”; for “passion for discovery”; and for “the fun of it.” Sometimes these were paid projects, sometimes volunteer, sometimes part of professional groups; some were for media related projects.

### Characteristics of RV Methods

**Working Within a Group.** Out of 73, 51 (69.8%) indicated they work as part of a group, with the group leader as the one who interfaces with the client: 18 stated this was how they worked in the last two years, 22 in both the last two years and prior to that, and 11 indicated they worked in this way prior to the last two years. The leaders of the groups mentioned included “project managers,” “teachers” and “friends online.” One respondent wrote they worked with “good friends. We trade off assigning targets and review data together.” Several respondents indicated they work with more than one group.

**Working Directly With Clients.** Out of 73, 48 (65.7%) said they work and interface directly with clients: 23 indicated they have done this only in the past two years; 14 indicated they had done so during and prior to the last two years, and 11 indicated they had only done so prior to the last two years. Some statements included: “They are clients who found me through my website.” “I have worked with others in the past, as I used to delegate paid work to viewers that I trust. I now work solo, as I find it is no longer necessary.”

**Working With a Partner Who Interfaces With the Client.** Out of 73, 32 (43.8%) indicated they worked one on one with a partner who interfaces with the client: 13 indicated this has been exclusively within the last two years, 12 both within the last two years and prior to that, and seven prior to the

<sup>2</sup> Unexplained phenomena, situations, conspiracies, mysteries, UFOs, ghosts, etc.

past 24 months. While not much information was shared about these partners, in some cases they were spouses or a friend.

Some respondents indicated that the reason they work in groups is to avoid frontloading –knowing too much about the target.

**Mixture of All Three.** One participant said:

Many different groups: sometimes they are project managers, so they interface directly with clients, so I am kept blind and not exposed to frontloading. Often though I also work solo and interface directly with clients. Sometimes I'll call up a friend and ask them to help me with this or they will do that for me.

**Working With a Monitor or Solo?** Within the remote viewing programs at SRI and within the military units, remote viewers almost always worked with an experienced monitor/interviewer to help guide them during a remote viewing session (Katz & Bulgatz, 2013; Swann, n.d.). It appears that many more viewers work solo now than they did previously.

When asked to indicate if they work solo, out of 66 respondents, 55 (81%) responded they worked solo. Only 13 respondents indicated they never work solo. When the question was posed differently and asked if they use a monitor, out of 61 respondents, 35 (57.3%) indicated they have never worked with a monitor, 11 (18%) responded they presently work with a monitor, 11 responded they have always worked with a monitor, and four stated “yes, but only prior to the last two years.”

**Working as a Remote Viewer, Project Manager, or Judge/Rater?** Respondents were also asked if during applied work they are typically acting as a remote viewer, a project manager, or a judge/rater but not a project manager. Out of 71, all but two (97%) replied they work as remote viewers, 35 (49.2%) responded they have served as project managers, and 32 (45%) indicated they had acted as a judge/rater. We did not ascertain the percentage of time they spend in these roles. Several respondents indicated that they switch between roles.

### **Blinding Procedures**

As noted above, remote viewing was defined as using psi within a protocol that involves scientific principles such as blinding procedures. Participants were asked when doing applications work (such as when a client is involved) as opposed to RV practice targets or research targets: “Do you feel it is always possible or practical to use blinding protocols?” Thirty-six (42%) responded “Yes,” 50 (58%) responded “No.”

**Preference for Working Blind Explained.** Those who responded “Yes, it is always possible to work blind,” explained: “Non-blinded (e.g., frontloaded) remote viewing brings with it a whole raft of problems. I have never had difficulty using remote viewing under blinded conditions.” Others said: “I really only want the digits. Blind targets work. Frontloaded targets are not as reliable.”

Attitudes about adherence to blinding protocols fluctuated from a hard-line approach to those who saw such an approach as dogmatic and less practical. For example, one respondent answered:

A viewer kept blind to a target can be re-tasked. One definition of remote viewing is *free response anomalous cognition within a double-blind protocol*. Research on RV demands double blind. A tasker can cue a target so that the viewer will produce focused data. By altering the cue and re-tasking, more focused data can be produced. In applications that's very important. However, in a time-critical situation the tasker might feel that polluting the viewer to the target in some way and perhaps get less focused data is a fair trade-off for speed. In a time-critical situation, a blind viewer may not be the best viewer, and is an exception to blind viewer practice.

