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Title: "Overconfidently Conspiratorial: Conspiracy Believers are Dispositionally Overconfident and Massively Overestimate How Much Others Agree with Them"

Abstract: Past work has focused on the needs and motivations of conspiracy believers. Here, we propose an alternative driver of belief in conspiracies: overconfidence. Across eight studies with 4,181 U.S. adults, conspiracy believers consistently overestimated their performance on cognitive tests. This relationship was robust to controlling for analytic thinking, need for uniqueness, and narcissism. We also found that conspiracy believers – particularly overconfident ones – massively overestimated (>4x) how much others agree with them: Although conspiracy beliefs were in the majority only 12% of the time across 150 questions, believers thought themselves to be in the majority 93% of the time.

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