

No Science in \$cientology

Scientology books are sold as scientific. For example: What the cult calls Book One, titled *Dianetics The Modern Science of Mental Health*. There's also *A History of Man*, billed by L. Ron Hubbard (the Founder of Scientology) as "a cold-blooded and factual account of your last sixty trillion years". However, there is no scientific validation of the contents in these books.

Yes, No Science in \$cientology about says it all. Despite the fact that Dianetics and Scientology together are nearly 50 years old, there has never been any scientific verification of the principles that the Scientology cult teaches. In fact, the only two experiments in existence to address Scientology principles have shown that these principles do not hold up under experimental evaluation. Of course, this may not be surprising - the first time Hubbard wrote about Dianetics, it was published in *Astounding Science Fiction Magazine* (the May 1950 issue), not a scientific journal.

You can see the cover of the *Astounding* magazine in question here: <http://www.primenet.com/~cultxpt/cos.htm>

The first experiment was *Dianetic Therapy: An Experimental Evaluation* by Harvey Jay Fischer. This study was submitted in 1953 to Fischer's sponsoring committee as part of the requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy in Education he was pursuing. From the abstract of *Dianetic Therapy: An Experimental Evaluation* by Harvey Jay Fischer:

"Dianetic proponents specifically claim effectiveness in only three areas: intellectual functioning, mathematical ability, and personality conflicts ... For the population of disturbed persons who applied for dianetic therapy, and who were between the ages of 22 and 47 years, and who had at least some high school education, regardless of the sex of these persons, it was concluded that:

"(1) dianetic therapy does not exert a systematic influence either favorably or adversely upon intellectual functioning;
"(2) dianetic therapy does not exert a systematic influence either favorably or adversely upon mathematical ability; and
"(3) dianetic therapy does not exert a systematic influence either favorably or adversely upon the degree of personality conflicts."

There you have it. According to Harvey Jay Fischer's experimental evaluation of Dianetic Therapy, Dianetic therapy has no influence on the areas that Dianetics claims to improve. Not a good influence, not a bad influence. Simply no influence.

The complete Fischer experiment is on the internet: <http://www.xenu.net/archive/fischer/index.html>

The other experiment was an attempt to prove the validity of Hubbard's engram hypothesis - the entire reason for undergoing expensive Scientology "auditing" (the word Scientology uses to describe its therapy, Scientologists undergo auditing to remove their engrams). *An Experimental Investigation of Hubbard's Engram Hypothesis (Dianetics)* was published in *Psychological Newsletter*, 1959, 10 131-134, and authored by Jack Fox, Alvin E. Davis, and B. Lebovits. Here are two quotes from this study, the first from the introduction and the second comprising the summary of the paper:

"The purpose of the experiment was to provide an experimental test of Hubbard's engram hypothesis."

"This paper formulates two hypotheses concerning the retention of events occurring during states of unconsciousness. It describes an experiment in which a passage selected from a physics text was read to a subject placed in an unconscious state by administration of sodium pentothal. During a period of almost six months, dianetic auditors were unable to recover the passage. Thus, the engram hypothesis was not substantiated by this experiment."

This experiment is also archived on the internet: <http://www.xs4all.nl/~kspaink/cos/essays/engrams.html>

For an essay on evaluating the science behind Hubbard's claims: http://www.xs4all.nl/~kspaink/cos/essays/jacobsen_intro.html

Of course, Dianetics and Scientology can be shown to be highly effective in one area: Emptying your wallet. According to *Canadian Viewpoint (Magazine of the Church of Scientology of Toronto)*, the cost for Dianetic therapy is \$16 per hour, purchased in \$200 lumps. The cost for New Era Dianetic therapy is either \$256 per hour, purchased in \$3200 lumps (with a lifetime membership which you pay \$2100 US for, or a yearly membership of \$300 US, in 1994 dollars), or a whopping \$320 per hour without the lifetime membership, purchased in \$4000 lumps. Quite a lot to remove engrams that the cult can't prove the existence of, isn't it?

For more information that \$cientology doesn't want you to know:

<http://www.xenu.net>

<http://xenu.ca>

<http://www.xenu-city.net>

<http://www.b-org.demon.nl>