

Pseudoscience on the Margin

Wrong-about-reality claims with no hidden-villain spine — except the spine quietly reappears in the language of the claims themselves.

SignalWatch · Pseudoscience report · 14 theories across 4 domains of science · revised 20 June 2026 after the viXra crank-paper harvest landed

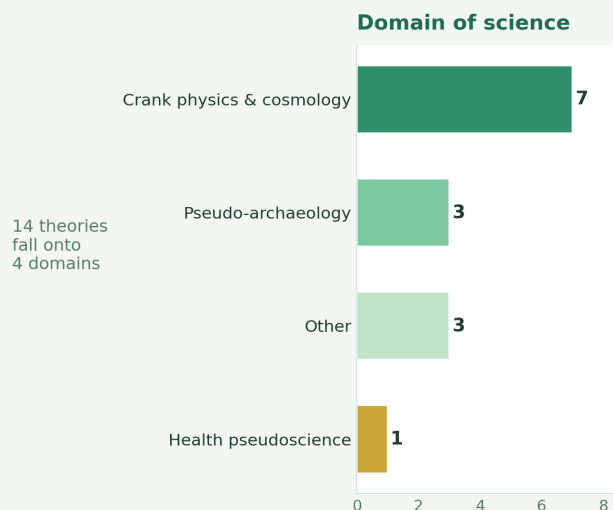
Pseudoscience is the SignalWatch shelf next door to conspiracy theories. It catches claims that *look* like science but get reality wrong — crank physics, pseudo-archaeology, fringe-cosmology, junk-health devices — without the central malevolent-actor spine of a true conspiracy theory. The cut SignalWatch makes is unambiguous: a theory with a hidden villain causing or covering up harm (chemtrails spraying, anti-vax, directed-energy attacks, suppressed-cancer plots) stays a conspiracy theory even when it misuses science. Pseudoscience is the residual — the theories where *the wrong claim is the point, not a villain*. 14 of them, today, across four domains of science.

That definition is mechanical: scanner-flagged (the A2 marker battery — physical-law violations, predatory venues, Galileo-gambit rhetoric) **and** no A1 conspiratorial-spine. But mechanical doesn't mean clean. The same 14 theories that pass the A1=false filter overwhelmingly invoke *mainstream suppression* in their core claims: academia is covering it up; conventional medicine dismisses; mainstream physics ignores; the energy industry suppresses. This paper is about that paradox, about where these theories live, and about what's missing from how we currently catch them.

1 · A shelf next door

The Pseudoscience Shelf, by Kind

14 theories flagged by the A2 marker battery — wrong-about-reality claims, no hidden-villain spine.



The Unmarked Conspiracy Thread

Implicit suppression in the claims themselves



SignalWatch · Pseudoscience report · pseudoscience theories that don't have a hidden-villain spine, but lean on a mainstream-suppression frame · thesignalwatcher.com

Figure 1 — the 14 pseudoscience theories by domain of science, and how many lean on a mainstream-suppression frame in the claims themselves.

The promotion path from conspiracy-theory to pseudoscience is explicit. Every theory in the SignalWatch corpus is classified along two independent axes: **A1** (is there a hidden malevolent actor causing or covering up harm?) and **A2** (is the core a wrong-about-reality claim — crank physics, free energy, fringe cosmology, pseudo-archaeology?). The four quadrants of the A1×A2 space carry different labels:

- **A1=true · A2=true** — conspiratorial pseudoscience. Stays in the main conspiracy-theory shelf. (Chemtrails, anti-vax, directed-energy attacks: the science is wrong AND there's a named villain inflicting harm.)
- **A1=true · A2=false** — pure conspiracy theory. The villain frame doesn't depend on a physics violation. (Election fraud, Epstein, Great Replacement, the deep state.)
- **A1=false · A2=true** — pseudoscience. **The 14 theories in this paper.** Wrong about reality, but the wrongness is the point — no villain inflicting active harm.
- **A1=false · A2=false** — neither flagged. Most of the corpus.

