

Why Do People Believe in Conspiracy Theories?

Classification of antecedents behind conspiratorial thinking:

Cognitive

(e.g. intuitive thinking, pattern perception)



Motivational

(e.g. uncertainty avoidance, control needs)



Personality

(e.g. collective narcissism, low self-esteem)



Psychopathology

(e.g. dark triad traits, paranoia)



Political

(e.g. ideological extremism, populism)



Sociocultural

(e.g. collectivism, distrust in institutions)

