



Visions in the night: children's 'extraordinary' dreams

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Today's session

1) The landscape of dreams

2) Children's 'extraordinary' dreams:

- precognitive dreams
- journeys into other realms

3) Concluding reflections

A surreal landscape featuring a calm lake in the foreground, surrounded by dense evergreen trees. In the background, massive, jagged ice formations or glaciers rise steeply from the water's edge, creating a dreamlike scene. The sky is overcast and grey. The right side of the image fades into a white background where the text is located.

The landscape of dreams

From ancient dream
incubation temples to
neuroscience

Dreams and childhood

- Earliest remembered dreams (Bulkeley et al 2005)
- Carl Jung - 'Big dreams' (Adams 2003)
- What do we know about children's dreams?
 - developmental psychology
 - content analysis
 - 'extraordinary' dreams



Children's dreams and psi

- **The oneironaut** – the dream traveller, journeying through time and space
- Precognitive – dreams of an event which later occurs
- Prophetic – affecting the collective
- Psi – include journeying to different realms
- Lucid – aware that one is dreaming
- Telepathic dreams

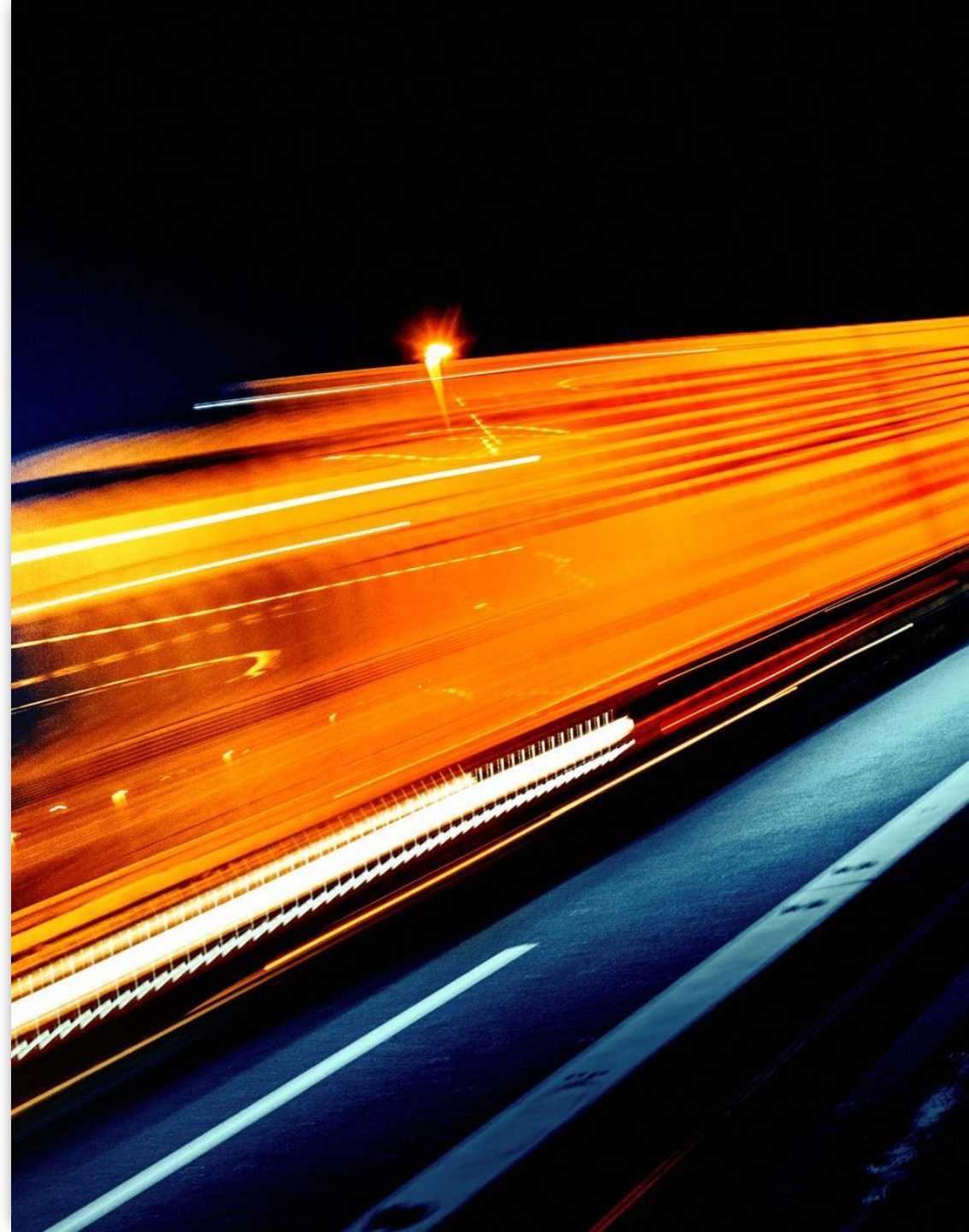
(Mastrangelo 2016)



Precognitive dreams



- Frequently reported by children (Van de Castle 1994; Fukuda 2002; Mastrangelo 2016)
- Louisa E. Rhine's letters ($n=216$) of 10-18 year old's psi experiences: 52% were precognitive dreams (Drewes 2002)
- Often about relatively trivial events (Drewes 2002)...
- ...but can be extremely profound



Predicting winning lottery numbers

Hayley





Dreaming the future

‘Only Allah knows the future’

Ahmed

A school tragedy

Eryl Mai Jones aged 10,
Aberfan, Wales, UK
(Mallon 2002; 2016)



At 1:00, I had a vivid dream in which I saw my mother laid out on our baby grand piano which she played often, with beautiful flowers banked all about her. I realized that she was dead and I awoke screaming with fright.

