Examining the Relationship Between Conspiracy Theories, Paranormal Beliefs, and Pseudoscience Acceptance Among a University Population.

Emilio lobato, Jorge Mendoza, Valerie Sims & Matthew Chin, 2014, Applied Cognitive Psychology, Appl. Cognit. Psychol.

Introduction

- 信じられない信念は今日の社会において未だ広く普及している
 - 心霊能力、秘密組織による要人暗殺のような陰謀説、確立した科学的・医学的事実の拒否、個人的健康状態や森羅万象について非現実的な主張を支持する説
- これらの信じられない主張を信じることはコストがかかる
 - ▶ 未検査もしくは意味の無い医療効果が分かっている治療法(CAM)に毎年数十億 ドルもの金が費やされている
 - ▶ この種類の経済影響力は、なぜ人は人の行動を信じるのかを実験する重要性を論じる
- この論文では、そんな知識的に根拠のない主張の信念の問題において独特な視点を加 える

✓ Definitions

- 超常現象信念:基本的な特徴もしくはもう一方の存在論的カテゴリーの存在論的特性の物理学、生物学、心理学の事象についての信念
 - ▶ 存在論的カテゴリー:領域レベルの区分の事象を物理学、生物学、心理学と言う
- 陰謀説信念:公に公開された知識から、隠された、違法で悪意のある策略まで出来事の隠蔽、もしくは事件の最終的な原因をゆえんとする信念
- 疑似科学信念:非科学的な証拠となるプロセスを働かせる"科学"を主張する物質現象についての認識
 - ▶ このカテゴリーに属する「科学拒否」を考慮する
- 超常現象信念、陰謀説、疑似科学信念を合計して「知識的に根拠がないもの」とする

\checkmark Prior research findings

- 知識的に根拠のない主張を信じる人の傾向を理解する際に、多くの個人差の役割を実験しているが、結果はしばしば矛盾している
 - ▶ 高い認知の必要性(NFC)は超常現象信念を支持しにくい傾向にあることを示す 研究がある一方、いくつかの実験では認知の必要性と超常現象信念間に関係性が 示されなかった
 - ▶ 陰謀説と認知の必要性の関係は以前から支持されていない

- 知識的に根拠のない信念タイプの多くの研究の性別要因は、結果が一貫していない
 - 男性よりも女性の方が医学的疑似科学を支持する傾向にあることを示す研究がある一方、他の研究では性別と疑似科学の受け入れ間の関係を示さなかった
 - 除課説信念の大きな研究は性差を発見していないが、いくつかの研究はアメリカ 人のような特定集団において非常に小さい性差を見せた
 - ◆ 男性より女性の方が共謀の思考をする傾向がわずかにある
- 知識的に根拠のない信念システムを説明するために考案された理論的枠組み
 - 一つのタイプの信念を持つ人は他のタイプの信念を拒否する傾向にある
 - ◆ 代替効果の視点に関して、古典的な超常現象信念と伝統的な宗教信念は競い 合い、片方を受け入れるともう一方を受け入れる可能性を減らす
 - ▶ 知識的に根拠のない信念のタイプ間の代替効果を支持する
 - ◆ 少なくとも超常現象と疑似科学信念は代替効果を見せるかもしれない
- 陰謀説信者は多くの陰謀説を即座に受け入れる傾向があるだろう
 - monological thinker: 陰謀説信者は他の陰謀説の証拠としてそれぞれの陰謀説信
 念を受け取る
- monological thinking:存在論的知識(ontological knowledge)は人々がなぜ不可思議 な主張を信じるのかを理解するための枠組みを与える
 - ▶ 超常現象信念の文献からの提案
- 存在論的知識の概念、CAM 信念、超常現象信念間の関係を研究
 - ▶ 存在論的知識:物理学、生物学、心理学といった 3 つのカテゴリーの理解について言及する
 - ▶ 超常現象や CAM 主張を信じる人は別々の存在論的カテゴリーのような物理学、生物学、心理学領域間を正確に区別できない
- これらの発見を二重プロセス理論で説明した研究
 - だまされやすい人や民間に根付いた物理学や生物学、心理学は、直感的認知プロセスに反映する
 - ▶ いくつかの研究は、男性よりも女性の方が直観的認知プロセスに従う傾向がある と示す
 - ◆ 女子がより超常現象、陰謀説を支持するかを説明する結果かもしれない
- 存在論的混乱 ontological confusions の傾向が知識的に根拠のない信念に影響する可能 性について調べた