The classifier treats the A1=false filter as a hard gate. A theory that explicitly names a villain inflicting harm — Big Pharma suppressing cancer cures, the energy industry murdering inventors — gets promoted back into the conspiracy-theory shelf, no matter how badly it abuses physics. What sits on the pseudoscience shelf, then, is the set of theories that fail to clear that bar for a hidden malevolent actor *and yet* still talk like they're being suppressed by one. The right panel of Figure 1 is the headline finding of this paper: **9 of the 14 theories** on the pseudoscience shelf invoke mainstream suppression in their core claims anyway. The villain exited through the door marked A1, then climbed back in through the rhetoric.

2 • Four domains of science

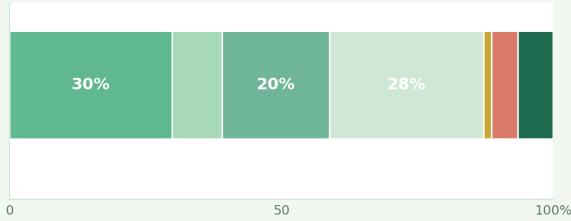
The 14 theories drop onto four domains, with crank physics doing most of the work. The taxonomy isn't subtle — physical-law violation is the load-bearing A2 marker, and physics is where most of those violations live. But the venue mix differs by domain in instructive ways, and the story isn't only about physics:

- **Crank physics & cosmology (7 theories).** Gravity-denial — both flavors (gravity as an internal atomic force; gravity as density-and-buoyancy) — plus Flat Earth, Simulation Theory, Vortex Math & the Rodin Coil, Suppressed Free Energy Machines, and the Barron Trump Time Travel conspiracy. Several of these are perfectly good candidates for the A1=true shelf (free-energy inventors are explicitly 'suppressed by the energy industry') but the harm being inflicted is ambiguous enough to fall on this side of the line.
- **Pseudo-archaeology (3 theories).** Beneath the Pyramids (Giza tunnels, allegedly suppressed by 'mainstream institutions'), Elongated Skulls (the Nephilim explanation, 'academia and museums covering up'), Phantom Time Hypothesis (no AD 614–911 happened). The threat level here drifts upward — one of these is the only *elevated* threat-rated pseudoscience theory in the corpus.
- **Health pseudoscience (1 theory).** Quantum Frequency and Scalar Healing Devices — Spooky2 Scalar, terahertz Tesla wands, products that 'conventional medicine dismisses.' This is a sparse domain in this corpus because the high-harm health-conspiracy theories (anti-vax, suppressed cancer cures, 5G-causes-COVID) all pass the A1 gate and end up filed as conspiracy theories.
- **Other (3 theories).** The Bulga Sphere (mystery metal, possibly alien), Baba Vanga's hantavirus prophecy, the 2026 Digital Simulation Sync Phenomenon. These don't fit the three established domains, but score the A2 markers anyway.

Four Domains, Four Venue Mixes

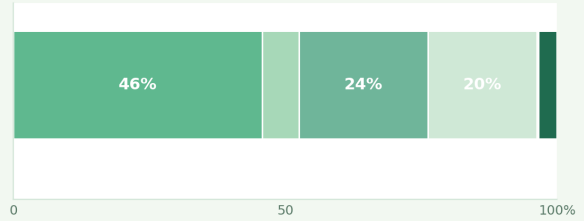
How presentation differs by what's being claimed. Each panel: aggregate share of sources for theories in that domain.

Crank physics & cosmology (7 theories · 693 items)



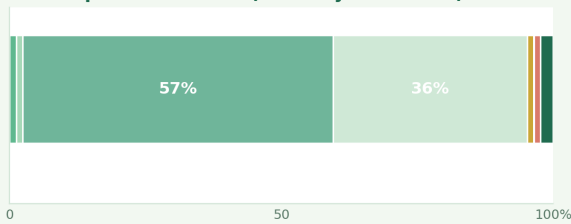
Barron Trump Time Travel Conspiracy, Flat Earth, Gravity Is an Internal Atomic Force, +4 more

Pseudo-archaeology (3 theories · 295 items)