Meanwhile another wrote:

It is simply not possible when working directly with someone, most people do not know RV protocols and simply want you to view whatever it is right away. Even some people involved in instructing ESP do not know anything else about RV besides that it is a scientific sounding word for "clairvoyance" to know about target coordinates or blinding protocols or frontloading.

**Working With Frontloading Was Noted to Be a Higher Skill.** Skill level was mentioned by some regarding the ability to work blind, and more frequently by others in reference to the ability to work with some frontloading. One respondent said: "I can't do frontloaded targets because I can't help myself but then try and guess! I would like to be able to do it one day though as think it would be useful especially in terms of helping find missing children."

**Preference for Blinding, Except for Particular Projects or Circumstances.** Another theme for many who responded that they do not always approach targets blind was that they prefer to work this way except under particular circumstances. For example, one wrote: "I always prefer to use blinding practices, unless I'm trying to find something. I need to know up front what I'm looking for, so that's the only time I prefer not to go blind with target."

**Time Constraints and Client Pressures.** Several viewers pointed to time constraints, and the manner in which clients interacted with them as reasons they do not always work blind. One wrote: "At times limited frontloading saves time and could save a life in a missing person situation. However, the most successful early RV company (TDS) always used just a target number —no frontloading." Another wrote: "There are some projects where time is of the essence (e.g., missing persons, disasters) in which some frontloading is necessary to get on the signal line faster and get requested information to the tasker faster."

Those who said they do not always work with blinding explained it is not always practical for applied projects. Comments included: "Too difficult to obtain blinding in such an active world. I believe that one needs to do 'on-the-fly' to obtain quick and accurate answers. By taking the data as it comes quickly, rather than interpretation, I can eliminate frontloading or other noise." Meanwhile, others spoke of "degrees of blinding." One explained:

You may be frontloaded to know that an item of interest is an object to be found, but you may be blind to the nature and circumstances. I consider this similar to "picture drawing" of the kind described in Rene Warcollier's work or done by Upton Sinclair's wife. Participants were blind to a picture or simple drawings but attempted to replicate a distant, unseen picture by mental means. The fact that they

knew it was a picture did not seem to cause a problem for them, and there are many, many examples on record.

In alignment with this, other respondents said that they like to have minimal information up front, but just enough to help them focus. Others explained that it was more important for them to be blind up front to build confidence in their work, but they would relax this requirement later if a client needed further information after the initial session.

A related question was: “When doing applications work, what level of frontloading do you prefer to work with?” Frontloading is defined as having some foreknowledge of what the target entails. Over half of the respondents (45) responded “No frontloading” (54%). These largely corresponded with those who indicated they always work blind.

Thirty-three (38%) answered: “Minimal but I do prefer to know the nature of the project (for example is it finding a missing person vs. for financial applications).” Five responded (6%): “I like to know more specifics (such as for a missing item, what exactly is the item—a ring or a wallet or treasure) but still limited.” Only four responded (5%): “I like to know as much as possible about a target and what is known before proceeding with using RV to find out what is not known.”

Many viewers indicated that they just want to know enough about a project to decide whether it is worth their time, or how to proceed in terms of approaches and methods and making the best use of their time. Some expressed mixed feelings: “I’ve been experimenting with having as little information as possible and having as much as possible and haven’t yet come to a conclusion. Sometimes my mind works better with a lot of information. Other times it can produce analytical overlay.”

Some were adamant against receiving frontloading. One wrote: “Any frontloading necessarily brings the logical mind into play, and that is never a good thing in RV.” Another wrote: “I don’t want to know it’s a missing person. I go into every single target knowing that there’s a potential for blood, gore, sex, criminal activity, or whatever. I made peace with that a long time ago and I’m the guy you want around who just enjoys viewing, I’m tough, I’m not some oversensitive shrieking violet who has melodramatic traumatized experiences.” Another wrote, “I believe that the less I know about the target, the more my unconscious mind does the work.”