\checkmark Research question and design

- 1. 超常現象信念と陰謀説と疑似科学を受け入れることに有意な相関はあるか?
- 2. 先の項で説明されたいくつかの説は、知識的に証拠のない信念の受け入れに一般的に

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適用されるのか?

これらを調べるために、知識的に根拠のない主張の受け入れについて訊ねる文章のアンケートを行った

Methods

- ✓ Participants
- 実験対象:大学生445名(女性296名、男性149名;平均年齢=21.0, SD=5.6)
 - 無宗教者(不可知論者、無神論者など):125名
 - ▶ キリシタン (カトリック、プロテスタントなど):278名
 - 他の宗教は少数

✓ Measures

- 1. Need for cognition (NFC)
- 認知活動の測定(18項目):5段階評定
 - ▶ 私は簡単な問題より複雑な問題が好きだ
- 2. Desirability of control (DOC)
- 自らの人生をコントロールすることへの願望を測定(20項目):7段階評定
 - ▶ 私はいつ何をするかとてもコントロールできる職場が好きだ
- 3. Mini-International Personality Item Pool(Mini-IPIP)=5 要因リストの簡略版
- パーソナリティの測定(20項目;各要因4つ):5段階評定
- 外向性、誠実性、同調性、寛容さ、神経質
- 4. Core knowledge confusion (CORE)
- 存在論的混乱の実験(30項目)
 - ▶ 自然や人工物など命のないものを生きていると見なすなど
- 存在論的混乱のある種の項目が文字通りに真実か真実でないか
 - ▶ 星は空で生きる(Stars live in the sky)
- 5. Belief survey
- 知識的に根拠のない信念を調べるアンケート(37項目)を作成:5段階評定(Table 1)
 - ▶ 多くの項目は他の尺度から適用した
 - ◆ 超常現象信念の尺度や陰謀説の受け入れに関する研究の尺度
 - ▶ 2~3 加えられた項目は既存の文献で調べられてないもの
- 全ての項目は超常現象、陰謀説、疑似科学のような先天的に確定したもの
- 分析の際は得点が高いほど知識的に根拠のない信念を受け入れないように再コード化

✓ Procedure

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- インターネットを用いてオンラインで実施
- 手順:Belief survey→NFC→DOC→Mini-IPIP→個人情報

Results

- 1. Belief survey の平均値(Table 1)
 - ▶ 全体: 3.64 (SD = 0.45)
 - ▶ 超常現象項目(P): 3.59 (SD = 0.66)
 - ▶ 陰謀説項目(C): 3.35 (SD = 0.45)
 - ▶ 疑似科学項目(S): 3.43 (SD = 0.50)

2. Correlations between beliefs

- 知識的に証拠のない信念間の相関関係(Table 2)
 - ▶ ほどほどに強い正の相関
- 全体的にある知識的に根拠のない信念を支持した人は他も支持する傾向にあった

3. Demographic differences

- ① Belief survey において性別×信仰(2×2)の分散分析
- 主効果
 - ▶ 性別; F(1, 398) = 22.52, p<.001</p>
 - ▶ 信仰; F(1, 398) = 55.20, p<.001</p>
- 交互作用は有意ではなかった (F(1, 398) = 1.96, p = .162)
- 信念得点
 - ▶ 男性(M=3.86, SD=0.04)>女性(M= 3.64, SD= 0.03)
 - ▶ キリシタン(M=3.58, SD=0.03)<無宗教者(M=3.92, SD=0.04)</p>
 - ② 超常現象、陰謀説、疑似科学において性別×信仰(2×2)の多変量分散分析
- 主効果
 - ▶ 性別; F(3, 446) = 10.05, p<.001</p>
 - ▶ 信仰; F(3, 446) = 38.95, p<.000</p>
- 交互作用は有意ではなかった(F(3,446) = 1.81, p = .145)
- それぞれの平均値
 - ▶ 男性>女性(Figure 1)
 - ▶ 無宗教者>キリシタン(Figure 2)
- 男性は女性に比べて、無宗教者はキリシタンに比べて知識的に根拠のない信念を拒否 する可能性がある