(Rhine 1953/2018: 25)

Journeys into other realms





Meeting the deceased in dreams

- A recognised phenomenon as part of the grieving process (Garfield 1997)
- ‘After Death Communications’ – often in sleep (62% of 618 adults) and not limited to grief (Elsaesser 2023)
- Children report meeting the deceased in dreams (Thomas 2022)



Dream: A symbolic bus journey

Amy



Claire

A friend at the end of a tunnel
(Adams, Hyde and Woolley 2008)



Lucid dreams

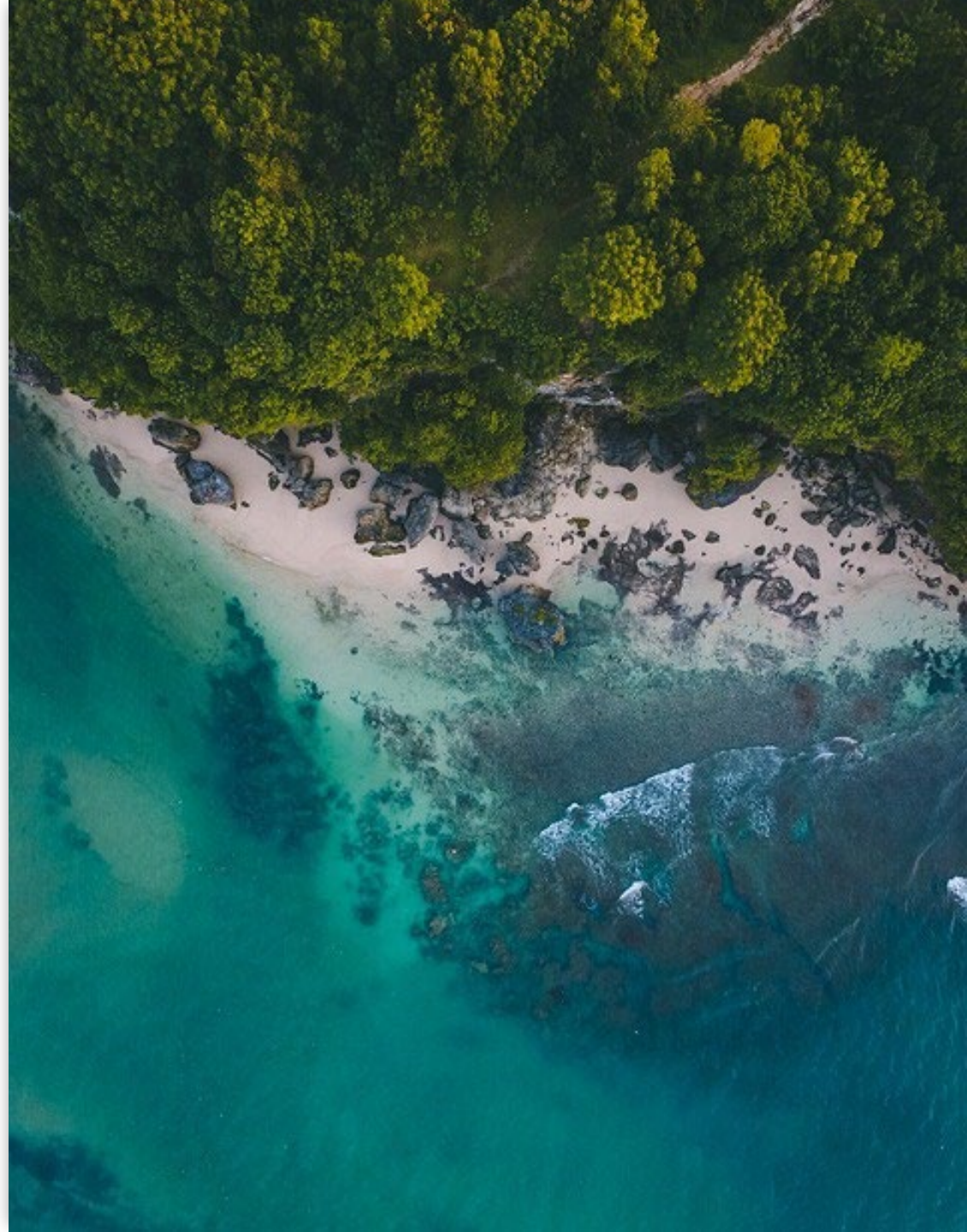
Children's spontaneous lucid dreams (Johnson 2016; Thomas 2022)



Concluding reflections

Different disciplinary and cultural understandings

- The spirit leaves our body in dreams to travel, e.g.
 - Ancient China (Van de Castle 1994)
 - Narranga-ga Aborigines in Australia (Mallon 2016)





**Our need
to listen to
children**



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