### **Outputs of RV Applications**

In response to the question: “When a client expresses being pleased with your operational work or what you have submitted, what do they seem to appreciate about it?” Several viewers mentioned that clients appreciate accuracy, clarity, consistency and detailed information. They said that clients seem to appreciate their willingness to work with little information up front, and with blinding protocols. Another theme was professionalism in reporting, summarizing, describing, and communicating. Several viewers indicated clients most appreciate their sketches. One indicated she searches online for photos of famous people that match her images in her sessions and clients seem to like this. Another theme had to do with how clients respond emotionally. A few indicated that clients are often amazed and surprised at the level of accuracy or the information coming in. One viewer indicated clients often cry;

another, that clients appreciate that they are taken seriously for their interest in these topics, that they have help “solving their problems which could not be solved otherwise.” A couple stated their clients had expressed the RV sessions helped with their finances.

**Success.** In response to the question “How would you define ‘success’ in applied remote viewing projects?” The respondents most often mentioned accuracy. Comments included “nailing” the target, “being on target,” being “correct,” and “matches to feedback.”

Numerous respondents viewed success as helping and being useful to the client in terms of answering questions and solving problems.

Many of the responses suggested that it was the client who defines the success of the project more than anyone else. There were also some viewers who felt that the definition of success can change depending on the situation. For example, one wrote: “Success is very subjective and dependent on the project and client. In our commercial work, we often received little feedback other than the client was happy with the data.” Another shared: “Each project is different, so success is generic in your question. You’re only as good as your last session or project. That’s how I define success.”

**The Manner in Which Work Is Carried Out, or Experienced, by the Viewer.** Out of 64 responses, only four (6%) mentioned money or earnings as indicators of success, with two of these indicating this did not matter very much.

Not all definitions of success were outcome-based or reliant on client opinion. Rather, several viewers mentioned how they perceive and experience their own performance. This included possessing the ability to summarize, to meet deadlines, or provide clear communications, along with their ability to remain neutral, calm, focused, and effectively manage their own insecurities and distractions. Some defined success in terms of how other group members were performing, such as those responsible for tasking, targeting and providing feedback. Only a few remote viewers seemed to indicate the topic of success did not concern them, or that they feel successful every time they do a session.

**Enjoyment.** Respondents were asked what they enjoy most about RV applications work:

**Extremely High Intensity Emotions and Sentiments.** The words that were used expressed an extreme intensity of positive emotion; words such as “love,” “thrill,” “most fascinating,” “everything,” “all,” were most commonly used. The next most common words were those referencing personal development, insight and learning. “Appreciation for helping others” and “feedback” were also expressed: “Everything. It is the most fascinating thing I have ever learned.” “I love it all.” “All aspects.”

A number of viewers expressed that remote viewing makes them “high.” Comments included, “it makes me high.” “The way how it works, there is an inner threshold and I like it to step over and back.” “Remote viewing gets me high. I guess I’m like a sensation junky.”

**Personal Growth and Learning.** Comments included: “That we can have any understanding, knowledge or wisdom that we desire.” “Always something new.” “Getting a deeper understanding of



myself.” “Learning about my subconscious mind.” “The process and learning,” and the “fear of being publicly wrong.”

**Helping Others.** “Being helpful to society (and totally blown away clients is fun too!)” “The sense of fulfillment and closure I give others.” “For regular RV, if you can help the client realize their goal.” “The opportunities to help others.”

**Feedback.** “Being done and getting feedback!” “Immediate Feedback.” “The confirming feedback.”

**Metaphysical/Spiritual.** “I meet lot of... feel the presence of .... I can’t define it or them.” “Discovering the unknown.” “Just reaching beyond this dimension and pulling stuff through, in stark contrast to the probability of getting it right as often as we do.” “The puzzle of it.”

