



Department of Psychology
Nedlands, Western Australia 6009
Telegrams Uniwest Perth, Telex AA92992
Telephone (09) 380

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am writing in support of the application of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh for United States residency.

Enclosed is a brief curriculum vitae of myself, outlining my qualifications. I should also point out that although my research specialization is in visual perception, my teaching duties in the Psychology Department require me to be conversant with the literature on most areas of psychology, including therapy.

Judged strictly from an academic point of view, Rajneesh's writings are formidable. He has tackled almost all the fundamental issues of psychology and philosophy, casting them in a new light and giving them a new direction. In true academic style he questions many of the basic premises of philosophy and religion, and presents original and interesting alternatives. His challenging basic ideas and accepted dogma may be at first disquieting, but this is to be expected: the same reaction was elicited by the works of Freud, on whom classical psychiatry is now almost exclusively based.

Rajneesh does more than merely preach his theories. He has developed many practical techniques that aid personal growth and inner understanding, which are now being put into practise in many therapy centres throughout the world (not only in those who profess to follow Rajneesh). I have not visited his new centre in Oregon, but I did meet him and witness his work in Poona. In my opinion his growth programme of meditation and group therapy, based on a combination of both traditional Eastern techniques and on modern Western psychology, is perhaps the most successful programme of its kind.

I understand, and indeed share, your reservation in granting residency to Rajneesh, in the light of the recent hoard of religious crackpots and self acclaimed gurus. However, I sincerely believe that Rajneesh is a special case, and shares nothing in common with other supposed gurus. Nor do I believe that he will be a subversive influence on American youth. His followers here in Perth integrate well with the rest of society, are well liked and highly industrious. Indeed in the midst of a

bad economic recession they have founded several successful businesses, giving employment to some fifty people. I believe that in the future, after Rajneesh's philosophies have survived the test of time, America will feel proud to have welcomed him as a citizen.

Yours faithfully

D. C. Burr, PhD

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D C Burr". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Name: David Charles BURR

Address: Department of Psychology
The University of Western Australia
Nedlands Western Australia 6009
Australia

Date of birth: 28 July 1952

Citizenship: Australian and British

Marital Status: Married, no children

Qualifications: BSc (1st class Hons) - University of WA, 1975
PhD (Cantab) - Cambridge, 1979

Languages: English, Italian

Present position: Queen Elizabeth II Research Fellow

Previous positions:

1976 Senior Tutor, Western Australian Institute of Technology.

1976-1979 Postgraduate student, Darwin College and Department of Psychology, Cambridge (supported by Hackett Fellowship from The University of Western Australia).

1979-1980 Royal Society Exchange Fellow, Istituto di Neurofisiologia del CNR, Pisa, Italy.

1981 University Post Doctoral Research Fellow, The University of Western Australia.

Sep-Oct 1981 Visiting Professor, University of Padua, Italy (to give an invited lecture series on visual perception).

Grants Held:

NH&MRC (1983) Functional Implications of Cross Orientational Inhibition (with Professor J. Ross): \$31,291.

ARGS (1983) Structuring Mechanisms in Visual Perception (with Professor J. Ross and Dr. J.R. Johnstone): \$31,144.

PUBLICATIONS

- Burr, D.C. A second binocular depth perception system. Honours thesis, The University of Western Australia, 1975.
- Burr, D.C. & Ross, J. How does binocular delay give information about depth? Vision Research, 1979, 19, 523-532.
- Burr, D.C. Acuity for apparent vernier offset. Vision Research, 1979, 19, 835-837.
- Burr, D.C. On the visibility and appearance of objects in motion. PhD thesis, Cambridge University, 1979.
- Burr, D.C. Motion smear. Nature, 1980, 284, 164-165.
- Burr, D.C. Sensitivity to spatial phase. Vision Research, 1980, 20, 391-396.
- Hess, R.F., Burr, D.C., & Campbell, F.W. A preliminary report into neural function and dysfunction in amblyopia. Part III: Cooperative activity of amblyopic channels. Vision Research, 1980, 20, 757-760.
- Burr, D.C. Temporal summation of moving images by the human visual system. Proceedings of the Royal Society, B., 1980, 211, 321-339.
- Burr, D.C., Morrone, C., & Maffei, L. Intra-cortical inhibition prevents simple cells from responding to textured patterns. Experimental Brain Research, 1981, 43, 455-458.
- Burr, D.C. & Ross, J. Contrast sensitivity at high velocities. Vision Research, 1981, 22, 479-484.
- Morrone, C. & Burr, D.C. Functional implications of cross-orientation inhibition in visual cortex. Proceedings of the Royal Society, B., 1982, 216, 335-354.
- Burr, D.C., Holt, J., Johnstone, J.R., & Ross, J. Selective desensitization of motion detection mechanisms during saccades. Journal of Physiology (London) (in press).
- Morrone, C., Burr, D.C., & Ross, J. Added noise restores recognizability of coarse quantised images. Nature (in press).
- Burr, D.C. Metacontrast: A consequence of the spatio-temporal properties of the motion detection system. Submitted to Vision Research.