- 4. Predictors of epistemically unwarranted beliefs
- 信念得点において 10 変数(性別、信仰、NFC、DOC、CORE、mini-IPIP の 5 要因) で階層的な多重線形回帰(Table 3)
- 全体的なモデルは有意:変数の 36.2%を占める(F(10, 401) = 22.17, p<.001)
 - 性別(男性; r=-.25)、信仰(無宗教; r=-.36)、NFC(高群; r=.25)、DOC(高 群; r=.17)、CORE(低群; r=-.44)、外向性(低群; r=-.13)、神経質(低群; r=-.19)が有意な予測因子
 - ▶ 知識的に根拠のない信念の減少に関連する
- ② それぞれ3つの下位尺度における多重線形回帰分析(Table 4)
- それらの分析において、
 - ▶ Step1 : CORE と信念概念下位尺度を独立変数とする
 - ▶ Step2:他の個人差変数を独立変数とする
- 超常現象信念:COREと陰謀説、疑似科学は最も重要な予測因子
 - Step1:これらの変数は超常現象信念の分散の 34.9%を予測した [F(3, 448) = 80.03, p<.001]
 - Step2:他の独立変数は超常現象信念の予測を 5.2%増やす[F(8, 439) = 24.29, p<.001]
 - ▶ 全ての独立変数は超常的異常現象の信念における 40.1%の変動を予測した
- 陰謀説信念:COREと超常現象、疑似科学は最も重要な予測因子
 - Step1:これらの変数は陰謀説信念の 37.9%の分散を占めた[F(3, 448) = 91.15, p<.001]
 - ▶ Step2:他の独立変数は予測分散を 2.6%増やす[F(8, 439) = 24.50, p<.001]</p>
 - ▶ 全ての独立変数は陰謀説信念における 40.5%の変動を予測した
- 疑似科学信念:
 - Step1: CORE と超常現象、陰謀説は分散の 25.3%を占めた [F(3, 448) = 50.53, p<.001]
 - ▶ Step2:他の変数は予測分散を14.8%増やす[F(8, 439) = 24.47, p<.001]</p>
 - ▶ 全ての独立変数は疑似科学信念と科学否定の 40.1%の変動を説明した

Discussion

- この研究は、さまざまな知識的に根拠のない信念間の関係についての調査
- 結果は、代替説ではこの実験で発見された信念のパターンを構成するには不十分であ ることを支持
 - ▶ 知識的に根拠のない信念の3カテゴリー間で強い正の相関
 - ▶ ある種の知識的に根拠のない信念を支持する参加者は他の信念も指示する

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- 先行研究は、陰謀説と科学拒否間、超常現象信念と疑似科学主張間、陰謀説と超現象
 信念間の正の関係の証拠を見つけているが、今研究は初めて陰謀説、超常現象、疑似
 科学を信じることの間に正の相関関係を示した
- より重要なことは、さらに今回の結果は存在論的知識や知識的に根拠のない信念を考 慮する発見を示した
 - ▶ それぞれの信念の内容は表面上異なるにも関わらず、基底構造は似ているという 主張を支持
 - ▶ より直観的な思考に従う傾向というのは超常現象を信じる人にも陰謀説を信じる 人にも共通するのかもしれない
 - ▶ 存在論的混乱は直観的認知スタイルに従う傾向と強い関連を示された
- 疑似科学下位尺度においては、存在論的混乱の尺度は有意な変数を見つけなかった
 - 他の信念と正の相関がある疑似科学信念にも関わらず、疑似科学と科学拒否信念は存在論的混乱の端的な現れでないかもしれない
 - 科学界は超常現象主張や陰謀説を非難する一貫した歴史があるから、今研究において疑似科学や科学批判は超常現象と陰謀説信念と重なるレベルを見せたのかもしれない