**Challenges.** Viewers were asked: “What do you find the most challenging about RV applications work?” Themes that emerged were as follows:

**Viewer Related.** Viewers frequently shared frustrations over their own inadequacies. These were most often related to difficulty turning down their logic and allow information from subconscious to flow through. A lack of patience, focus and confidence was also cited. A few indicated they are aware they are not or cannot reach 100% accuracy and this was frustrating. They wanted to understand this more. Comments included: “Being confidently patient for the data to come in.” “My left brain trying to label everything.” “Getting past AOLs (analytic overlay).” “Staying on signal line and not being attracted by something that may pique a personal interest.” “All my weak areas.” “Interference when focusing.” “Consistency.” “Getting out of my head.”

**Client Issues and Challenges.** One viewer commented: “It’s stressful because I could do 20 hours of work, but I’m not in control of what the client does with the information and if they don’t do the right thing, or if it is a situation where they just can’t or won’t follow thru.”

**Tasking.** Another area that viewers found to be challenging had to do with tasking instructions by project managers or clients. Tasking could refer to the secret, non-disclosed question that is not revealed to the viewers as in project using blinding protocols, but it can also refer to the frontloading or explanation of viewers in terms of what information is needed. Emerging themes were that respondents often felt that the tasking was confusing, too broad, or failed to address that which was ultimately needed to be known. This was sometimes the fault of project managers and sometimes of the client themselves.

**Other Challenges Mentioned.** These included lack of receiving feedback from clients, meeting deadlines, “finding the time and peace to work”; “emotional impact after feedback or people who are alive at the time of the session but still found too late.” Worrying about disappointing other group members, clients, or project managers; or concerns about writing effective summaries of data. One viewer believed lack of formal training was getting in her way.

**Preference for Methods.** Viewers were asked “Which RV techniques, approaches, methods do you prefer to use for your applied projects? Responses overwhelmingly demonstrated a preference for

working with a combination of methods, most often with CRV as one of the methods paired by either a CRV derivative (such as TDS, HRGV, SRV); or ERV, or dreaming, or a less structured method. Some viewers listed as many as working with four different methods. Some said they switch methods depending on the tasking and project goals, others mentioned they combine approaches within the same session.

CRV was by far the most popular method to work in exclusively, 15 viewers mentioning they prefer to do CRV exclusively, except when doing ARV sessions. One shared they prefer to use different approaches, but when doing sessions for a CRV instructor they will use their protocols. Only one viewer said they prefer to use ERV exclusively, one for TRV, one for Dream ESP.

Several viewers mentioned they do like ARV as it can be done quickly, noting for this practice they tend to not stick to the same protocols they would use for other applied projects.

It should be noted that even for the responses where viewers said they use only their own methods, it is clear to the researchers that from some of the language used such as “ideograms,” “AOL,” that these at least borrow concepts from CRV. Other methods mentioned were “dowsing.”

### **Other Survey Questions**

**RV Income.** As responses to the question: “What percentage of the applications work you did was for payment?” Out of 63 responses, 23.4% was the average number, with a range from 0 to 100%.

**Feedback.** When asked how often do you receive feedback? The mean was 67% for the 73 who responded. When asked how often the feedback is positive, the mean was 71.3%.

**Statistics.** Seventy-three who were asked if they keep statistics formerly on themselves as far as their success rate, 66.2% responded affirmatively. We did not define “statistics” for them but rather asked them to explain. Responses included that they keep track on their own, or through others’ databases, or that simply other instructors, organizations, or project managers or online apps programs keep their stats. Some said they only track their financial/ARV related stats, as it is not as easy or even possible to track this for applications work.

**Continued Practice.** Respondents were asked: “Even though you do applications work, do you continue to do RV practice sessions?” Out of 72 responses, 55 (76.3%) answered “Yes,” and 17 (23.6%) responded “No.”

## **Discussion**

Even if it is impossible to know whether our sample is representative of all remote viewers who currently use remote viewing for practical applications, what emerged from their responses is that RV is used extensively and its applications span from business to scientific and intelligence applications for personal to corporate and public agencies use. Confidentiality and NDAs were mentioned a lot.