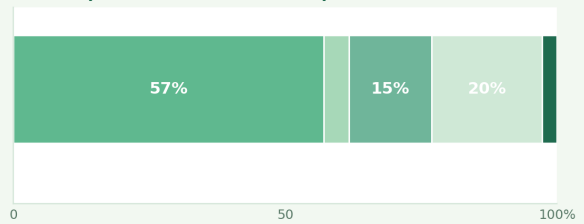
Beneath the Pyramids, Elongated Skulls, Phantom Time Hypothesis

Health pseudoscience (1 theory · 84 items)



Quantum Frequency and Scalar Healin

Other (3 theories · 217 items)



2026 Digital Simulation Sync Phenom, Baba Vanga 2026 Predictions & Hanta, Bulga Sphere

■ short video ■ social / forum ■ podcast ■ long-form blog ■ marketing ■ crank paper ■ reference

Figure 2 — venue mix by domain. Crank physics travels through more diverse venues (more marketing tail, more reference rebuttal). Archaeology concentrates in short video. Health pseudoscience lives almost entirely in two media.

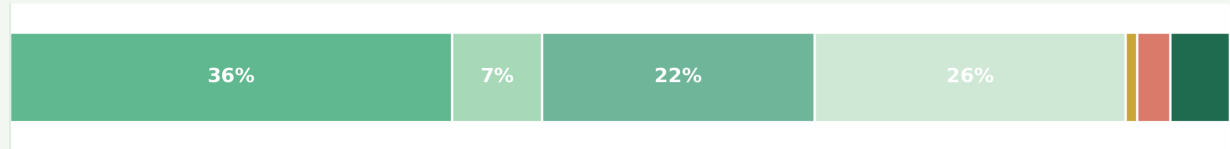
What the per-domain panels make visible — and the aggregate bar in the next figure foreshadows — is that pseudoscience doesn't have one presentation style. It has roughly four, in different mixes.

3 · The professionalism spectrum

Where Pseudoscience Lives — the Professionalism Spectrum

Aggregating sources across all 14 theories, by formality of presentation venue.

All sources combined · n = 1,289 content items



short video social / forum podcast long-form blog marketing crank paper reference
YouTube TikTok Rumble Reddit X Gab Apple Podcasts Medium Substack Etsy Amazon Scribd Academia.edu Wikipedia BBC

Per-theory mix · sorted by share of formal-looking venues

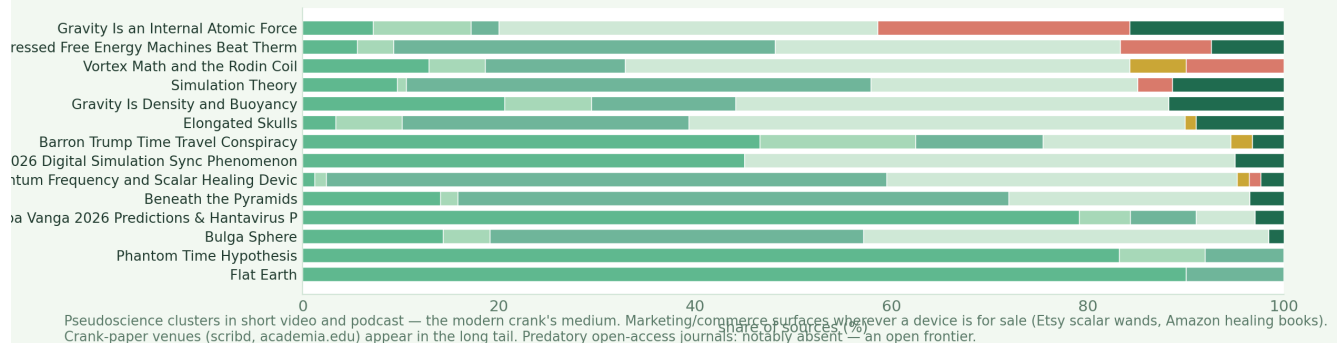


Figure 3 — where pseudoscience claims live, by formality of presentation venue. The aggregate bar reads left-to-right from informal to formal; the per-theory mix below shows how each theory's source mix actually distributes.