✓ 今研究の問題点

- 宗教の分類が、キリシタンと無宗教者の2つしかない
- 実験対象が大学生のため一般化するのは難しい
- 信念概念アンケートが今研究の目的に合わせて作成した特別なもので、一般的に超常
 現象的、共謀的、疑似科学的思考に従う尺度ではない
- ✓ 今後の取り組み
- 超常現象、陰謀説、疑似科学に関した一般的な傾向にとって尺度の発展に焦点を絞る

Table 1. Belief survey items with mean (standard deviation) scores and endorsement rate

 The variety of species of life that exist today is best explained by the scientific theory of evolution. (S) The earth is experiencing a period of global warming that is caused by many factors including human activities. (S) Childhood vaccines are one causal factor in the development of autism.^a (S) Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) later develops into acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). (S) A person chooses to be homosexual, bisexual, or heterosexual.^a (S) US astronauts have been to the moon. (C) Members of the US government were involved in the planning and execution of the events that happened on 11 September 2001.^a (C) President John F. Kennedy was assassinated by Lee Harvey Oswald, who acted alone. (C) Members of the US government were involved in a conspiracy to assassinate Martin Luther King, Jr.^a (C) Creatures known popularly as Big Foot, the Loch Ness Monster, and/or the Chupacabra exist.^a (P) Extraterrestrial life forms have visited Earth and abducted human beings.^a (P) The sape of the earth is approximately 4.3 billion years. (S) After people die, they still interact with the living as ghosts.^a (P) Crettain objects, such as rabbits' feet and four-leafed clovers, genuinely bring good luck.^a (P) Homeopathic treatments are just as valid as traditional medical treatments for serious illnesses.^a (S) Some humans have special mental abilities, such as the ability to move objects using only mental force or to predict the future with perfect accuracy.^a (P) Prayer is effective at treating people with terminal diseases.^a (S) Reiki healing, otherwise known as Palm healing, is effective in healing the body.^a(S) 	3.67 (1.23) 3.89 (1.06)	
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 5. A person chooses to be homosexual, bisexual, or heterosexual.^a (S) 6. US astronauts have been to the moon. (C) 7. Members of the US government were involved in the planning and execution of the events that happened on 11 September 2001.^a (C) 8. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated by Lee Harvey Oswald, who acted alone. (C) 9. Members of the US government were involved in a conspiracy to assassinate Martin Luther King, Jr.^a (C) 10. Creatures known popularly as Big Foot, the Loch Ness Monster, and/or the Chupacabra exist.^a (P) 11. Extraterrestrial life forms have visited Earth and abducted human beings.^a (P) 12. The age of the earth is approximately 4.3 billion years. (S) 13. The shape of the earth is roughly a sphere. (S) 14. After people die, they still interact with the living as ghosts.^a (P) 15. Certain objects, such as rabbits' feet and four-leafed clovers, genuinely bring good luck.^a (P) 16. Homeopathic treatments are just as valid as traditional medical treatments for serious illnesses.^a (S) 17. Some humans have special mental abilities, such as the ability to move objects using only mental force or to predict the future with perfect accuracy.^a (P) 18. Prayer is effective at treating people with terminal diseases.^a (S) 	4.24 (0.91)	82.0
 6. US astronauts have been to the moon. (C) 7. Members of the US government were involved in the planning and execution of the events that happened on 11 September 2001.^a (C) 8. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated by Lee Harvey Oswald, who acted alone. (C) 9. Members of the US government were involved in a conspiracy to assassinate Martin Luther King, Jr.^a (C) 10. Creatures known popularly as Big Foot, the Loch Ness Monster, and/or the Chupacabra exist.^a (P) 11. Extraterrestrial life forms have visited Earth and abducted human beings.^a (P) 12. The age of the earth is approximately 4.3 billion years. (S) 13. The shape of the earth is roughly a sphere. (S) 14. After people die, they still interact with the living as ghosts.^a (P) 15. Certain objects, such as rabbits' feet and four-leafed clovers, genuinely bring good luck.^a (P) 16. Homeopathic treatments are just as valid as traditional medical treatments for serious illnesses.^a (S) 17. Some humans have special mental abilities, such as the ability to move objects using only mental force or to predict the future with perfect accuracy.^a (P) 18. Prayer is effective at treating people with terminal diseases.^a (S) 		
