

Suspicious Minds : Why We Believe Conspiracy Theories

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Reviews

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(Robyn Nolan)

SUSPICIOUS MINDS : WHY WE BELIEVE CONSPIRACY THEORIES



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Bloomsbury Sigma Bloomsbury Specialist Okt 2015, 2015. Taschenbuch. Condition: Neu. Neuware - Conspiracy theorists (for the most part) do not wear tin-foil hats. They are not limited to a few deluded loners on the fringes of society with bizarre ideas about shape-shifting reptilian aliens. They walk among us: They are us. Mainstream fiction is rife with conspiratorial plots, and surprising numbers of people believe that the kinds of vast, insidious conspiracies that Mulder and Scully routinely unearthed in The X-Files are happening right now in the real world. Yet conspiracy theories are not a recent invention, and they can have tangible consequences for us all, from discouraging parents against vaccinating their children against deadly diseases to influencing political policies regarding climate change. The psychology of our beliefs in conspiracy theories has only recently begun to be explored. Exciting new research offers surprising insights into why so many people believe implausible, unverified and often unverifiable conspiracy theories, producing fascinating and often surprising insights into the psychology of belief. Conspiracy theorising is not limited to the paranoid fringe; it is a much more universal pastime than scholars initially realised. Believers are as likely to be women as men, college students as underprivileged youths, middle class parents as blue-collar workers. This is due in part to personality traits such as open-mindedness, trustfulness, and paranoia, psychological drives such as the desire for excitement, control, and the possession of privileged knowledge. This brilliant book by Robert Brotherton explores the phenomenon, from the prevalence and consequences of conspiracy theories to the latest psychological research into why so many people buy into their claims. Brought to life through anecdotes, historical asides and thought experiments, the book shows that conspiracism is much more widespread and more consequential than most people assume. Were all conspiracy theorists. Some of us ju

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