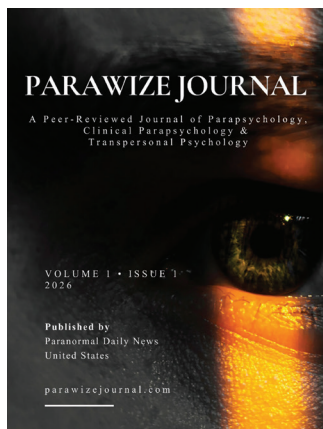


Parawize Journal: A Review

BOOK AND MULTIMEDIA REVIEW

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Parawize Journal is a new quarterly peer-reviewed open-access publication that covers various topics in parapsychology and transpersonal psychology. The first issue was published on April 22nd, 2026 and it contains eight articles encompassing a range of topics including a critical evaluation of media skeptics' scientific claims on paranormal phenomena (Clément, 2026), working with psychics and mediums during spontaneous case investigations (Auerbach, 2026), practical lessons for ghost hunting from parapsychology (Williams, 2026), using AI tools in parapsychological research (Corne, 2026), AI and collective shadow material (Patel, 2026), a response to a prior published study in which there is ongoing debate between the anomalous episodic communal kinetic occurrences (AECKO) approach to spontaneous cases and the haunted people syndrome (HP-S) model (Auerbach et al., 2026), direct spiritual intelligent intrusion (DSII) (Brocas, 2026), and an article about a mystics' visions and mystical experiences having come from either a psychological or preternatural source rather than genuine divine revelation (Gallagher, 2026). One article was a reprint with permission (Gallagher, 2026; Pitstick & Gallagher, 2025), two were used for a presentation at a conference or a massive online course (Auerbach, 2021, 2026; Williams, 2023, 2026), and one was an article that originally was uploaded on Academia.edu, but later removed (Auerbach et al., 2026).

The articles are in a variety of formats even though a formal structure is required, but there is an allowance based on the submission type (Parawize, n.d.). Some articles followed a formal introduction, materials and methods, results, discussion, and references formatting, while others were more narrative in style. This is different than what I see in other peer-reviewed academic literature that covers frontier science topics in which a formal format is routinely followed.

Replication potential, integration with existing literature, transparency of limitations, handling of alternative explanations, and statistical quality should be considered when determining the quality of an article itself and the overall quality of the journal. These are even more important for frontier science fields such as parapsychology. Because the first volume is so new, its articles did not yet provide the kinds of methodological



details—such as information needed to judge replication potential, statistical rigor, or study limitations—that are typically expected in established scholarly journals. As a result, it was difficult to evaluate these aspects. Future volumes may offer a stronger basis for assessing these factors as the journal develops. The articles did, however, include references and showed engagement with the existing literature relevant to their topics. Finally, alternative explanations were present in the Auerbach et al. (2026) since it addressed a competing model to the one proposed in the article. Most (minus the AI articles) were psi-proponent based.

The authors were of varying backgrounds and education levels, including citizen scientists, master's- and doctoral-level researchers, and an MD. This provides a broad level of perspective, and the differences in the articles were readily apparent based on author background and academic training, resulting in different levels of academic rigor and ease of reading. Scholarly work can be done by and published by a wide variety of individuals with various academic backgrounds, so I am not implying this is a negative on the authors, articles, or the journal. But a certain level of academic standard should be expected when published in peer-reviewed academic publications, and it is possible for all to hit this mark.

Evaluating a new journal requires looking into how it operates. Academic and scholarly publications require peer review rigor, editorial transparency, ethics policies, indexing, and institutional credibility (Garfield, 2006; Moed, 2005). My next part of the review of *Parawize Journal* uses established criteria for academic publications and explores its organizational connections to a wider ecosystem that includes Paranormal Daily News and the *Deadly Departed* podcast.

Peer Review and Editorial Standards

A clearly defined peer review process is a strong indicator of a legitimate journal. *Parawize Journal* uses a double-blind peer review system. According to its policies, manuscripts undergo an initial editorial screening followed by review from at least two independent reviewers with relevant expertise.

The journal has an editorial independence statement, asserting that publication decisions are based on scholarly merit rather than external influence - such as commercial or outside pressure.

Transparency in editorial personnel is another important marker. *Parawize Journal* publicly lists its editors: Loyd

Auerbach, Jock Brocas, Dr. Richard Gallagher, Dr. Pascal Michael, and Dr. Elliot Van Dusen. The editorial board appears relatively small and with concentrated expertise in paranormal subjects and involvement, parapsychology, and transpersonal psychology. Other interdisciplinary journals draw editors from a variety of fields, such as psychology, neuroscience, philosophy of science, statistics, and other related fields. Broader representation would strengthen the *Parawize Journal's* credibility.

Guidelines, Publication Ethics, Infrastructure, and Accessibility

Parawize Journal's submission guidelines reflect normal accepted academic standards. Authors are required to use APA 7th edition formatting, provide structured abstracts, include methodology sections, and submit blinded manuscripts. The journal also requires plagiarism screening and will reject manuscripts above a 15% similarity threshold. These are common requirements for responsible publishing that are present in other academic peer-reviewed scholarly journals. Overall, the journal's submission and ethics policies are similar to those of established scholarly outlets.