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of the events that happened on 11 September 2001. ^a (C) 8. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated by Lee Harvey Oswald, who acted alone. (C) 9. Members of the US government were involved in a conspiracy to assassinate Martin Luther King, Jr. ^a (C) 10. Creatures known popularly as Big Foot, the Loch Ness Monster, and/or the Chupacabra exist. ^a (P) 11. Extraterrestrial life forms have visited Earth and abducted human beings. ^a (P) 12. The age of the earth is approximately 4.3 billion years. (S) 13. The shape of the earth is roughly a sphere. (S) 14. After people die, they still interact with the living as ghosts. ^a (P) 15. Certain objects, such as rabbits' feet and four-leafed clovers, genuinely bring good luck. ^a (P) 16. Homeopathic treatments are just as valid as traditional medical treatments for serious illnesses. ^a (S) 17. Some humans have special mental abilities, such as the ability to move objects using only mental force or to predict the future with perfect accuracy. ^a (P) 18. Prayer is effective at treating people with terminal diseases. ^a (S)	4.45 (0.79)	90.4
 8. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated by Lee Harvey Oswald, who acted alone. (C) 9. Members of the US government were involved in a conspiracy to assassinate Martin Luther King, Jr.^a (C) 10. Creatures known popularly as Big Foot, the Loch Ness Monster, and/or the Chupacabra exist.^a (P) 11. Extraterestrial life forms have visited Earth and abducted human beings.^a (P) 12. The age of the earth is approximately 4.3 billion years. (S) 13. The shape of the earth is roughly a sphere. (S) 14. After people die, they still interact with the living as ghosts.^a (P) 15. Certain objects, such as rabbits' feet and four-leafed clovers, genuinely bring good luck.^a (P) 16. Homeopathic treatments are just as valid as traditional medical treatments for serious illnesses.^a (S) 17. Some humans have special mental abilities, such as the ability to move objects using only mental force or to predict the future with perfect accuracy.^a (P) 18. Prayer is effective at treating people with terminal diseases.^a (S) 	3.90 (1.05)	67.1
 who acted alone. (C) 9. Members of the US government were involved in a conspiracy to assassinate Martin Luther King, Jr.^a (C) 10. Creatures known popularly as Big Foot, the Loch Ness Monster, and/or the Chupacabra exist.^a (P) 11. Extraterrestrial life forms have visited Earth and abducted human beings.^a (P) 12. The age of the earth is approximately 4.3 billion years. (S) 13. The shape of the earth is roughly a sphere. (S) 14. After people die, they still interact with the living as ghosts.^a (P) 15. Certain objects, such as rabbits' feet and four-leafed clovers, genuinely bring good luck.^a (P) 16. Homeopathic treatments are just as valid as traditional medical treatments for serious illnesses.^a (S) 17. Some humans have special mental abilities, such as the ability to move objects using only mental force or to predict the future with perfect accuracy.^a (P) 18. Prayer is effective at treating people with terminal diseases.^a (S) 	2 40 (1 04)	50.1
 9. Members of the US government were involved in a conspiracy to assassinate Martin Luther King, Jr.^a (C) 10. Creatures known popularly as Big Foot, the Loch Ness Monster, and/or the Chupacabra exist.^a (P) 11. Extraterrestrial life forms have visited Earth and abducted human beings.^a (P) 12. The age of the earth is approximately 4.3 billion years. (S) 13. The shape of the earth is roughly a sphere. (S) 14. After people die, they still interact with the living as ghosts.^a (P) 15. Certain objects, such as rabbits' feet and four-leafed clovers, genuinely bring good luck.^a (P) 16. Homeopathic treatments are just as valid as traditional medical treatments for serious illnesses.^a (S) 17. Some humans have special mental abilities, such as the ability to move objects using only mental force or to predict the future with perfect accuracy.^a (P) 18. Prayer is effective at treating people with terminal diseases.^a (S) 	3.40 (1.04)	50.1