Pseudoscience comes in different presentational *register* — the user-facing format the claim is wrapped in. A 90-second Flat Earth TikTok and a 30-page self-published 'unified field theory' PDF are arguing the same thing, but they trade for different things. The TikTok wants reach; the PDF wants the patina of seriousness. SignalWatch tracks where the harvested content actually lives, which gives a rough map of that spectrum:

- **Short video** (YouTube, TikTok, Rumble, BitChute) — the modern crank's medium. 37% of all sources. The format does most of the work: fast cuts, voice-over, no peer review, no citations, instant share.
- **Podcast** (Apple Podcasts, the listener-facing index) — 23%. Long-form interview discussions on shows whose hosts range across the political spectrum but tend to lean credulous on fringe-science guests.
- **Marketing / commerce** (Etsy, Amazon, books.apple.com) — 26%. The tell-tale signal of a pseudoscience that has crossed from ideology into **product**. Quantum scalar healing wands. Vortex-math coils. Lost-civilization books. When a theory has a sale page, the seller has skin in the game.
- **Social / forum** (Reddit, X, Gab, knowyourmeme) — 8%. Lower than you'd expect, because the political-conspiracy theories dominate that register.
- **Long-form blog** (Medium, Substack, personal sites) — appearing in the long tail. The format for the wannabe-essay version of the claim.

- **Crank paper / preprint** (viXra, ResearchGate, Scribd, Academia.edu) — the formal end of the spectrum. The self-published 'paper' venues are where someone who wants to look serious puts the PDF. See §5 for the harvest numbers — this slice is now measured, not inferred.
- **Reference / news** (Wikipedia, BBC, Scientific American, Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy) — almost exclusively debunks. When the establishment shows up on a pseudoscience theory's page, it's usually rebutting the claim, not endorsing it.

Two patterns that aren't obvious from the aggregate

First, **physics is the most multi-register** domain. Where archaeology is concentrated in short video and health in video-plus-marketing, the physics-flavored theories spread across video, marketing (Spooky2 wands), long-form blog (gravity-denial explainers), and the thin crank-paper tail. The more elaborate the claimed mechanism, the more registers it has to live in to be argued — you can show a video of an object falling, but you need a long-form blog to claim what gravity actually *is*.

Second, **marketing is the cleanest signal that a theory has commercial tailwinds**. Quantum Frequency / Scalar Healing Devices is a product ecosystem; the marketing share is enormous because the theory *is* the sales pitch. Suppressed Free Energy is its mirror image at the other end of physics: no product to sell yet, almost no marketing share, mostly video and podcast.

The shelf, sorted by formality

The per-theory formality profile is the cleanest way to see the spectrum at work. Sorted by share of formal-end venues — crank paper / preprint plus academic / reference — the corpus splits into three distinct populations.

