

The thinker's guide to...

Spotting a bogus claim

So you want to be able to spot the fraud?

With a sea of information coming at us from all directions, how do we sift out the misinformation and bogus claims, and get to the truth? Michael Shermer, Publisher of Skeptic magazine, lays out a "Baloney Detection Kit"

Ten questions we should ask when encountering a claim.

1. How reliable is the source of the claim?
2. Does the source make similar claims?
3. Have the claims been verified by somebody else?
4. Does this fit with the way the world works?
5. Has anyone tried to disprove the claim?
6. Where does the bulk of evidence point?
7. Is the claimant playing by the rules of science?
8. Is the claimant providing positive evidence?
9. Does the new theory account for as many phenomena as the old theory?
10. Are personal beliefs driving the claim?

<http://www.michaelshermer.com/2009/06/baloney-detection-kit/>



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