

## **Genesis and psychic processes leading to unfounded beliefs**

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Humans are natural producers of fictions. Put a child in front of a starry sky and you will see that they will not be able to resist the need to invent a scenario allowing them to give a meaning to this striking spectacle. The problem is that these fictions are not necessarily connected to reality and, above all, that they end up, for believers, losing their status of conjecture to become unquestionable truths, likely to lead to dangerous behaviours for society as well as for themselves. In this lecture, I will show that, despite the heterogeneity of these beliefs, the psychic processes leading to their genesis are transversal. Their explosion during the Covid 19 crisis could be perfectly predictable given the factors involved in their genesis.

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Thierry Ripoll trained in psychology and philosophy. He is a Professor at the University of Aix-Marseille and a member of the Cognitive Psychology Laboratory. He is currently Director of the Centre de Formation des Psychologues de l'Education Nationale, and has been Dean of the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences. His research, at the frontier of cognitive psychology, cognitive science and philosophy, has concerned memory, learning, reasoning, perception and attention. He has been developing research in experimental philosophy for several years. In particular, he has studied intuitive representations of the mind-brain relationship and free will. He published a book in 2018 entitled "From Mind to Brain" summarising this research. This led him to explore the field of unfounded beliefs, particularly their genesis. In 2020, he published a book on this theme entitled "Pourquoi croit-on?"