 assassinate Martin Luther King, Jr.^a (C) 10. Creatures known popularly as Big Foot, the Loch Ness Monster, and/or the Chupacabra exist.^a (P) 11. Extraterrestrial life forms have visited Earth and abducted human beings.^a (P) 12. The age of the earth is approximately 4.3 billion years. (S) 13. The shape of the earth is roughly a sphere. (S) 14. After people die, they still interact with the living as ghosts.^a (P) 15. Certain objects, such as rabbits' feet and four-leafed clovers, genuinely bring good luck.^a (P) 16. Homeopathic treatments are just as valid as traditional medical treatments for serious illnesses.^a (S) 17. Some humans have special mental abilities, such as the ability to move objects using only mental force or to predict the future with perfect accuracy.^a (P) 18. Prayer is effective at treating people with terminal diseases.^a (S) 	3.59 (1.04)	52.9
 10. Creatures known popularly as Big Foot, the Loch Ness Monster, and/or the Chupacabra exist.^a (P) 11. Extraterrestrial life forms have visited Earth and abducted human beings.^a (P) 12. The age of the earth is approximately 4.3 billion years. (S) 13. The shape of the earth is roughly a sphere. (S) 14. After people die, they still interact with the living as ghosts.^a (P) 15. Certain objects, such as rabbits' feet and four-leafed clovers, genuinely bring good luck.^a (P) 16. Homeopathic treatments are just as valid as traditional medical treatments for serious illnesses.^a (S) 17. Some humans have special mental abilities, such as the ability to move objects using only mental force or to predict the future with perfect accuracy.^a (P) 18. Prayer is effective at treating people with terminal diseases.^a (S) 	5.57 (1.04)	52.7
 the Chupacabra exist.^a (P) 11. Extraterrestrial life forms have visited Earth and abducted human beings.^a (P) 12. The age of the earth is approximately 4.3 billion years. (S) 13. The shape of the earth is roughly a sphere. (S) 14. After people die, they still interact with the living as ghosts.^a (P) 15. Certain objects, such as rabbits' feet and four-leafed clovers, genuinely bring good luck.^a (P) 16. Homeopathic treatments are just as valid as traditional medical treatments for serious illnesses.^a (S) 17. Some humans have special mental abilities, such as the ability to move objects using only mental force or to predict the future with perfect accuracy.^a (P) 18. Prayer is effective at treating people with terminal diseases.^a (S) 	3.84 (1.08)	67.0
 11. Extraterrestrial life forms have visited Earth and abducted human beings.^a (P) 12. The age of the earth is approximately 4.3 billion years. (S) 13. The shape of the earth is roughly a sphere. (S) 14. After people die, they still interact with the living as ghosts.^a (P) 15. Certain objects, such as rabbits' feet and four-leafed clovers, genuinely bring good luck.^a (P) 16. Homeopathic treatments are just as valid as traditional medical treatments for serious illnesses.^a (S) 17. Some humans have special mental abilities, such as the ability to move objects using only mental force or to predict the future with perfect accuracy.^a (P) 18. Prayer is effective at treating people with terminal diseases.^a (S) 	5.04 (1.00)	07.0
 12. The age of the earth is approximately 4.3 billion years. (S) 13. The shape of the earth is roughly a sphere. (S) 14. After people die, they still interact with the living as ghosts.^a (P) 15. Certain objects, such as rabbits' feet and four-leafed clovers, genuinely bring good luck.^a (P) 16. Homeopathic treatments are just as valid as traditional medical treatments for serious illnesses.^a (S) 17. Some humans have special mental abilities, such as the ability to move objects using only mental force or to predict the future with perfect accuracy.^a (P) 18. Prayer is effective at treating people with terminal diseases.^a (S) 	3.70 (1.07)	58.0
 13. The shape of the earth is roughly a sphere. (S) 14. After people die, they still interact with the living as ghosts.^a (P) 15. Certain objects, such as rabbits' feet and four-leafed clovers, genuinely bring good luck.^a (P) 16. Homeopathic treatments are just as valid as traditional medical treatments for serious illnesses.^a (S) 17. Some humans have special mental abilities, such as the ability to move objects using only mental force or to predict the future with perfect accuracy.^a (P) 18. Prayer is effective at treating people with terminal diseases.^a (S) 	3.59 (1.13)	57.4
