

Debunking Astronomical Pseudo-Science: Brief List of Resources on the Web

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A short list to help you examine, with a skeptical eye, some of the stranger claims at the fringes of science.

1. Astrology

Fraknoi, A. An Astronomer Looks at Astrology: <http://www.astrosociety.org/astrology.pdf>

Astrology and Science Web Site: <http://www.astrology-and-science.com/index.htm> Articles and research studies fill this crowded site, which is the single best place to examine the issues with astrology seriously.

Dawkins, R. The Real Romance in the Stars (1995 newspaper commentary attacking astrology):

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/the-real-romance-in-the-stars-1527970.html>

Plait, P. Bad Astronomy Page on Astrology: <http://www.badastronomy.com/bad/misc/astrology.html>

Dean, G., et al. *Tests of Astrology*. 2016, Aino Publ. <http://www.astrology-and-science.com/U-aino2.htm>

Dean, G. "Does Astrology Need to be True?" in *Skeptical Inquirer*, Jul/Aug 2016, p. 38:

https://www.csicop.org/si/show/does_astrology_need_to_be_true_a_thirty-year_update

2. UFO's

Special issue of *Skeptical Inquirer* on UFO's 2009: http://www.csicop.org/si/archive/category/volume_33.1

Ian Ridpath UFO Skeptic Page: <http://www.ianridpath.com/ufo/ufoindex.htm> British science writer investigates and explains UFO reports, and discusses astronomical causes of UFO sightings.

James Oberg's Space Age Myths: <http://www.jamesoberg.com/ufo.html> By a veteran space journalist.

Alien Autopsy Hoax: http://www.csicop.org/si/show/alien_autopsy_hoax/

Gleick, J. The Doctor's Plot. (A *New York Times* reporter examines critically the work of John Mack on UFO abductions): <http://www.around.com/abduct.html>

Seth Shostak on UFOs: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/seth-shostak/ufos-alien-sightings_b_850554.html

and http://www.huffingtonpost.com/seth-shostak/ufo-sightings_b_1458904.html

McGaha, J. & Nickell, J. "Alien Lights? At Phoenix, Stephenville & Elsewhere" (explains some famous cases):

http://www.csicop.org/si/show/alien_lights_at_phoenix_stephenville_and_elsewhere_a_postmortem

Apps to Create UFO Photos: http://www.csicop.org/si/show/ufo_hoaxes_theres_an_app_for_that

3. Crop Circles

Nickell, J. Circular Reasoning:

[http://www.csicop.org/si/show/circular_reasoning_the_mystery_of_crop_circles_and_their_orbs_of_light/Crop_Circle_Report_\(CSI_Archive\):](http://www.csicop.org/si/show/circular_reasoning_the_mystery_of_crop_circles_and_their_orbs_of_light/Crop_Circle_Report_(CSI_Archive):)

<http://web.archive.org/web/20060707212846/http://www.csicop.org/hoaxwatch/cropcircles.html>

4. The "Face" on Mars

Morrison, D. UFO's and Aliens in Space (An update on the "face" on Mars, and a bit about supposed astronaut encounters with aliens): http://www.csicop.org/si/show/ufos_and_aliens_in_space/)

NASA Discussion of "Face": https://science.nasa.gov/science-news/science-at-nasa/2001/ast24may_1

More "faces" on Mars in old images: http://www.tampabaykeptics.org/Mars_morefaces.html

5. The Full Moon and Lunacy

Moonstruck: <http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/moon.html> (An overview of the many lunacy studies).
Rotton, J. Moonshine (A detailed review of a book by the most famous author who has claimed moon and behavior connections): <http://www.csicop.org/si/show/moonshine/>)
Full Moon and Lunar Effects: <http://skepdic.com/fullmoon.html> (Part of the *Skeptical Dictionary* site).

6. The “Great Moon Hoax”: Did Astronauts Land on the Moon

Phil Plait’s response to “Moon Hoax”: <http://www.badastronomy.com/bad/tv/foxapollo.html>
Hoax Comments by astronomer Jim Scotti: http://pirlwww.lpl.arizona.edu/~jscotti/NOT_faked/
Moon Base Clavius Site (a group effort at debunking): <http://www.clavius.org/site.html>

7. Creationist Astronomy

Fraknoi, A., et al: *An Ancient Universe: How Astronomers Know the Vast Scale of Cosmic Time* (booklet from the American Astronomical Society): <http://aas.org/education/ancientuniverse>
Moore, D. Supernovae & Young Earth Creationism: <http://www.talkorigins.org/faqs/supernova/>
Bobrowsky, M. “Dealing with Disbelieving Students on Issues of Evolutionary Processes & Long Time Scales” from *Astronomy Education Review*: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3847/AER2005007>
The Age of the Earth: <http://www.talkorigins.org/faqs/faq-age-of-earth.html> Explains how we measure the age of our planet; dissects some of the common creationist arguments for a younger Earth.
Changing the Speed of Light Analysis: <http://www.talkorigins.org/faqs/c-decay.html>
National Center for Science Education: <http://ncse.com/> Best site for keeping up with creationism issues.

8. Ancient Astronauts and Erich Von Daniken

Nickell, J. The Nazca Drawings Revisited: http://www.csicop.org/si/show/nazca_drawings_revisited/)
Sheaffer, R. Science or Charlatanry: <http://www.debunker.com/texts/vondanik.html>
Skeptic’s Dictionary: <http://skepdic.com/vondanik.html>

9. Astronomical Doomsdays

Morrison, David “The Myth of [the planet] Nibiru and the End of the World in 2012”:
http://www.csicop.org/si/show/myth_of_nibiru_and_the_end_of_the_world_in_2012/
Phil Plait on Planet 9 & Doomsday:
http://www.slate.com/blogs/bad_astronomy/2016/04/11/fear_mongering_articles_claim_planet_nine_might_kill_us_all.html
Fraser Cain’s critiques: <https://www.universetoday.com/14094/no-doomsday-in-2012/>

10. Miscellaneous Topics in Astronomical Pseudoscience

Naming Stars for Money: http://www.csicop.org/si/show/name_dropping_want_to_be_a_star/
Hale, A. "Hale-Bopp Comet Madness" in *Skeptical Inquirer*, Mar/Apr. 1997, p. 25. On a cult that saw a spaceship behind the comet: http://www.csicop.org/si/show/hale-bopp_comet_madness/
Eades, J. Anti-matter Pseudoscience: http://www.csicop.org/si/show/antimatter_pseudoscience
Wiesner, M. “Modern Geocentrism: A Case Study in Pseudoscience in Astronomy” in *Skeptical Inquirer*, Vol. 39, issue 1, p. 50 (Jan/Feb. 2015). Review of ideas on earth-centered universe.
McDaid, L. “Legends of the Dogon: Mystery Resurfaces” at: <http://www.skeptic.com/eskeptic/10-01-13/>