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**PSEUDOSCIENCE, SUPERSTITION,
AND OTHER CONFUSIONS OF OUR TIME**



Michael Shermer

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Why People Believe Weird Things

Brad Steiger, Sherry Hansen Steiger



Why People Believe Weird Things:

Why People Believe Weird Things Michael Shermer, Stephen Jay Gould, 2002-09-01 This sparkling book romps over the range of science and anti science Jared Diamond author of *Guns Germs and Steel Revised and Expanded Edition* In this age of supposed scientific enlightenment many people still believe in mind reading past life regression theory New Age hokum and alien abduction A no holds barred assault on popular superstitions and prejudices with more than 80 000 copies in print *Why People Believe Weird Things* debunks these nonsensical claims and explores the very human reasons people find otherworldly phenomena conspiracy theories and cults so appealing In an entirely new chapter *Why Smart People Believe in Weird Things* Michael Shermer takes on science luminaries like physicist Frank Tippler and others who hide their spiritual beliefs behind the trappings of science Shermer science historian and true crusader also reveals the more dangerous side of such illogical thinking including Holocaust denial the recovered memory movement the satanic ritual abuse scare and other modern crazes *Why People Believe Strange Things* is an eye opening resource for the most gullible among us and those who want to protect them [Why People Believe Weird Things](#) Michael Shermer, 2002 With this no holds barred assault on popular myths and prejudices a science historian debunks psychobabble and extraordinary nonsensical claims 25 illustrations

Paranormal Claims Bryan Farha, 2007-04-26 This academic text features articles regarding paranormal extraordinary or fringe science claims It logically examines the claims of astrology psychic ability alternative medicine and health claims after death communication cryptozoology and faith healing all from a skeptical perspective *Paranormal Claims* is a compilation of some of the most eye opening articles about pseudoscience and extraordinary claims that often reveal logical scientific explanations or an outright scam These articles steeped in skepticism teach critical thinking when approaching courses in psychology sociology philosophy education or science **Pseudoscience and Deception** Bryan Farha, 2013-12-24 *Pseudoscience and Deception* is a compilation of some of the most eye opening skeptical articles pertaining to extraordinary claims and pseudoscience The articles explore paranormal extraordinary or fringe science claims and reveal logical explanations or outline the deceptive tactics involved in convincing the vulnerable Topics include claims of astrology psychic ability alternative medicine after death communication psychotherapy and pseudoscience The contributors to this book are among the most accomplished critical thinkers scientists and educators in the world and tackle their respective topics from a rational logical and skeptical perspective Most students are seldom excited to study critical thinking with the exception of allegedly paranormal phenomena as the subject matter Educators must seize this golden opportunity to witness and experience students genuine engagement in studying critical thinking *Self-Knowledge for Humans* Quassim Cassam, 2014-11-27 Human beings are not model epistemic citizens Our reasoning can be careless and uncritical and our beliefs desires and other attitudes aren't always as they ought rationally to be Our beliefs can be eccentric our desires irrational and our hopes hopelessly unrealistic Our attitudes are influenced by a wide range of non epistemic or non rational

factors including our character our emotions and powerful unconscious biases Yet we are rarely conscious of such influences Self ignorance is not something to which human beings are immune In this book Quassim Cassam develops an account of self knowledge which tries to do justice to these and other respects in which humans aren t model epistemic citizens He rejects rationalist and other mainstream philosophical accounts of self knowledge on the grounds that in more than one sense they aren t accounts of self knowledge for humans Instead he defends the view that inferences from behavioural and psychological evidence are a basic source of human self knowledge On this account self knowledge is a genuine cognitive achievement and self ignorance is almost always on the cards As well as explaining knowledge of our own states of mind Cassam also accounts for what he calls substantial self knowledge including knowledge of our values emotions and character He criticizes philosophical accounts of self knowledge for neglecting substantial self knowledge and concludes with a discussion of the value of self knowledge This book tries to do for philosophy what behavioural economics tries to do for economics Just as behavioural economics is the economics of homo sapiens as distinct from the economics of an ideally rational and self homo economics so Cassam argues that philosophy should focus on the human predicament rather than on the reasoning and self knowledge of an idealized homo philosophicus