 14. After people die, they still interact with the living as ghosts.^a (P) 15. Certain objects, such as rabbits' feet and four-leafed clovers, genuinely bring good luck.^a (P) 16. Homeopathic treatments are just as valid as traditional medical treatments for serious illnesses.^a (S) 17. Some humans have special mental abilities, such as the ability to move objects using only mental force or to predict the future with perfect accuracy.^a (P) 18. Prayer is effective at treating people with terminal diseases.^a (S) 	4.22 (0.97)	84.8
 15. Certain objects, such as rabbits' feet and four-leafed clovers, genuinely bring good luck.^a (P) 16. Homeopathic treatments are just as valid as traditional medical treatments for serious illnesses.^a (S) 17. Some humans have special mental abilities, such as the ability to move objects using only mental force or to predict the future with perfect accuracy.^a (P) 18. Prayer is effective at treating people with terminal diseases.^a (S) 	3.39 (1.17)	46.6
 16. Homeopathic treatments are just as valid as traditional medical treatments for serious illnesses.^a (S) 17. Some humans have special mental abilities, such as the ability to move objects using only mental force or to predict the future with perfect accuracy.^a (P) 18. Prayer is effective at treating people with terminal diseases.^a (S) 	3.89 (1.04)	69.0
serious illnesses. ^a (S) 17. Some humans have special mental abilities, such as the ability to move objects using only mental force or to predict the future with perfect accuracy. ^a (P) 18. Prayer is effective at treating people with terminal diseases. ^a (S)	3.22 (1.01)	37.8
mental force or to predict the future with perfect accuracy. ^a (P) 18. Prayer is effective at treating people with terminal diseases. ^a (S)		
mental force or to predict the future with perfect accuracy. ^a (P) 18. Prayer is effective at treating people with terminal diseases. ^a (S)	3.95 (1.05)	70.5
19. Reiki healing, otherwise known as Palm healing, is effective in healing the body $^{a}(S)$	2.95 (1.31)	34.1
, care and an	3.74 (0.97)	57.6
20. The Holocaust of the 1930s and 1940s was responsible for the deaths of over 11 million people,	4.54 (.78)	92.1
of whom six million were Jewish. (C)		
21. President Barack H. Obama is a native born US citizen. (C)	3.87 (1.14)	67.5
22. Most human beings only use approximately 10% of their brain. ^a (S)	2.88 (1.19)	38.4
23. The beginning of the universe is best explained by the Big Bang Theory. (S)	3.13 (1.29)	42.8
24. Human beings have souls that continue to exist after the body dies. ^a (P)	2.44 (1.21)	18.5
25. A full moon causes people to behave oddly. ^a (P)	3.49 (1.22)	55.4
26. Astrology is a valid explanation for the behaviors and personality of people. ^a (P)	3.85 (1.06)	67.2
27. The Bermuda Triangle is a special location on the planet that, for some reason, causes ships	2.89 (1.16)	30.5
and aircraft to crash or disappear more often than anywhere else on the planet. ^a (P)		<i></i>
28. Deceased individuals communicate with living people through séances or Oijua boards. ^a (P)	3.82 (1.11)	61.7
29. Black cats are unlucky. ^a (P)	4.07 (1.04)	77.1
30. The musician Elvis Presley is dead. (C)	4.59 (0.70)	84.7
31. The singer John Lennon was the target of an assassination conspiracy. ^a (C)	3.14 (0.95)	29.2
32. The rappers Tupac Shakur and Biggie Smalls were victims of assassination conspiracies,	3.09 (1.05)	30.5
which were covered up. ^a (C) 22. The since $K \to K \to K^{a}$ (C)	2 40 (0 00)	267
33. The singer Kurt Cobain was murdered by his wife, singer Courtney Love. ^a (C)	3.40 (0.90)	36.7
34. Lost city of Atlantis is a myth or a legend. (P)	3.36 (1.06)	46.3
35. Some numbers and dates are more lucky or unlucky than others, such as Friday the 13th or the number 7. ^a (P)	3.75 (1.14)	63.3
36. Condoms used properly during sexual intercourse are very effective at preventing the spread of sexual transmitted diseases and pregnancy. (S)	4.18 (0.97)	83.5
37. Geological objects, such as certain crystals, precious metals, or magnets, have intrinsic mystical properties. ^a (P)	3.77 (1.09)	63.3