Of our participants, only 23.4% declared that their RV job was payed a range from 0 to 100%, but it seems that this is a real professional job for some of them. It is clear that both the type of applica-

tions and the income deriving from their use depend on the skill level of the applicants as for any other professional skill. A client returns for a new service only if the previous session was deemed satisfactory.

If we look at the training levels of our sample, we observe a wide diversity with people declaring to have from a less than one year to more than 20 years of training and fewer than 50 to over 2000 RV completed sessions. These training differences count in the definition of the remote viewer's skill.

What appears to be new in these practices? Viewers working on their own, without monitors actually conducting the RV sessions, was a new finding. However, in terms of the overall project setup many continue to work in groups, or at least with taskers. What stood out was that the majority of participants use many methods and mix them up, or over time change them, with just 15 using CRV exclusively. Very few use ERV exclusively as a method.

Applications that seem to have grown in popularity compared to past reported projects are those that involve searching for normal household objects and pets, and projects involving lottery number predictions. Predictions related to new forms of currency such as cryptocurrency/bitcoin have been taken up by remote viewers in recent years. Still, respondents did not indicate that money was a primary motivating factor for being involved in RV applications work.

We were impressed by the expressions of strong enthusiasm, excitement, and personal benefits of remote viewing during applications work. The phrase "remote viewing makes me high" was repeated several times, as were words such as "thrilling" and "love" and "fascinating." While we would fully expect someone to enjoy and find benefit from an activity they are doing long term, we did not expect to find a word that is usually equated with euphoric producing substances, or such extreme levels of positive emotion.

Our participants gave different definitions of success, not just accuracy of the results. There was mention of statistics and record keeping without details provided. Some stated they kept data for themselves. Others stated data was kept by group managers or through various computer applications, but these were more often for financial-based applications involving ARV, which allows for binary calls that more closely parallell quantitative-based parapsychological projects. Participants indicated that keeping stats for other types of applications was more challenging, although there was "databasing" mentioned.

Our final conclusion is that remote viewing continues to be carried out in the spirit in which it was intended, for practical use and as an informational gathering tool, by articulate, thoughtful, and engaged participants. Future projects might do in-depth interviews with questions of group leaders, or survey clients themselves. Also, doing more case studies of single projects, or perhaps some case collectives of applications work would be useful. Obtaining more details about projects undertaken most recently (past two years) would also be helpful. Finally, since remote viewers seem to be able to articulate which training methods are useful to them, making conscious choices about which approaches work better for different applications and situations, it appears that further formal investigations into present day training methodologies is not only justified, but long overdue.

We'd like to thank the International Remote Viewing Association for being a co-sponsor of our project. We would also like to thank the many remote viewers who participated in this study.

A copy of the full survey is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-XX7Y82S67/>

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## **Les applications du Remote Viewing: Une enquête auprès des praticiens actuels du RV**

Résumé : L'objectif principal de cette revue de littérature et de cette enquête exploratoire auprès de remote viewers expérimentés était de découvrir les types de projets dans lesquels ils sont engagés aujourd'hui, et d'évaluer leur niveau d'investissement. Un deuxième objectif était de comprendre leurs antécédents, méthodes, approches, pratiques, philosophies, croyances, et expériences phénoménologiques liés à ce travail. Un troisième objectif était de découvrir si les définitions et les principes originaux du remote viewing, définis dans son contexte historique spécifique, ont changé. Cent-six remote viewers ont participé à l'enquête, mais tous n'ont pas répondu à toutes les questions. Nous avons eu régulièrement entre 70 et 73 réponses pour chaque question. Les réponses ont été analysées à l'aide d'une méthode mixte. Les principales conclusions sont que les applications du remote viewing sont vastes, allant des affaires aux applications scientifiques et de renseignement, ainsi que pour l'usage de particuliers, d'entreprises et d'organismes publics. Vingt-trois pour cent des participants ont déclaré que leur travail de remote viewing était rémunéré. L'éventail de la formation et de l'expérience en matière de remote viewing était large, et la majorité d'entre eux ont utilisé des méthodes mixtes en fonction du projet. Nous avons constaté que la plupart des personnes interrogées connaissaient et respectaient les principes scientifiques liés aux conditions aveugles et à la séparation des rôles, mais que les avis étaient partagés quant à l'aspect pratique de leur application.

