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Interiority and Objectivity with Starseeds on the Pale Blue Dot

**A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements
for the degree of**

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in
Social Anthropology**

**at Massey University
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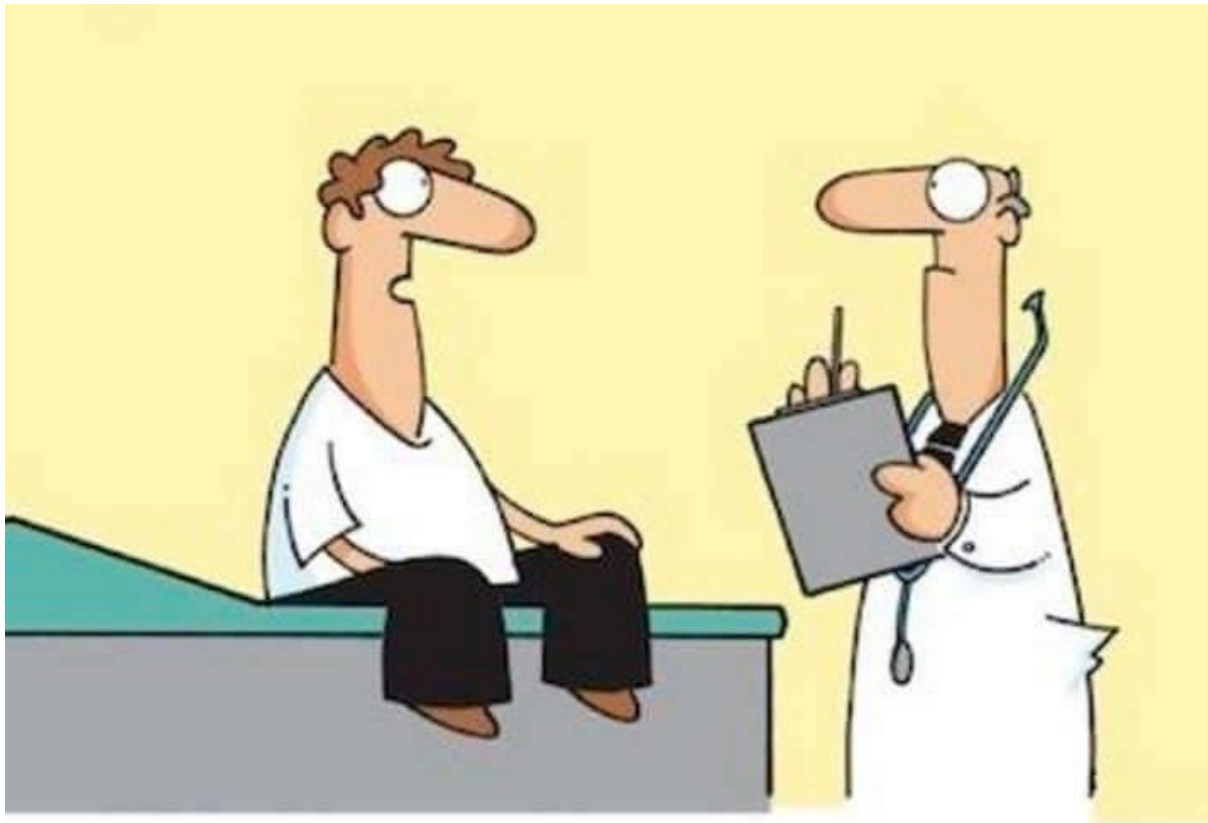
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ABSTRACT:

This thesis examines a new religious movement of people who call themselves Starseeds. I examine Starseed beliefs in light of the postmillennium and our current digitised world, as well as demonstrate a correlation between the Starseed worldview and current societal norms, ideas and the social imaginary. The formulation of the Starseed worldview seems to be highly responsive to exterior social factors, be it political, environmental, or economic, whilst also maintaining a historicity and religionism that can be traced through to the traditions and beliefs of older, more established religious groups. Additionally, my research into Starseeds recognises that the spiritual quest for theosis and enchantment is still ever-present in today's secularised age. Underlying the themes of this thesis is the age-old philosophical debate around object versus subject, and I present some current arguments that exemplify the progression of quantum understandings into previously determinist, materialist disciplines such as physics and maths. Furthermore, I propose that the Starseeds' beliefs in shifting realities, multi-dimensions, and noumenal subjectivity correspond with premises of quantum mechanics, and posit that this is a trend not limited to Starseeds, but rather an indication of a shift in the way the sciences and social sciences are currently reconfiguring their frameworks and understandings. Starseed beliefs in aliens and being star-born souls necessitated a discussion about the anthropological and theoretical decentering of the human in two main spheres: the Anthropocene; based around the premise that we are earthbound Beings, subject and vulnerable to the simple requirements of the body, including clean water and air; and amazing discoveries in astrosience including the salty brine on one of Jupiter's moons which may be an indicator of life as well as possibly habitable exo-planets. These developments have garnered a growing realisation that our anthropogenic and geocentric worldview as humans on Earth may, in future, face challenges to long-held assumptions.

