

Seeing dragons? Woman's strange condition that baffled neurologists

Here's the medical case report in *The Lancet*: [Prosopometamorphopsia and facial hallucinations](#) from a team of researchers including the famous Oliver Sacks.

"In July, 2011, a 52-year-old woman presented to our psychiatric outpatient clinic with a life-long history of seeing people's faces change into dragon-like faces and hallucinating similar faces many times a day."

What does a dragon look like? According to the patient, when someone turns into one, their faces become

"Black, grew long, pointy ears and a protruding snout, and displayed a reptiloid skin and huge eyes in bright yellow, green, blue, or red."

These hallucinations didn't just occur when the woman was looking at real faces. The dragons also came out of nowhere

"She saw similar dragon-like faces drifting towards her many times a day from the walls, electrical sockets, or the computer screen, in both the presence and absence of face-like patterns, and at night she saw many dragon-like faces in the dark."

What was causing these strange phenomena? The authors of the case report confess that they're not sure. Brain scanning revealed no obvious cause:

"Neurological examination, blood tests, and electroencephalogram (EEG) were normal, and MRI brain showed only a few white-matter abnormalities."

The authors nonetheless go on to speculate as to the neurological basis of the woman's complaints, but I think that if they were to speak freely, they'd admit that it's a mystery.

Read full, original article: [Prosopometamorphopsia: The Woman Who Saw Dragons](#)