

Summary of Carl Bergstrom and Jevin West's "Calling Bullshit"



Summary of Carl T. Bergstrom & Jevin D. West's Calling Bullshit by Markus Prior

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 1435 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 53 pages



In their book "Calling Bullshit: The Art of Skepticism in a Data-Driven World," data scientists Carl Bergstrom and Jevin West argue that we are living in a "post-truth" era, where people are increasingly willing to believe things that are not true, even when there is evidence to the contrary. They argue that this is due in part to the rise of social media and the internet, which have made it easier than ever to spread misinformation.

Bergstrom and West offer a number of strategies for calling bullshit, including:

- **Be skeptical of claims that seem too good to be true.** If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- **Look for evidence to support claims.** Don't just take someone's word for it. Ask for evidence to support their claims.

- **Be aware of your own biases.** We all have biases that can make us more likely to believe certain things. Be aware of your own biases and try to compensate for them.
- **Don't be afraid to ask questions.** If you don't understand something, ask questions. Don't be afraid to challenge people who are making claims that you don't believe.

Bergstrom and West also offer a number of tips for spotting bullshit in the wild, including:

- **Look for logical fallacies.** Logical fallacies are errors in reasoning that can lead to false s.
- **Be aware of the source of the information.** Where did the information come from? Is the source credible?
- **Consider the context.** What is the context of the information? Is it being used to support a particular agenda?
- **Be skeptical of anecdotes.** Anecdotes are personal stories that are often used to support claims. However, anecdotes are not evidence.
- **Don't be afraid to use your common sense.** If something doesn't make sense, it probably isn't true.

"Calling Bullshit" is a valuable resource for anyone who wants to be more skeptical about the information they consume. Bergstrom and West provide a number of practical strategies for calling bullshit, as well as a number of tips for spotting bullshit in the wild. By following these tips, we can all become better at identifying and rejecting false information.

Examples of Bullshit

Bergstrom and West provide a number of examples of bullshit in their book, including:

- **The claim that vaccines cause autism.** This claim has been repeatedly debunked by scientific studies, but it continues to circulate online.
- **The claim that climate change is a hoax.** This claim is also not supported by scientific evidence, but it is often used by people who deny the reality of climate change.
- **The claim that the 2020 presidential election was stolen.** This claim has been repeatedly debunked by election officials and experts, but it continues to be believed by many people.

These are just a few examples of the many bullshit claims that are circulating online today. By being aware of the strategies and tips outlined in "Calling Bullshit," we can all become better at identifying and rejecting false information.

"Calling Bullshit" is a timely and important book. In an era where misinformation is rampant, it is more important than ever to be able to identify and reject false information. Bergstrom and West provide a number of valuable strategies and tips for calling bullshit, and by following these tips, we can all become more skeptical and discerning consumers of information.

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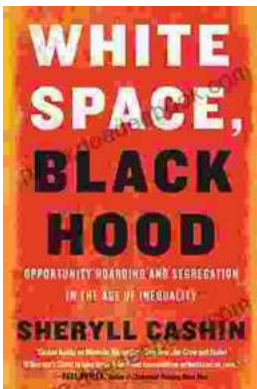


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