Think Straight Jon Guy,2022-10-31 Put simply Think Straight is an owner s manual for the human brain Drawing from the vast history of scientific and cognitive research this book is a tour de force through the science and philosophy of the human mind and what it means to think as a rational human being in the 21st century Our world is awash in mis and disinformation baseless conspiracy theories New Age ideology anti science propaganda and all manner of magical thinking Pseudo experts fill the airwaves with false and bogus claims news media twist and spin information to suit their ends celebrities and corporations push evidence free beliefs on their followers and politicians continue to mislead the masses with false promises and bad thinking In careful detail author Jon Guy investigates the art of thinking critically offering readers the ability to empower themselves and our society at large In order to think critically we must also learn what it means to know what knowledge is how to investigate how to question and how everything from computer algorithms written by geniuses to psychological traits embedded in us from our evolutionary origins conspire to construct a model of reality that we have much reason to doubt The human mind is not only the most powerful and complex structure ever discovered it is also riddled with a host of flaws shortcomings errors and limitations most of which none of us are ever made aware of Critical thinking is the ability to both capitalize on the strengths and power of human cognition as well as understand and combat the error prone nature of our brains Think Straight encourages us to accept that not everything we think is true and explores how we can compensate for the many errors of our minds Backed by the best available research and data and written in clear and decisive language Think Straight provides readers with the proper guidance and tools to improve your thinking inform your decisions avoid fraud and deceit and make the world a better place to live and prosper

Defeating Autism Michael Fitzpatrick,2008-10-27 Autism disease disorder or difference What

causes autism genes or environment Can biomedical treatments cure autism and are they safe An increased public awareness of autism has resulted in a rising trend of diagnoses creating the impression of an epidemic Many parents of children newly diagnosed with autism have been impressed by plausible theories blaming vaccines and other environmental causes Many have also been captivated by claims that biomedical treatments including special diets and supplements detoxification and medications can achieve dramatic results In *Defeating Autism* Michael Fitzpatrick a family doctor and father of a son with autism questions the scientific basis of environmental explanations of autism and exposes the incoherence of unorthodox biomedical theories and therapies This book reveals that these therapies are far from pioneering interventions and they remain unsubstantiated by scientific authorities Campaigns promising to defeat or cure autism now have attracted much support among parents struggling with their difficult children But the crusade against autism risks dehumanising and stigmatising those who are identified as autistic and their families This compelling book is essential reading for students and professionals working in the field of autism as well as academics concerned with the public understanding of science and the treatment of scientific and medical controversies in the media

What's So Wrong with Being Absolutely Right Judy J. Johnson, 2009 Argues that dogmatism is a serious problem and offers case studies documenting the characteristics of this personality trait

Why People Believe Weird Things Carl L. Shermer, 2002-09-01

The Psychologist, 2008

The Old Farmer's Almanack, 2000

[The Bermuda Triangle](#) Nathan Aaseng, 2001 Discusses both ancient and present day legends and mysteries surrounding the existence of the phenomenon known as the Bermuda Triangle in the Atlantic Ocean

[The Gale Encyclopedia of the Unusual and Unexplained](#) Brad Steiger, Sherry Hansen Steiger, 2003 Responding to the surging interest among students for information on topics relating to magic witchcraft the supernatural and other mysterious phenomena Gale presents this in depth comprehensive 3 vol set Information is arranged in an objective manner presenting varying viewpoints when appropriate and is written at a level that younger students and researchers can understand Chapters offer a thorough look at the history of each topic and cover the people and practices as well as popular literature television programs and movies related to the subject Other features include Approximately 300 photos and illustrations Making the Connection a detailed glossary Delving Deeper a helpful further readings section Cumulative index Sidebars highlighting unusual facts features and people as well as related books films Web sites and other sources of relevant information

[Public Understanding of Science](#), 1998 An international journal of research in the public dimensions of science and technology

Vanity Fair, 1997-10

Cassette Books Library of Congress. National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, 1999

[Annals of Gullibility](#) Stephen Greenspan, 2009 Greenspan presents an unprecedented examination of gullibility how we develop this tendency to be duped and what we can do to become less apt to be fooled or help someone we care about reason in such a way they are impenetrable to guises lies and scams

Everything You Know about God is Wrong Russell Kick, 2007 Think you know

God Disinformation takes on religion as only they can **Psychology** Philip G. Zimbardo, Ann L. Weber, Robert L. Johnson, 2003 Each chapter of this brief manageable textbook focuses on the key questions and core concepts of psychology supported by an extensive pedagogical structure designed to aid students The text integrates a cross cultural and multicultural perspective to make psychology meaningful for all readers **Standard Catalog for High School Libraries** H.W. Wilson Company, 2003 Each vol is divided into 2 parts 1st 7th ed Dictionary catalog and Classified catalog 8th 9th ed have 3rd part Directory of publishers

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