



The Re-Enchantment of the World: Secular Magic in a Rational Age

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The Re-Enchantment of the World is an interdisciplinary volume that challenges the long-prevailing view of modernity as "disenchanted." There is of course something to the widespread idea, so memorably put into words by Max Weber, that modernity is characterized by the "progressive disenchantment of the world." Yet what is less often recognized is the fact that a powerful counter-tendency runs alongside this one, an overwhelming urge to fill the vacuum left by departed convictions, and to do so without invoking superseded belief systems. In fact, modernity produces an *array* of strategies for re-enchantment, each fully compatible with secular rationality. It has to, because God has many "aspects"?or to put it in more secular terms, because traditional religion offers so much in so many domains. From one thinker to the next, the question of just what, in religious enchantment, needs to be replaced in a secular world receives an entirely different answer. Now, for the first time, many of these strategies are laid out in a single volume, with contributions by specialists in literature, history, and philosophy.

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Editorial Review

Review

"[T]he writers offer provocative and often brilliant meditations on the possibilities of secular modernity."
(Joanna Picciotto *Common Knowledge*)

"*The Re-Enchantment of the World* ultimately becomes richer for its internal diversity. Instead of offering a single argument, it reveals some of the competing agenda and concerns that have clustered around a recent area of critical inquiry, suggesting why it has captured so many scholars' attentions and where it might lead in the future." (Sebastian Lecourt)

"This interdisciplinary collection challenges the assumption that modernity's secular rationalism banished the sense of 'enchantment'—wonder, mystery, sacredness, order—engendered by religion and myth in earlier times. The 13 contributors discuss attempts to fill the void left by 'the death of God.' These include responses to nature famously detailed by Henry David Thoreau, the less accessible philosophy of Martin Heidegger, and the interest that William James took in psychic phenomena . . . The imaginative reach of these authors is itself a source of wonder, as is their erudition, evidenced by the copious endnotes and 29-page works cited."
(CHOICE)

"*The fate of our times is characterised by the rationalisation and intellectualisation and, above all, by the disenchantment of the world'* Or so Max Weber declared in 1917, Joshua Landy and Michael Saler remind us, in introducing this engaging 'smorgasbord' of a book, which ranges freely from environmentalism and architecture on one hand to Gnosticism and poetry on the other." (*Journal of the Philosophical Society of England*)

"This is one of those rare books that creates a paradigm shift in a topic of real importance. These brilliant cross-disciplinary essays present a fresh understanding of secular modernity: the old Weberian disenchantment paradigm lies in tatters and we realize that intellectual and cultural modernisation is soaked in magic and mystery too." (Simon During *Johns Hopkins University*)

"[I] would assure any prospective readers interested in the subject that the collection is rich, varied, and overall an excellent and helpful text that I would say 'prepares the soil' for many fruitful discussions on reason, philosophy, art, ecology, poetry, music, and magic." (Peter Duchemin *Analecta Hermeneutica*)

"Joshua Landy and Michael Saler have edited a book that confirms what many modernist scholars have long suspected: existing theories of modern re-enchantment need updating. Their careful and detailed critique of earlier theories of modern re-enchantment is compelling . . . This collection makes clear that any understanding of modern re-enchantment is incomplete without a consideration of its many and varied permutations." (Katherine Elkins)

About the Author

Joshua Landy is Professor of French at Stanford University and the author of *Philosophy as Fiction: Self, Deception, and Knowledge in Proust* (2004). Michael Saler is Professor of History at the University of California, Davis and the author of *The Avant-Garde in Interwar England: Medieval Modernism and the London Underground* (1999).

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Breanne Gardner:

The Re-Enchantment of the World: Secular Magic in a Rational Age can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort that will put every word into delight arrangement in writing The Re-Enchantment of the World: Secular Magic in a Rational Age however doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource info that maybe you can be one among it. This great information can drawn you into completely new stage of crucial thinking.

Patricia Ramirez:

The book untitled The Re-Enchantment of the World: Secular Magic in a Rational Age contain a lot of information on that. The writer explains the woman idea with easy method. The language is very simple to implement all the people, so do not worry, you can easy to read it. The book was compiled by famous author. The author will take you in the new time of literary works. You can read this book because you can continue reading your smart phone, or program, so you can read the book within anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can open their official web-site and also order it. Have a nice study.

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