

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

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The first part of the article offers an interesting and well-documented presentation of magical thinking from a cognitive anthropological and psychological perspective, relying on authors such as Alcock, Carl Jung, Piaget, James Frazer, and Malinowski.

Magical thinking is clearly explained as “a conflation of the internal and external worlds” (Nemeroff & Rozin, 2000), a causal connection between events which is not actually validated, whose purpose is to help people cope with stress and anxiety and build confidence. More recent authors claim that magical thinking stays with human beings from childhood on and emphasize its main use – to provide a sense of individual control under extreme situations.

The second part of the article uses the theory of magical thinking to analyze the way the COVID-19 period was managed by authorities, mainly as a way of coping with anxiety.

I think that the second part of the article is not fully convincing as more explanations would have been useful. I also believe that the article could be continued with other illustrations of current situations, besides the Covid-19 one, which magical thinking could account for.

Overall, what I like best about the article is the presentation of magical thinking and its possible use in interpreting contemporary social events.