



Limina – The Journal of UAP Studies

Call for papers for a special issue on

Alien encounter narratives in judicial proceedings

Volume editor:

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About the special issue

The reluctance of the vast majority of SETI and some UAP researchers to take non-repeatable personal alien encounter narratives into account is a staple trope in the general alien encounter and UAP debate. However, the proof of the pudding would seem to lie in investigating the very practical consequences of the use of encounter testimony of all sorts in legal proceedings, for example, when examining how courts would react to a claim that somebody had a car accident because she was buzzed by a UFO or distracted by a sighting while driving etc. In the age of increasingly ubiquitous dashcam footage, for example, we might now even have new sources of evidence to complement the personal narrative.

The papers invited for this special issue are meant to engage with the rules of the evaluation of evidence in court proceedings, take a look at the principles of forensic witness psychology, and how the interplay might influence the outcome of a case in real life. After an initial survey of potential past court cases involving alien encounter narratives of any kind in their respective countries, the papers will focus on two case studies – one civil and one criminal law – to be addressed according to each author’s domestic legal system, and on a third case study on general witness psychology.

Instructions for authors

- For the purposes of maximum comparability, authors will be asked to adhere to a general research grid.
- The case studies may exceptionally need some minor adaptation to the relevant domestic jurisdictions based on their general procedural law and rules. Authors should make it clear before each scenario and in the text, why and how they have amended it. Care should be taken to stay as close as possible to the originals. Authors should consult with Professor Bohlander before doing so.
- Papers must not be longer than 10,000 words, including footnotes. The case studies shall not be reproduced in the papers, except to the extent that they have been adapted (see above).
- For the journal’s style guide and submission process, see: <https://limina.uapstudies.org/authors>
- Expressions of interest (except Germany) – with a short bio on the legal background, qualifications and experience of each author (250 words) – should be sent via email to Professor Bohlander at michael.bohlander@durham.ac.uk. Being the first to submit for a certain jurisdiction does, however, not necessarily guarantee acceptance.
- Contributors shall be responsible for native-speaker language editing of their manuscripts before submission, if English is not their mother tongue or usual working language.
- The deadline for expressions of interest is 31 October 2024.
- Selected contributors will thereafter be sent the research grid and the case studies.
- The deadline for submission of the first draft of the full papers is 31 October 2025.
- Publication of the special issue is planned for the first half of 2026.