



Magic in the Modern World: Strategies of Repression and Legitimization (Magic in History)

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This collection of essays considers the place of magic in the modern world—first by exploring the ways in which modernity has been defined in explicit opposition to magic and superstition, and then by illuminating how modern proponents of magic have worked to legitimize their practices through an overt embrace of evolving forms such as esotericism and supernaturalism.

Taking a two-track approach, this book explores the complex dynamics concerning the construction of the modern self and its relation to the modern preoccupation with magic. Essays examine how modern “rational” consciousness is generated and maintained and the ways in which proponents of both magical and scientific traditions rationalize evidence to fit with accepted orthodoxy. This book also explores how people unsatisfied with the norms of modern subjectivity embrace various forms of magic, and the methods these modern practitioners use to legitimate magic in the modern world.

Magic in the Modern World provides a compelling assessment of magic from the early modern period to today and shows how, despite the dominant culture’s emphatic denial of its validity, older forms of magic persist and develop while new forms of magic continue to emerge.

In addition to the editors, contributors include Egil Asprem, Erik Davis, Megan Goodwin, Dan Harms, Adam Jortner, and Benedek Láng.

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