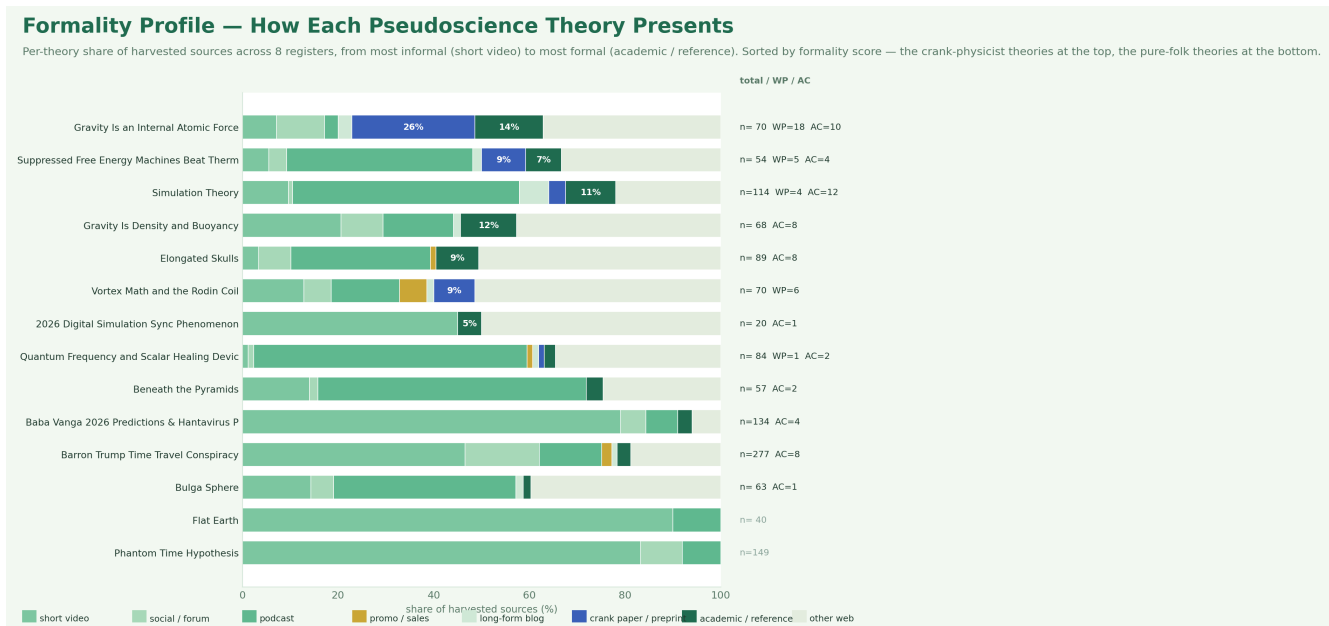


Figure 4 — per-theory formality profile, sorted top-to-bottom from most formal presentation to most folk. Blue = crank paper / preprint (viXra, ResearchGate, scribd, academia.edu); deep green = academic / reference; gold = promo / sales. The white-paper column is the new data the viXra harvest unlocks — discussed in §5.

- **The crank-physicist exemplar.** *Gravity Is an Internal Atomic Force* tops the chart with 26% crank-paper share and 14% academic / reference share — 40% of its captured surface is in formal-looking venues. It is the only theory in the corpus whose footprint is mostly written down. Almost none of its readers ever see it; that doesn't seem to be the point.
- **The mid-spectrum theories.** *Suppressed Free Energy*, *Simulation Theory*, *Gravity Is Density and Buoyancy*, *Elongated Skulls*, *Vortex Math & the Rodin Coil* all carry a measurable formal slice. Vortex Math is the most multi-register theory in the corpus — it sells the Rodin coil, posts the videos, blogs the doubling sequence, and publishes the PDF.
- **The pure-folk pole.** *Phantom Time Hypothesis*, *Flat Earth*, *Bulga Sphere*, and *Barron Trump Time Travel* sit with zero or near-zero formal share. These travel as story, not as argument; their venues are video, podcast, and social.

4 • The unmarked conspiracy thread

The Unmarked Conspiracy Thread

Suppression language in the core claims — pseudoscience here means 'no hidden-villain spine,' but the spine reappears rhetorically.

