

Pseudoscience: A Critical Encyclopedia

By Brian Regal



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More than just a collection of factual entries, this rich resource explores the difference between scientific and pseudoscientific pursuits in a way that spurs readers to ask questions and formulate answers.

- 124 entries, from alchemy and alien abductions to yet is and zombies, that continually focus readers on the true nature of legitimate scientific methods and findings
- An introductory essay, drawing on the work of genuine historians and philosophers of science, offering guidelines for assessing topics in pseudoscience
- 40 original line drawings created specifically for this reference, depicting key individuals, creatures, artifacts, and more
- An extensive bibliography of current and classic works on the full range of pseudoscience topics covered in this volume
- An index that makes it easy to locate specific topics, terms, names, and ideas

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Editorial Review

From Booklist

Regal (history of science, Kean University) has compiled an interesting survey of pseudoscience. His introduction on the definition of pseudoscience and its social and philosophical implications is a very good way to start to think about pseudoscience and how to detect it. The 124 entries range from a paragraph to several pages. Most have citations for further reading, and many also have see references to other articles. Topics range from Creation science to Bigfoot and Unidentified flying objects (UFOs). Besides a description of the phenomenon, the longer articles describe its pseudoscientific aspects. A few topics, such as Blind testing, are included to help readers understand the difference between scientific and nonscientific approaches. All the articles are good, and some, including those on Eugenics, Intelligent design, and Pseudohistory are useful introductions to those ideas. The bibliography lists some items as current as 2008 but no Web sites. The 40 line drawings were commissioned for the book, but in some cases (for example, entries for individuals) stock photographs might have worked better. There are a number of typos. Even with its flaws, the book is useful, as there are not many resources on the side of skepticism that are as civil and as fair as this one. Public libraries as well as academic libraries with popular culture or history of science courses should consider acquiring this title. Also available as an e-book. --Kathleen Stipek

Review

"This book is designed to get general readers and students in the middle grades and up thinking about the difference between scientific and pseudoscientific pursuits, whether the term 'pseudoscience' explains anything, and whether the various topics explored here, from acupuncture to zombies, are worthy of the name pseudoscience." - SciTech Book News

"This work successfully provides an objective view of pseudoscience topics. . . It is recommended for upper-level school libraries and public libraries." - **ARBAonline**

"Regal has compiled an interesting survey of pseudoscience. His introduction on the definition of pseudoscience and its social and philosophical implications is a very good way to start to think about pseudoscience and how to detect it. . . . Public libraries as well as academic libraries with popular-culture or history of science courses should consider acquiring this title." - **Booklist**

About the Author

Brian Regal is assistant professor of the history of science at Kean University, Union, NJ.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Marcia Fullerton:

What do you think of book? It is just for students because they are still students or it for all people in the world, what the best subject for that? Just you can be answered for that question above. Every person has various personality and hobby for every other. Don't to be pressured someone or something that they don't wish do that. You must know how great and also important the book Pseudoscience: A Critical Encyclopedia. All type of book could you see on many solutions. You can look for the internet options or

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Rose Cordeiro:

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Russell Diamond:

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