

Belief in the Paranormal: Harmless Superstition or Moral Escapism?

Sarah Ertelt

The author states that “belief in the paranormal has important societal functions. What are the goods that come from belief? Are these benefits enough to justify the practice?”

How does our interpretation of events -- as paranormal experiences or scientific anomalies -- change how we understand and react to these events? What are the advantages and disadvantages of both?

Is there anything wrong with holding emotionally motivated beliefs about the afterlife? When might it be appropriate or inappropriate?

What does belief in the paranormal say about human agency or the limits of scientific knowledge? How do these beliefs change the way we perceive the world and understand our role in it?