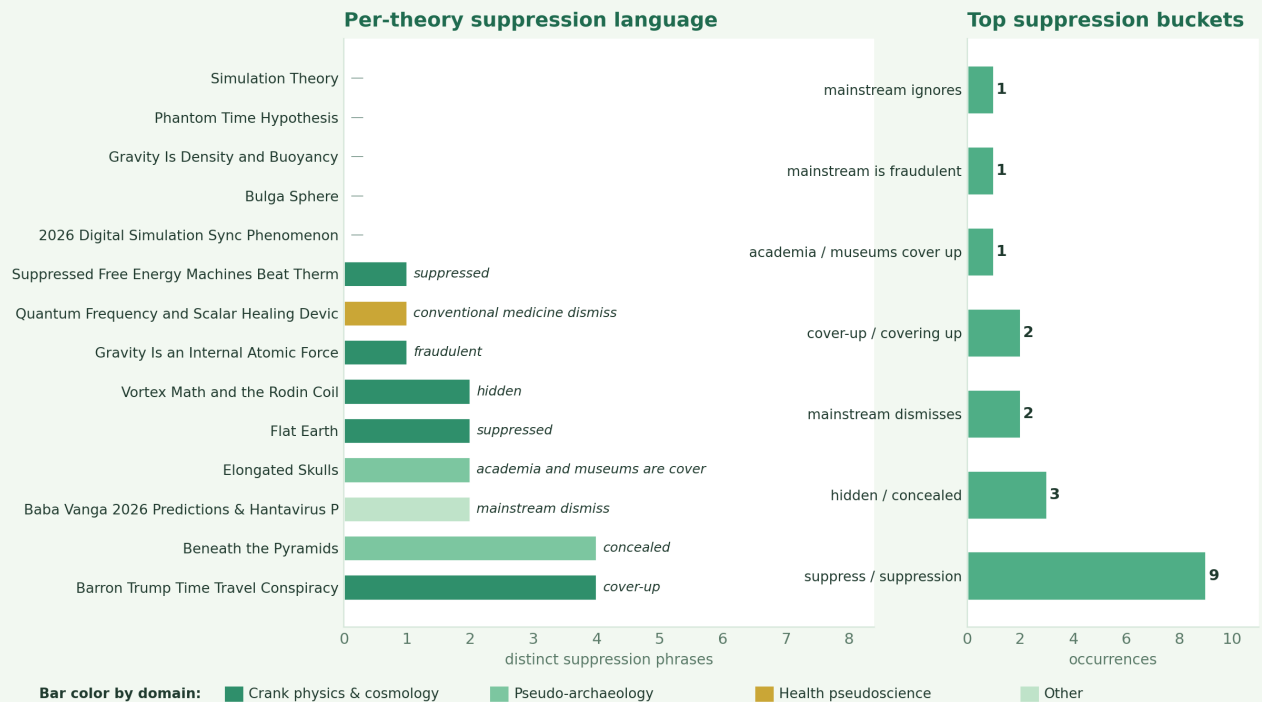


Figure 5 — implicit suppression language in the 14 theories' core claims. Left: which theories carry the language, and what the strongest phrase is. Right: the most-invoked suppression buckets across the corpus.

This is the most uncomfortable finding in the report. The pseudoscience shelf is defined as *not* having a hidden malevolent-actor spine — that's what the A1=false gate enforces — but the rhetoric of *mainstream suppression* is everywhere in the claims:

"Mainstream institutions are working to suppress or restrict access." (Beneath the Pyramids)

"Academia and museums are covering up the evidence — restricting access, closing exhibits 'for renovation,' suppressing DNA results." (Elongated Skulls)

"Free-energy inventors are suppressed by the energy industry to protect oil and utility profits." (Suppressed Free Energy Machines)

"Mainstream mathematics and physics ignore vortex math because it overturns their established understanding." (Vortex Math & the Rodin Coil)

"Conventional medicine dismisses [the device]'s energetic signature." (Quantum Frequency and Scalar Healing Devices)

Across the 14 theories, **9 of 14** use this language in their core claims. The pattern is consistent: it isn't a named industry suppressing it for a named reason, which is what the A1 filter is looking for. It's '**mainstream X**' — mainstream science, mainstream medicine, mainstream institutions, academia — performing a diffuse, structural refusal-to-look. The acting subject is an establishment, not an agent. That's

exactly the seam where the A1 classifier can let a theory through: there's no specific 'they' with a specific motive, only the establishment's collective indifference. Rhetorically, though, the believer doesn't experience that distinction. *They* are still hiding it. The theory is still about being right while a powerful institution refuses to acknowledge it.

What this means for the labels

It would be wrong to conclude that pseudoscience is just conspiracy theory with one less dimension. The A1 distinction is real and useful — the theories that name a villain inflicting *harm* behave differently from those that don't, both in how they spread and in what they ask believers to do. Anti-vaccine theories produce measles outbreaks; the claim that 'mainstream physics ignores vortex math' produces YouTube videos. The labels are doing useful work.

But the boundary is rhetorically **porous**. A pseudoscience theory that develops a more pointed villain — naming a specific industry, alleging a specific concealment — promotes back across the A1 gate into the main conspiracy-theory shelf. The Suppressed Free Energy theory is the case to watch: it already names the energy industry as the suppressor; one more step (a named harm, a named victim) and it stops being pseudoscience and starts being a conspiracy theory about murdered inventors. The pseudoscience shelf is, in part, a queue.

