

Ontological study of living backwards: Fabulous Monsters' exploration of metaphysics and a mirror effect by Aga M. Buckley



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From Parmenides to Heidegger, Being remains the most universal yet emptiest of concepts, resisting concrete definitions. In their understanding of each other as Fabulous Monsters, Alice and Unicorn find a lot of comfort in thinking that each of them *Is* (grounded in their reality), rather than *has* (suggesting ownership) their Being (Heidegger, 1962). As times move backwards in their world, while they move forward, the order of events continues reversing. Inversion of the effects and causes means participants retain the experience of both the past and the future in their present time, not necessarily changing their actions to affect change. The traffic lights in the study bring the illusion of control. Surprisingly, the green light is absent, as the lead researcher, Professor Sheep (aka White Queen), deliberates the need for clarity and a more significant order of things, much favoured by Alice in most cases as one of the participants. Instead, red and amber lights are on, and despite failing to determine order or direction, accompanying the glittering lights dictate a far more promising outlook, interpreted as an effect of living backwards. Although naturally accepted by the Unicorn, Alice's experience of living backwards results in a mutual recognition of memory's unique ability to work both ways. The study offers further in-depth analysis of participants' lived experiences of living backwards, offering much-needed qualitative data that explores a new and old way of understanding of Being in the world as a unique experience in its own right.

Professor Sheep (aka White Queen) from the University of Wonderland, Faculty of Looking Glass, is highly accomplished for their knitting ability (14 pairs of knitting needles) alongside lifelong studies of magical creatures, including humans and unicorns. Her recently published research titled "Life, What Is it but a Dream" provided compelling evidence for the frequently contested Heideggerian interpretation of Being. In her studies, Professor Sheep has proven that Being in the world means 'Being the world'. The revolutionary findings offer opportunities for co-creation and co-experience of the magical existence, beauty and infinite possibilities of a genuinely attuned Being.

**References:**

- Carroll, L. (1975) *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking-Glass*. London: Purnell Books
- Heidegger, M. (1962). *Being and Time* (J. Macquarrie & E. Robinson, Trans.). Blackwell Publishers Ltd. (1927)