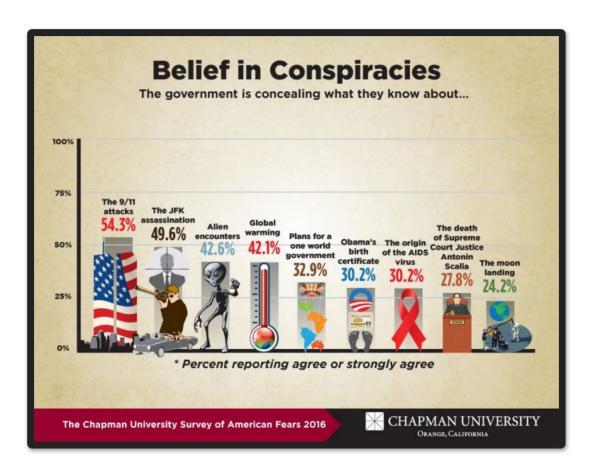
Conspiracy Theories

Too Many Connections



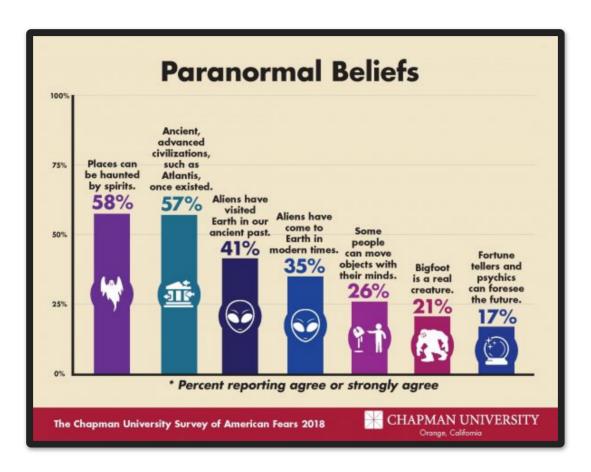
George Matthews, Plymouth State University



• They enjoy widespread and growing support and yet have little evidence in favor of them.



• They are predictable in their emergence in times of crisis and great social stress.



 They are individually easy to debunk or disprove, even as they seem impossible to combat on a wider scale.

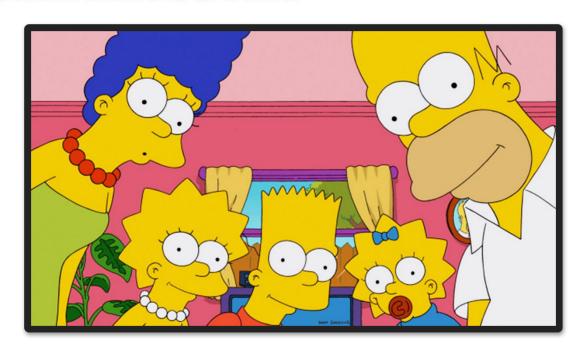


• They are dangerous since they amplify inter-group hostility, encourage violence and subvert efforts to deal with social problems.

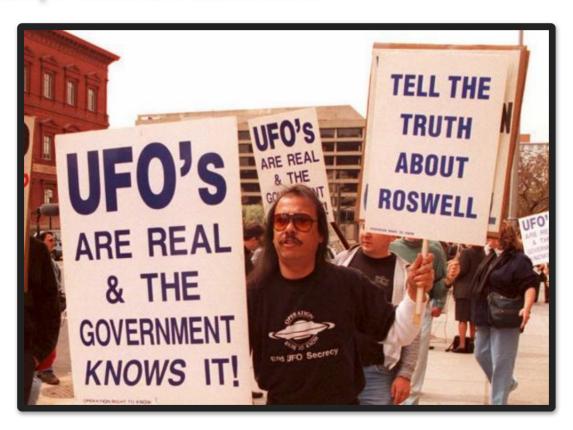
1. Accept them.



2. Debunk them one at a time.



3. Accept relativism about them.



4. Try to explain them.





• Search for control and meaning in a world out of control and confusing.



 Someone is to blame and we can thus do something about our predicament.

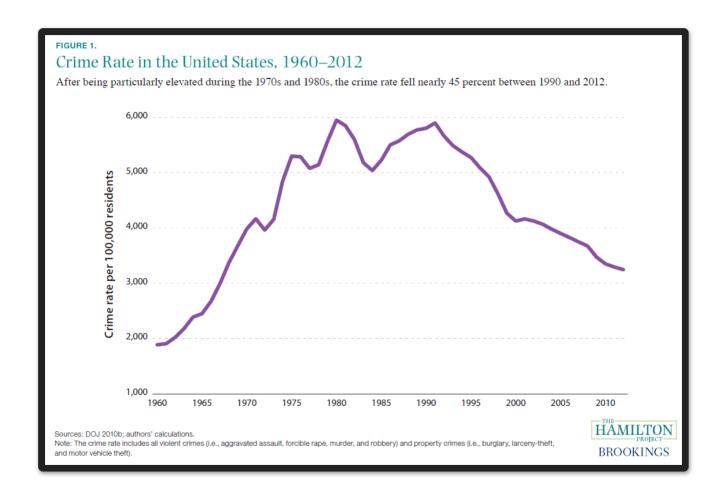


 Symbolic connnections, hidden meanings, deep significance of events, invisible agents -- these ideas resonate with magical thinking and come naturally to us.

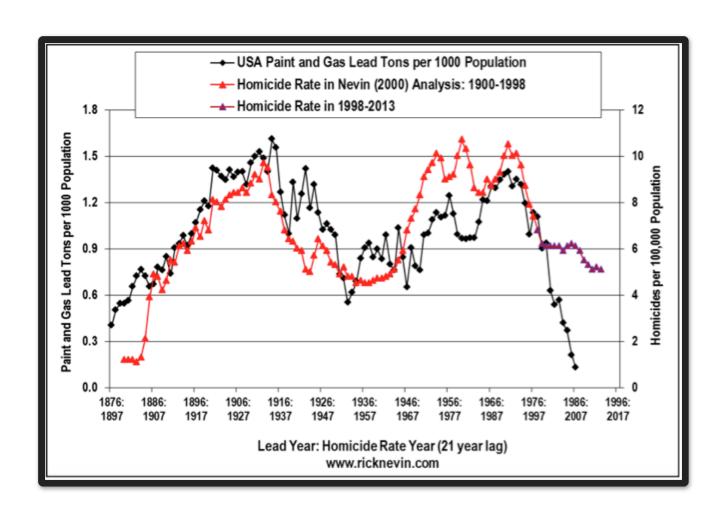


 Common narrative: there is a nefarious plot, organized by a secret elite, which most people don't see or suspect, but I have figured it out and now they are trying to kill me.

Another Puzzle



The Criminal Element





Find out more

Wikipedia's List of Conspiracy Theories

Conspiracy Theories Cannot Be Stopped

Conspiracy Theories are Dangerous

The Secret History of Lead



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