

Review of: "Re-calling Magical Thinking: Different, yet Connected Views on Magical Thinking"

Philippe Schweizer

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Thank you for returning to the subject of magical thinking in our societies, because as you clearly show, it is still very present in many aspects of our functioning. It's an excellent idea to cite the case of our behavior during the Covid viral pandemic, as well as the advice of our authorities.

I very much appreciate your extensive literature search and the linking of many conceptions of magical thinking. It's an excellent summary of the field, which also establishes links between the various approaches. The diagram, with its links, visualizes and summarizes part of your analysis, but it is too perfectly symmetrical.

I hope you'll continue in other articles to cover these two areas of magical thinking and examples of its use. In particular, I'm hoping for an article on your ethnographic work on beliefs in childcare, which you may already have done in your own cited references but which, unfortunately, doesn't appear in the list of references. Just a sentence here about your work would be welcome.

I would suggest that you make a different section (or even 2) of the conclusion for the treatment of the Covid example. This would also allow for a more elaborate conclusion.

Your abstract is engaging and summarizes your article well. To improve your article, I would add one or two sentences of general introduction before the too abrupt mention of Frazer's laws, even repeating some points of the abstract indicating, in particular, the decomposition of the article into sections. Perhaps an example other than that of disgust at a glass of water "dirtied" by the presence of a factive cockroach would enable an illustration closer to magical thinking, or even better, more examples a little detailed.

In the future, it might be interesting to imagine other explanations for magical thinking, such as that we simply want to believe, or don't want to think, that we hope for luck or avoid bad luck, that in addition to knowledge, certain types of personality can encourage it, that animism encourages us to see the supernatural everywhere...