



Religion, Supernaturalism, the Paranormal and Pseudoscience

An Anthropological Critique

By Homayun Sidky

Pub Date: 30 November 2019

Binding: Hardback

Price: £120.00 / \$200.00

ISBN: 9781785271625

Extent: 518 pages

Size: 153 x 229 mm /
6 x 9 inches

BISAC CATEGORY: SOCIAL SCIENCE / Anthropology /
Cultural & Social PSYCHOLOGY / Cognitive Neuroscience &
Cognitive Neuropsychology, RELIGION / Atheism

BISAC CODE: SOC002010

BIC CODE: HRAB

RIGHTS

Exclusive: WORLD

A comprehensive rejoinder to the challenges posed to science

“I highly recommend this book for its excellent psychological and sociological analysis of virtually the entire range of supernatural and paranormal beliefs that continue to have a profound and deleterious influence in the modern world.” —James Alcock, Professor of Psychology, York University, Canada, and Author of *Belief: What It Means to Believe and Why Our Convictions Are So Compelling*

“The book is valuable and timely, not just as a rebuke to irrational thinking and bad arguments, but as an antidote to ideologies that justify violence by appeal to dogma and supernatural fantasies.” —Keith M. Parsons, Professor of Philosophy and Humanities, University of Houston-Clear Lake, USA

“Religion, Supernaturalism, the Paranormal and Pseudoscience” provides a comprehensive rejoinder to the challenges posed to science, scientific anthropology, evolutionary theory and rationality by the advocates of supernatural, paranormal, and pseudoscientific perspectives and modes of thought.

Contents

Acknowledgements; Introduction; 1. The Problem with Religion: Preliminary Issues; 2. The Unreal Real: The Supernatural, Religion and the Paranormal; 3. Can Science Say Anything about Religion and the Supernatural?; 4. Ghostly Rappings, the Science of the Soul and the Religious Nature of the Paranormal; 5. Ghostly Encounters in the Field: Anthropology of the Paranormal or Paranormal Anthropology?; 6. Why People Think the World Is Haunted; 7. Cognitive Biases and Why People Think Eerie Thoughts; 8. Miracles as Evidence of God’s Actions in the World; 9. When God Talks to People: Religious Experiences as Evidence of the Supernatural; 10. Books Authored by God? Sacred Texts as Evidence of the Supernatural; 11. God’s Fingerprints in the Natural World: Intelligent Design, Irreducible Complexity and Cosmic Fine-Tuning; 12. The Miracles of the Bible: Quintessential Sources for Paranormal Phenomena in Western Culture; 13. Jesus the Miracle Worker, Magician and Sorcerer; 14. Jesus’s Empty Tomb, the Missing Body, and His Return from the Dead: Sources for the Tale; 15. The Post-Resurrection Appearances in the New Testament; 16. Coping with Failed Prophecy: A Socio-Psychological Explanation for the Rise of Christianity; 17. Conclusions: Why Religious and Paranormal Beliefs Persist and Their Dangers; References; Index.

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

H. Sidky is professor of anthropology at Miami University (Ohio), USA, specializing in the anthropology of religion, entheogens, ecological anthropology, anthropological theory/history of anthropological thought, and the paranormal and pseudoscience. He is the author of numerous books and scholarly articles.

Ordering in North America	Ordering in the UK/Rest of the World	Ordering in Australia
Books International P.O. Box 605, Herndon, VA 20172-0605 United States Tel: +1 703 661 1570 Fax: +1 703 661 1501 bimail@presswarehouse.com	NBN International Airport Business Centre 10 Thornbury Road Plymouth, PL6 7PP Tel: 01752 202301 Fax: 01752 202333 NBNi.Orders@ingramcontent.com	NewSouth Books C/- Alliance Distribution Services (ADS) 9 Pioneer Ave, Tuggerah NSW 2259, Australia Tel: +61 (02) 4390 1300 Fax: 1800-66-44-77 adses@alliancedist.com.au

75-76 Blackfriars Road | London SE1 8HA | United Kingdom | Tel: +44 (0)20 7193 7371
244 Madison Ave. #116 | New York | NY 10016 | United States | Tel: +1 646 736 7908
info@anthempres.com | sales@anthempres.com | publicity@anthempres.com | www.anthempress.com