



Conspiracy and Contingency

How to Deal with Fake Necessities

By Thorsten Botz-Bornstein

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Conspiracy theories, algorithms and meritocracy all share an aversion to randomness, seeking instead to impose a sense of order and necessity.

What do conspiracy theories, algorithms and meritocracy have in common? All three avoid contingency and frantically look for necessities. ‘Contingency phobia’ is not only manifest in conspiratorial thinking. It is the cause of a variety of other phenomena that have become emblematic for liberal democracies.

Readership

Research monograph that might find its way to a larger public. Addressed perhaps mainly to European-style public intellectual socially engaged cultural critics and the educated public. For scholars and students of philosophy, cultural studies and aesthetics.

Key selling points

- Views conspiracy theories through the unique lens of the ‘contingency coping devices’ in modern cultures
- Gives philosophical explanations of conspiracy theories that consider the historical depth of the phenomenon
- Sees conspiracy theories as products of contemporary neoliberal cultures
- Links conspiracy theories conceptually to other modern phenomena

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Thorsten Botz-Bornstein is professor of philosophy at the Gulf University for Science and Technology in Kuwait and the director of the Global Studies Center. His latest book is *Daoism, Dandyism, and Political Correctness* (2023).

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