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## Crank (person)

By Frederic P. Miller

Alphascript Publishing Feb 2010, 2010. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 220x150x5 mm. Neuware - 'Crank' is a pejorative term used for a person who unshakably holds a belief that most of his or her contemporaries consider to be false. A 'cranky' belief is so wildly at variance with commonly accepted truth as to be ludicrous. Cranks characteristically dismiss all evidence or arguments which contradict their own unconventional beliefs, making rational debate an often futile task. Common synonyms for 'crank' include crackpot and, in the USA, kook. A crank differs from a fanatic in that the subject of the fanatic's obsession is either not necessarily widely regarded as wrong or not necessarily a 'fringe' belief. Similarly, the word quack is reserved for someone who promotes a medical remedy or practice that is widely considered to be ineffective. Crank may also refer to an ill-tempered individual or one who is in a bad mood, but that usage is not the subject of this article. Although a crank's beliefs seem ridiculous to experts in the field, cranks are sometimes very successful in convincing non-experts of their views. A famous example is the Indiana Pi Bill where a state legislature nearly wrote into law a ...



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