Note: aDenotes an item that was reverse coded, such that higher scores indicate a less epistemically unwarranted belief structure. 'Endorsement rate' for these When the participants was reverse coded, such that higher scores indicate a ress episories in the short of the statements where the participants who responded with 'strongly agree' or 'agree'.
 (P), Paranormal; (C), Conspiracy theory; (S), Pseudoscience; SD, standard deviation. Statements were presented to participants in random order.

	Paranormal	Conspiracy	Pseudoscience
Paranormal	_	.52	.36
Conspiracy		_	.49
Pseudoscience			-

Table 2. Correlations among the different types of beliefs

Note:

N=455.

All correlations significant at p < .001 level.



Figure 1. Mean scores for male and female participants



Figure 2. Mean scores for Christian and non-religious participants

	Belief survey		
Predictors	β	t	
Gender	13	-2.92**	
RA	24	-5.47***	
NFC	.12	2.46*	
DOC	.12	2.42*	
CORE	35	-8.33***	
Extraversion	15	-3.23**	
Agreeableness	.08	1.74	
Conscientiousness	05	-1.19	
Openness	07	-1.58	
Neuroticism	11	-2.50*	

Table 3. Predictors of epistemically unwarranted beliefs

Note: N = 455.

*p < .05. **p < .01. ***p < .001.

CORE, core ontological confusions; RA, religious affiliation;

NFC, need for cognition; DOC, desirability of control.

Gender coded such that 1 = male and 2 = female.

Religious affiliation coded such that 1=non-religious and 2=Christian.

Table 4. Predictors of epistemically unwarranted beliefs at the subscale level

Predictors	Paranormal		Conspiracy		Pseudoscience	
	β	t	β	t	β	t
Step 1						
ĈORE	28	-6.77***	11	-2.58**	06	-1.37
Paranormal			.35	8.20***	.12	2.48*
Conspiracy	.37	8.20***			.40	8.24***
Pseudoscience	.11	2.48*	.33	8.24***		
Step 2						
Gender	10	-2.34*	.03	.68	07	-1.68
RA	05	-1.03	.07	1.58	34	-8.51***
NFC	.12	2.72*	03	69	.06	1.37
DOC	06	-1.26	.10	2.13*	.10	2.13
Extraversion	03	79	10	-2.46*	01	30
Agreeableness	.00	.03	.02	.56	.05	1.29
Conscientiousness	07	-1.81	.05	1.19	07	-1.63
Openness	08	-1.92	.05	1.23	03	76
Neuroticism	12	-4.01^{***}	.00	.08	.01	.32

Note: N=455.

*p < .05. **p < .01. ***p < .001.

CORE, core ontological confusions; RA, religious affiliation;

NFC, need for cognition; DOC, desirability of control.

Gender coded such that 1 = male and 2 = female. Religious affiliation coded such that 1 = non-religious and 2=Christian.