5 · Update — the open frontier, after the harvest

The first version of this report ended on a confession: that the crank-paper / preprint slice of the venue mix was suspiciously thin, that **viXra** — the open archive that exists specifically for fringe physics — was almost certainly carrying every gravity-denial theory we tracked plus more, and that we weren't reaching it. We have since fixed that. This section reports the result.

viXra harvest

The SignalWatch viXra harvester now walks the six categories most likely to carry physics-flavored pseudoscience (Classical Physics, Relativity and Cosmology, Thermodynamics and Energy, Quantum Physics, Astrophysics, History and Philosophy of Physics), oldest-first, matching paper titles and authors against per-theory keyword sets, and atomizing the abstracts of the matches through the same signature-gated ingest path as the rest of the corpus. The headline numbers:

- **13,130 viXra papers** walked across the six categories.
- **79 papers matched** the keyword sets for the five physics-flavored pseudoscience theories, and **74 persisted** as `iw_content` rows on a new **viXra** platform — alongside **53 distinct crank-physics authors** auto-added with `persona_type = crank_author`.
- **455 atoms** extracted from those abstracts, of which **31 cleared the signature gate** and force-linked to a theory (6.8% — the gate is tight by design, the same gate the podcast and video paths use).

Per-theory landing (viXra atoms; total atom count for the theory in parens). The first two are the predicted-rich harvest targets:

- **Gravity Is an Internal Atomic Force: 20 viXra atoms** (76 total). Multiple Mykola Kosinov papers, Mikhail Batanov-Gaukhman's *Geometrized Vacuum Physics Part 11: Gravity and Levitation*, Jorma Jormakka's *Gravity is Field in Flat Space, not Geometry of Space-Time*. The crank-paper share of this theory's total surface now sits at 26%, the highest in the corpus.
- **Suppressed Free Energy Machines: 5 viXra atoms** (75 total). Including Solomon I. Khmel'nik's *To the Theory of Perpetual Motion Holder* and *GTR and Perpetuum Mobile Rehabilitation* — the explicit perpetual-motion-rehabilitation paper genre.
- **Simulation Theory: 7 viXra atoms** (179 total). The richest single match was Deep Bhattacharjee's *Mandela Effect & Déjà Vu: Are We Living in a Simulated Reality?*, which contributed 4 atoms on its own.
- **Vortex Math & the Rodin Coil: 0 viXra atoms**. Genuine zero — no Rodin-coil papers in viXra's archive across the six categories walked. The 6 white-paper hits visible in Figure 4 for this theory live on Academia.edu and Scribd instead.
- **Gravity Is Density and Buoyancy: 0 viXra atoms**. Another genuine zero — the buoyancy-gravity terminology isn't on viXra. The theory's footprint stays on YouTube.

What the new data shows

The crank-paper share of the venue mix is no longer a thin slice for the physics-flavored theories — it is, for at least one theory, the dominant register. That was hypothesized in the first version of this report and is now measured. The corollary the data also makes visible is that the **viXra harvest helps the physics**

theories and only the physics theories. Archaeology pseudoscience has no viXra footprint (the category exists on viXra but is small — 76 papers — and we matched zero). Health pseudoscience has no viXra footprint either, because crank health claims live in marketing PDFs and predatory medical journals, not in an open physics preprint archive.

What is still open

viXra is the easiest target. It has no search backend (its *search.html* is a Google CSE widget that returns no useful results, and the site is search-engine-blackballed — `site:vixra.org` queries return zero results on both Google and DuckDuckGo) but its category index pages are reachable and parseable. **Predatory open-access journals are harder.** ResearchGate, where the rest of the archaeology and health long tail lives, hard-403s any chrome-impersonated request — meaningful coverage there would need Playwright with a real login session.

- **Crank-archive harvester** — DONE for viXra. ResearchGate and Academia.edu remain login-walled.
- **Predatory-journal classifier** bootstrapped from Beall's archived list plus current pay-to-publish flags — still TODO. Would unlock the health-pseudoscience long tail.
- **'Mainstream X suppresses' as its own marker** — DONE. The *Pimm_immunizing_strategy* marker is live in the A2 marker battery, named per the demarcation literature (Boudry & Braeckman, 2011; Hansson, 2009). See §6.
- **Watch the queue both ways** — DONE. The classifier now emits continuous A1 and A2 scores per theory rather than a binary shelf flag; the highest-A2 conspiracy theories (anti-vax, no-virus) carry the pseudoscience signal visibly on their pages even while they remain on the conspiracy-theory shelf.