*Mots-clefs*": remote viewing, enquête, applications, méthodes mixtes

## **Anwendungen des Remote Viewing: Eine Umfrage unter gegenwärtigen RV-Praktikern**

Zusammenfassung: Der Hauptzweck dieser Untersuchung und explorativen Umfrage unter erfahrenen Remote-Viewern (Fernwahrnehmern) bestand darin, herauszufinden, mit welchen Projektarten sie sich heute in welchem Umfang beschäftigen, sowie ihre Hintergründe, Methoden, Ansätze, Praktiken, Philosophien, Überzeugungen und phänomenologischen Erfahrungen im Kontext dieser Arbeit zu verstehen. Ein weiteres Ziel war es, herauszufinden, ob sich die ursprünglichen Definitionen und Inhalte des Remote Viewing, die in ihrem spezifischen historischen Kontext zustande kamen, verändert haben. 106 Remote Viewer nahmen an der Umfrage teil, wenngleich nicht alle jede Frage beantworteten. Wir hatten durchgängig zwischen 70 und 73 Antworten für jede Frage. Die Antworten wurden mithilfe eines Mixed-Methods-Ansatzes analysiert. Als wichtigste Ergebnisse konnten wir feststellen, dass Remote-Viewing-Anwendungen vielfältig sind, von geschäftlichen bis hin zu wissenschaftlichen und nachrichtendienstlichen Anwendungen reichen und von Privatpersonen, Unternehmen und öffentlichen Einrichtungen genutzt werden. Dreiundzwanzig Prozent der Teilnehmer gaben an, dass ihre Arbeit mit Remote Viewing

bezahlt wurde. Das Spektrum der Ausbildung und Erfahrung mit Remote Viewing war breit gefächert und die Mehrheit der Teilnehmenden verwendete je nach Projekt unterschiedliche Methoden. Wir stellten fest, dass die meisten Befragten sich der wissenschaftlichen Grundsätze der Verblindung und der Rollentrennung bewusst waren und diese auch respektierten; jedoch gab es unterschiedliche Auffassungen darüber, wie praktikabel die Einhaltung dieser Prinzipien für die Anwendung ist.

*Schlüsselbegriffe:* Remote Viewing, Fernwahrnehmung, Umfrage, Anwendung, Methodenmix

### **Aplicaciones de la Visión Remota: Un Estudio de Encuesta sobre los Practicantes Actuales de VR**

Resumen: El objetivo principal de esta revisión y encuesta exploratoria de videntes remotos experimentados fue descubrir con qué tipos de proyectos están comprometidos ahora y en qué medida, así como comprender sus antecedentes, métodos, enfoques, prácticas, filosofías, creencias y experiencias fenomenológicas relacionadas con este trabajo. Otro objetivo era descubrir si las definiciones y postulados originales de la visión remota, definidas dentro de su contexto histórico específico, han cambiado. Ciento seis videntes remotos participaron en el estudio, aunque no todos respondieron a todas las preguntas. Consistentemente tuvimos entre 70 y 73 respuestas por cada pregunta. Las respuestas fueron analizadas a través de un diseño de métodos mixtos. Los hallazgos principales reflejan que las aplicaciones de la visión remota son amplias, abarcando desde aplicaciones comerciales hasta científicas y de inteligencia, y para el uso de agencias personales, públicas y corporativas. El veintitrés por ciento de los participantes declaró que su trabajo como videntes remotos es pagado. El rango de entrenamiento y experiencia con visión remota fue amplio, y la mayoría declaró ocupar métodos mixtos dependiendo del proyecto. Encontramos que la mayoría de los participantes expresaron tanto conocimiento como respeto por los principios científicos relacionados con técnicas de ceguera (ciego simple, doble-ciego, etc.) y la separación de roles, aunque se reportaron puntos de vista variados respecto a la viabilidad de adherirse a estos principios en la práctica cotidiana.

*Palabras clave:* visión remota, estudio de encuesta, aplicaciones, métodos mixtos