

WEDNESDAY, January 20, 2016

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## On the reception and detection of pseudo-profound bullshit

### ABSTRACT

Bullshit seems to be increasing in popularity. Consider the following examples:

"Quantum healing is healing the bodymind from a quantum level. That means from a level which is not manifest at a sensory level. Our bodies ultimately are fields of information, intelligence and energy. Quantum healing involves a shift in the fields of energy information, so as to bring about a correction in an idea that has gone wrong. So quantum healing involves healing one mode of consciousness, mind, to bring about changes in another mode of consciousness, body." - Deepak Chopra, *Quantum Healing* (2011)

"Consciousness consists of four-dimensional superstructures of quantum energy. "Quantum" means a condensing of the consciousness-expanding. We exist as morphogenetic fields." - The New Age Bullshit Generator (<http://sebpearce.com/bullshit/>)

In this talk, I will discuss our attempt to empirically investigate bullshit (the first, to our knowledge). Our results indicate that, overall, people are not efficient at detecting bullshit. Nonetheless, bullshit detection is associated with a variety of conceptually relevant variables (e.g., intelligence, decreased paranormal belief). We tentatively conclude that bullshit receptivity is, at the very least, amenable to empirical research. I will also discuss how I aggravated Deepak Chopra on Twitter.

**SCIENCE COMPLEX ROOM 115**

**11:00 AM**

**All Welcome!**

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