One R4 follow-up. The predatory-venue marker on the existing *pseudoscience_marker* table doesn't fire on the viXra restock-path atoms because that marker is in the dossier-attach ingest gate, which the direct-restock path bypasses. Either backfill R4 against the existing *vixra-platform iw_content* rows, or route new viXra atoms through the dossier-attach pathway. Tracked as a known gap.

6 · Architectural follow-up — Pseudoscience Revisited

The first version of this report ended on a paradox: pseudoscience theories reaching for the villain frame with one hand while the A1 gate holds them back with the other, and the shelf described as 'in part, a queue.' The method note **Pseudoscience Revisited** (companion paper, Data shelf, June 2026) argues that reading was wrong in a useful way — the 'they refuse to look' frame isn't a leak across the A1 gate, it is an **immunizing strategy** in the Boudry & Braeckman (2011) sense, and immunizing strategies are among the things that make a claim pseudoscientific in the first place (Hansson, 2009; Fasce, 2019). The architectural recommendation that follows is to stop treating pseudoscience as a residual *bin* and start treating it as a cross-cutting *dimension* — a per-theory A2 score that every theory carries, with the pastel-green Pseudoscience shelf preserved as the user-friendly view of the low-A1 / high-A2 quadrant.

The recommendation is now implemented. The A2 marker battery has two new named markers: **Pimm_immunizing_strategy** (Boudry & Braeckman, 2011) for the suppression-rhetoric form, and **Pden_science_denial** (Hansson, 2017) for organized denialism — the content-side A2 marker that catches anti-vax, climate denial, germ-theory denial, and the broader high-harm science-denial population the structural markers (P1, P7) miss. Continuous A1 and A2 scores are now stored per theory on

io_ct_origins and rendered as chips on the Theory Dashboard.

The misfiled corner the method note diagnoses — high-A1 + high-A2, the place where the highest-harm science denial belongs — now surfaces the right canonical cases when the corpus is filtered by it:

Vaccines Cause Autism and **No-Virus Conspiracy**. Those are the theories the demarcation literature names. They no longer disappear from pseudoscience analytics just because they cleared the A1 gate.

7 • Closing

The pseudoscience shelf does what it was built to do — catches the claims that abuse the form of science without the harm-doing spine of a conspiracy theory. With the viXra harvest in place the catch is also honest about its own coverage: the formal end of the venue mix is now measured, not inferred, and the data confirms what the first version of this report could only hypothesize — that crank physics is published extensively in the venues that mimic peer review, and that those papers exist almost regardless of whether anyone reads them. Gravity has 18 viXra papers attached to its denial. Perpetual motion has had its own *rehabilitation* theorist for a decade. The audience is the same few hundred views; the publication act is the product.

The architectural follow-up in §6 — making A2 dimensional rather than a shelf flag — closes the other loop. The pseudoscience shelf stays as the user-friendly navigation for the low-A1 / high-A2 quadrant (the pure crank physics, the suppressed-knowledge frame), and the high-A2 score now visibly attaches to the conspiracy theories where science denial does the most damage. The strain the first version of this report described is no longer a paradox — it is a feature of the rhetorical substrate that conspiracy theory and pseudoscience share, named in the Pimm marker, measured per theory, and visible across both shelves.

This paper covers 14 pseudoscience theories tracked by SignalWatch as of June 2026 (revised after the viXra harvest landed, 20 June 2026), on the pastel-green Pseudoscience shelf at thesignalwatcher.com/pseudoscience. The A1/A2 classifier and the promotion path are documented in `epistemic_deviance_build.md` (SignalWatch internal); the dimensional A1/A2 scoring architecture is documented in the companion paper **Pseudoscience Revisited** on the same Data shelf. Source data and the controlled vocabularies are available on the Data page. © SignalWatch — free to use with attribution.