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Conspiracy Cultures from Outerspace to Cyberspace

By [Jodi Dean](#)

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256 Pages, Trade Paperback

Cover Size: 9 x 6 inches

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Related listings: [Paranormal Skepticism](#)

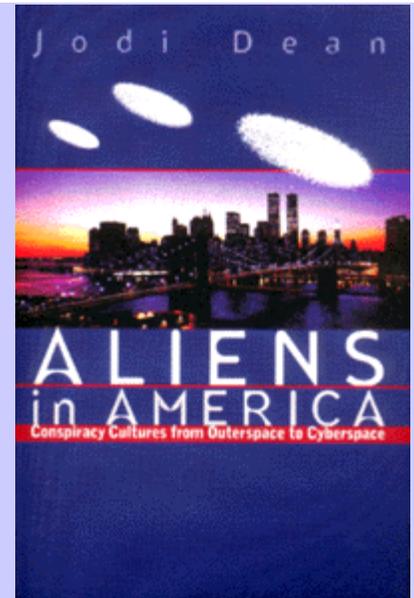
and [Sociology of UFO Claims](#)

Date: 1998 ISBN: 0-8014-8468-5

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Credibility	Research Value	Cultural Interest	Visual Information	Style	Silliness	Wow Factor	Bargain
5	5	5	3	4	2	3	4
Very High	Very High	Very High	Moderate	Stylish	Low	Interesting	High

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Credibility = Very High: In general, this category is a rating of the author's intellectual discipline and the strength of his argument (which are very high), not the veracity of his claims (which could be false in spite of the strong argument).

A serious academic work on the sociology of UFO and conspiracy claims in the modern U.S. Rich with references.

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From the Book Cover

Aliens have invaded the United States. No longer confined to science fiction and tabloids, aliens appear in The New York Times, The Washington Post, and The Wall Street Journal, at candy counters (in chocolate covered flying saucers and as Martian melon-flavored lollipops) and on the Internet. Aliens are at the center of a faculty battle at Harvard. They have been used to market AT&T cellular phones, Milky Way candy bars, Kodak film, Diet Coke, Stove Top stuffing,

skateboard accessories, and abduction insurance. A Gallup Poll says that 27 percent of American believe space aliens have visited Earth. A Time/CNN poll says 80 percent of its respondent believe the U.S. government is covering up its knowledge of the existence of aliens. Sixty-five percent believe a UFO crashed in Roswell in 1947.

In a provocative and sophisticated analysis of public culture and popular concerns, Jodi Dean examines how serious UFO-logists and their pop-culture counterparts tap into fundamental phobias, paranoia, conspiracy theories, and mass skepticism of the public sphere. What does the widespread American belief in extraterrestrials say about our society? How common are our assumptions about what is real? Is there any such thing as "common sense"?

Aliens, the author shows, provide cultural icons through which to access the conditions of democratic politics at the millennium. The technological complexity of our age has created a situation where political choices and decisions are virtually meaningless, practically impossible. How do we judge what is real, believable, trustworthy, or authoritative? When the truth is out there, but we can trust no one, Dean argues, paranoia is indeed the most sensible response.

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