Parawize Journal uses the Open Journal Systems (OJS), a widely used platform supporting structured workflows for submission tracking, peer review, editorial management, and digital archiving. The journal also addresses digital preservation, an open-access policy, copyright and licensing, author fees, and ethics and privacy statements. These operational details are consistent with legitimate scholarly publishing practices. It is important to note that the journal does not exhibit common predatory red flags, such as guaranteed acceptance, fabricated impact factors, or misleading indexing claims.

Limitations

Despite its strengths, *Parawize Journal* faces several limitations that are common in early-stage journals. Two limitations are the lack of indexing and citation metrics. There is no major indexing service such as Scopus, Web of Science, PubMed, or DOAJ. Indexing is not a guarantee of quality, but it is a form of external validation. It also increases discoverability when used. The journal currently lacks metrics such as Journal Impact Factor, SCImago Journal Rank (SJR), CiteScore, and Eigenfactor. While metrics should not be treated as direct indicators of quality (Garfield, 2006), their absence makes it difficult to assess the journal's reach and influence in a wider context.



Parawize Journal is not affiliated with an academic institution or professional organization. It is part of a unique paranormal organizational ecosystem, which appears to be part of a coordinated media-and-research network centered around Paranormal Daily News (PDN) and the *Deadly Departed* podcast.

PDN functions as an overall platform. It is described as an online paranormal/parapsychology media outlet focused on education, commentary, interviews, and public-facing research communication (Paranormal Daily News, n.d.). The two editors of *Parawize Journal* - Loyd Auerbach and Jock Brocas - also have significant roles in PDN.

Jock Brocas is the founder/editor of PDN, the host of the *Deadly Departed* podcast, and the co-founder of *Parawize Journal*. He has been actively involved in studying consciousness, anomalous phenomena, parapsychology, and transpersonal psychology for 20 years. Brocas is an author and researcher with several published books and numerous articles exploring the intersection of scientific inquiry and spiritual experience. He works to create dialogue between academic researchers, practitioners, and the broader public (Brocas, n.d.).

PDN also lists Loyd Auerbach as head of parapsychology. Loyd Auerbach holds a master's degree in parapsychology and is a widely known figure in parapsychology and the paranormal investigation community. He has 45 years of experience investigating paranormal phenomena and over 40 years teaching the subject. He serves as Director of the Office of Paranormal Investigations, President of the Forever Family Foundation, and is affiliated with the Rhine Research Center and Rhine Education Center. Auerbach is also known for his performance persona "Professor Paranormal," blending scientific insight with public education and entertainment (Auerbach, n.d.).

The *Deadly Departed* podcast is PDN's audio/video extension. The podcast is hosted by Jock Brocas; it frequently references PDN projects, and features recurring guests from the same parapsychology community. Episodes, along with PDN posts, describe *Parawize Journal* as a PDN-connected initiative, and the podcast has already covered one topic and article that appeared in the journal - the AECKO article (Auerbach et al., 2026). It also promotes PDN's educational and community programs.

Parawize Journal is the formal publication extension of this ecosystem. Jock Brocas founded the journal along with Loyd Auerbach. The broader "Parawize" brand does seem to predate the journal through "Parawize Talks," which is an educational initiative launched by PDN.

What are the implications of this interconnectedness and what does it mean for the *Parawize Journal*? The three connected entities - PDN (media hub), *Deadly Departed* (podcast), and *Parawize Journal* (research publication outlet)—suggest an integrated ecosystem with shared leadership, branding, contributors, and audience. This integration is not inherently problematic, but it does raise questions about editorial independence, potential conflicts of interest, ideological alignment, insularity of peer review, perceived objectivity, a potential echo-chamber effect, and the journal's position relative to mainstream scientific skepticism.

The ecosystem appears to lean toward psi-positive and survival-research advocacy, positioning itself as a counterweight to formal skeptical organizations such as the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry (CSI). They appear to be attempting to bridge the gap between ghost hunters/paranormal investigators and parapsychology. This is not a bad thing, as I have been hoping to see a coordinated effort in this area. However, this context is important for one to form an informed opinion on the journal's identity, audience, and potential biases. This may influence reviewer selection, editorial framing, topic emphasis, and openness to skeptical or critical perspectives. This does not invalidate the journal's work, but it does place the journal within a potential perceived partisan community rather than a neutral academic environment.

Concluding Thoughts

Research on anomalous or paranormal phenomena often faces skepticism within mainstream academia. Nothing less should be expected for *Parawize Journal*. The journal's long-term credibility within these frontier science fields will depend on consistently strong methodological transparency and interdisciplinary participation along with strong research and academic rigor.

Parawize Journal is an emerging specialty journal. It has several positive indicators - double-blind peer review, transparent editorial policies, plagiarism screening, ethics requirements, APA formatting standards, use of Open Journal Systems, and absence of predatory red flags. However, the journal remains in an early-stage and faces limitations typical of new publications, including lack of major indexing, absence of citation metrics, limited institutional affiliation, narrow editorial representation, and developing publication history.

The connections between *Parawize Journal*, Paranormal Daily News, and the *Deadly Departed* podcast suggest that



the journal is part of a well-linked media-and-research ecosystem with an ideological trend toward psi-positive interpretations of anomalous phenomena. This structure could influence perceptions of editorial independence and scholarly neutrality.

Parawize Journal's long-term credibility will depend on maintaining rigorous peer review, publishing methodologically strong work, and attracting broader interdisciplinary participation. For now, I view *Parawize Journal* as a developing niche outlet whose scholarly standing is still taking shape.

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