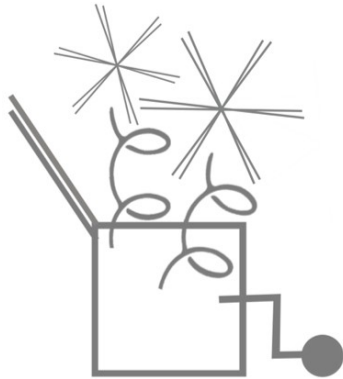


In spite of a large body of research, the jury is out – we have yet to find a model that makes sense of the complexity of the hearing voices/anomalous perception phenomenon and how it translates to lived experience.



To the voice hearer, the hallucinator, the **Anomalous Perception (AP) is a surprise Packet Of Information (POI)** - a veritable (though as yet unverifiable) jack in the box that leads to questions, not answers that improve quality of life.

It arrives out of the blue, makes it's presence known and felt, won't go away or be ignored and causes great confusion to hearer and others alike.

To add to the confusion, it comes in all sorts of varieties with special effects that are both complex and difficult to explain, let alone research.

First person accounts are colored by the experience of the phenomenon and what it means to the person and those who live with and support them.

To pin this devil down and study it properly we have to be more clear about each of it's elements and how they work together to produce the behaviors/symptoms we see in people with 'psychoses'.

AP is best understood by comparison to what we might call ordinary perception—the kind we believe we all share, the usual synthesis of data/information from our environment (Input) plus our own contextual framing of this information for processing (or rejection) by the mind. In simple terms the components are:

**Inputs gathered =  $\sum$  Sensory Data + Context → Perception → Experience**



**Perception** is the process of making sense of parameters/information that we select/analyze/modify in context. We frame and accept (Select) information to give us a parameter set with values and limits useful to achieving our desired outcomes (Experience). Change the context and we change the selection and limits.

We use our senses to query/verify the environmental data/info and our own preferences, dreams, objectives, situation, feelings and history to color it in. We discard/reject whatever is not relevant/'true'. The result is the POI that allows us to derive the most value (quality of life) from the context.

**Perception is a mix (synthesis) of sensory data and how we interpret/feel about it.** It is both the bridge and gate between the habitats we live in and our minds.

The **surprise factor in Anomalous Perception** is that a complex INPUT presents in a way that mimics a synthesized perception, yet lacks any traceability or provenance in the synthesis process. We are unable to make sense of it in the context of the real world and we are unable to query/verify in the usual way. The result is that our select/analyze/modify process searches the mind for more data/info instead the environment, the usual source of sensory data, and we derive 'unusual beliefs' or working truths, which later prove to be inconvenient, at least, lol.

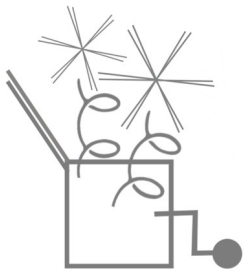
It is clear that a break through understanding of the phenomenology will have massive benefits for society. **It is knowledge of the illusory input that will get us closer to the root cause of hallucinations and psychoses.**



The equivalent logical 'perceptual' components of AP are (¥ is the "WTF?!" or surprise factor!):

**Inputs delivered = ¥ (Anomaly+Variety) → Perception → Experience**

Think of AP as an illusory chameleon: The illusion is an input that presents itself to the Aware Mind as a partial or fully formed 'perception'. The chameleon like nature represents the wide variety of permutations in parameters and content presented, that extend beyond the language of our five traditional sensory inputs. We are so focused on the magic of the chameleon's color that we don't notice that we lack a relevant context or process of synthesis that helps us interrogate it and it slips past our 'gates'.



**Anomaly:** We *experience* it as an INPUT that co-exists with our usual inputs (hearing voices does not interfere with my hearing), yet as something OTHER than self originating outside of self. Awareness is sustained by **difference** and:

- The lack of an identifiable source or trace and the inability to test or validate
- The method and timing of delivery are not within the hallucinator's control or based on environment
- Varying levels of intrusiveness experienced tactically leading to interpretations of intent... and

**Variety:** The inquire/explain process identifies a POI that is not coherent with an ordinary sensory data set, unexpectedly more akin to an interaction with another being than a physical habitat. Furthermore, there is information that is 'other worldly', e.g. thought like modalities, relationships and emotions that cannot be interpreted as senses. There is a variety of changing 'special effects' that sustain attention incl. clarity, tone, volume, emotion and content. These effects disguise the correlation between anomaly type and the beliefs and behaviors that result, e.g.:

- Anomalies experienced as thought lead to beliefs about telepathy and thought broadcasting
- Anomalies of language confuse facts, create stories that become connected to our lives as 'delusions'
- Anomalies of sound are just constant noise... conditioning for irritability and distractedness

Both Anomaly and Variety as provisionally defined above are **common to all Anomalous Inputs**. A huge opportunity lies in research aimed at a unified theory of anomalous *input* — independent of *experienced/perceived* modality.

The anomaly is evident in the AWARE Mind — with a better understanding we can ask better questions. Moreover, there is a great opportunity to use existing research data to discover new insights. We can **Make A Difference** by making #MADSense of this troubling phenomenon together and achieve a **better return on research investment**.

Be well, have fun.

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About Gregory Shankland aka greggieboy (My voices call me greggieboy)

I am a voice hearer and business strategist. I have about thirty thousand hours of aware analysis of the 'anomalous perception' phenomenon and experience — experiencing a wide variety of unusual perception types. I use my professional experience - first principles thinking from engineering, an improvement mindset gained in international business improvement consulting with an emphasis on behavior. My consulting experience across many industries includes substantial life sciences work in hospitals, pharmaceuticals (research, pharmacovigilance, supply chain, compliance) and a little in the academic world.

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