



Vanessa Stahel

*BA Integrated Educational
Studies & BA Philosophy*

Mentor:

Noah Golden

Beckman 212

In a time of anti-vaxxers, climate change deniers, and flat earthers, it is vital to investigate how humans find truth, why we can trust science to bring truth, and why some people deny science all together. An in-depth look reveals that the institution of science is aptly built to discover truths about our world, but when these truths go against a personal worldview, defensive behavior follows, often in the form of conspiracy theories.

Using the phenomenon of the Flat Earth movement, this paper examines what causes conspiratorial ideations, and why so many people deny scientific truths about our reality.