The psychological roots of the rejection (and acceptance) of science

# 1. The psychological roots of the rejection of science

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| **1.1** | **Claims**  A ‘fact’, observation, or prediction  E.g., newspaper headline, social media comment |  |
| **1.2** | **Mental model**  Representation of a system and its causes.  What explanation would a believer of the claim give? |  |
| **1.3** | **Worldviews**  What is true about the physical and social world?  Who decides what is true?  What is good/bad, just/unjust? |  |
| **1.4** | **Psychological needs**  Epistemic (need for knowledge)  Existential (need for existence)  Social (need for belonging)  Material (need to own/consume) |  |
| **1.5** | **Communication strategies**  Ideally is compatible with worldviews  Ideally satisfies a psychological need |  |

# 2. The psychological roots of your belief

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| **2.1** | **My claim**  A ‘fact’, observation, or prediction  E.g., newspaper headline, social media comment |  |
| **2.2** | **Explanations**  What explanation do I give for my claim? | Why do I believe the claim?  1.  Why do I believe explanation #1?  2.  Why do I believe explanation #2?  3.  Why do I believe explanation #3?  4.  Why do I believe explanation #4? |
| **2.3** | **My mental model**  A representation of a system and its causes that explains my claim |  |
| **2.4** | **Worldviews**  What is true about the physical and social world?  Who decides what is true?  What is good/bad, just/unjust? |  |
| **2.5** | **Psychological needs**  Epistemic (need for knowledge)  Existential (need for existence)  Social (need for belonging)  Material (need to own/consume) |  |