Acknowledgements:

I often comment that doing graduate studies and writing a thesis is like going on a long hiking trek, with everything on your back, a tent, good shoes, drink bottles, and a map where you've plotted your journey with a general if incomplete idea of where you are venturing. When one first sets out there is excitement and a feeling of "I'm so awesome, lucky and brave!" and those early weeks, meeting and discussing things with your fellow travellers and classmates is energising! Gradually as the days pass, writing your thesis becomes a solo endeavour, and you reach small peaks, take in the views, enjoy the sunsets, and revel in those moments when you find a beautiful creek to wade through in an amazing article that fits exactly what you are trying to articulate. But along the way some of us travellers end up in swamps, bogged down with uncertainty, heavy with the weight of all that work not yet synthesised into a coherent document, and seeing that mountain peak looming still, seemingly miles away. I was at this stage when I reached out to Professor Jeff Sluka whose thorough, in-depth responses to my drafts felt like I had arrived at a cosy hut with all amenities, to rest up, take stock and tend to my bruises. I want to thank him wholeheartedly for instilling in me a renewed confidence in the direction I was heading, and for the occasional wry comment that made me laugh. I also wish to thank my Starseed participants for letting me into their space and giving me a new and wider perspective on what comprises reality and belief. I also would like to thank my fellow classmates for their support and friendship, as well as Professor Kathryn Rountree for our delightful Skype discussions which helped me better understand the terrain I was entering into.

Cartoon: So, What's the Problem?

Doctor: So what's the problem?

Patient: Well, my ears are ringing, I'm seeing kaleidoscopic geometry when I close my eyes, and I'm communicating with aliens in my sleep!

Doctor: Oh, that's no worry. You're just ascending into 5D and your third eye is opening. We see it all the time! Let me prescribe you these spirulina tablets to help your body adjust to all the cosmic upgrades.

Table of Contents:

ABSTRACT:	ii
Acknowledgements:.....	iii
Cartoon: So, What’s the Problem?	iv
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	4
Interiority and Objectivity with Starseeds On the Pale Blue Dot	4
A Vertical Moment in Vertical Time:	4
A Brief Definition of Being as Used in This Thesis:.....	5
A Vertical Moment:.....	5
My Introduction to Starseeds:	6
Research Aims:	7
The Research Area - Informing the Field:.....	8
Who are the Starseeds?	10
Distribution:.....	10
Research Methodology and Participants:	11
Locating my Theoretical Position:.....	13
Structure of the Thesis:	15
CHAPTER TWO:.....	16
The Academic and Social Fields Within Which Starseeds Reside	16
A Vertical Moment:	16
Overview of This Chapter:.....	17
Starseeds and New Age:	20
Aliens and Theosophy:	22
Aliens in Anthropology:	22
NASA, Aliens and Anthropology:	24
Where Aliens Meet Science, Religion and the Human Imaginary:.....	26
Fiction-Based and Narrative Religions:.....	27
CHAPTER THREE:	30
The Starseed Worldview	30
A Vertical Moment:	30
An Overview of Starseed Beliefs:	30
Starseeds Come from Elsewhere:	31
What are the Dimensions?.....	35
The Ascension and Shift from the 3 rd to the 5 th Dimension:.....	37
The Pantheon(?) of the Starseeds:	40

The Reptilian Influence on the World:	42
CHAPTER FOUR:	47
The 3D Matrix - A Reflection and Refraction of the Social Soup	47
A Vertical Moment:	47
The 3D Matrix:	47
Measuring the Zeitgeist in the Aftermath of the 2016 US Election:	49
3D Politics and Economics:	51
3D Media:	53
3D Angst:	53
The 3D Matrix from the Perspective of the Human-in-Nature:	57
Geoengineering:	58
The 3D Matrix as Domination:	64
Resist:	65
CHAPTER FIVE:	66
Digitalia as Ontology, and Interiority as Phenomenology	66
A Vertical Moment:	66
Light Language and the Superconsciousness:	66
Digitalia:	67
Digitalia and Posthumanism:	70
Where Digitalia and Religion Meet:	72
Social Soup/Strands/Networks:	72
Where Starseeds and Digitalia Part Ways:	73
Biocentrism – A Theoretical Bridge between Exteriority and Interiority:	74
Starseed Interiority:	74
CHAPTER SIX: CONCLUSION	78
Reviewing my Research Questions	78
A Vertical Moment:	78
A Vertical Moment – From my Journal:	78
Reviewing my Research Questions:	78
The Ascension and Theosis:	80
My Second Research Question Asked:	83
Reviewing the Third Research Question; Quantum Equals Sociality?	83
Networks, Cohesion and Processes:	85
The Sacred in Ecology:	86
Anthropology into the Future:	88
Overview:	90

Deep in Starseed Space, A Vertical Moment from my Journal:	92
APPENDIX 1: Research Questionnaire	94
APPENDIX II: What is the Fifth Dimension?	99
BIBLIOGRAPHY:	107