

Article analysis *You don't have a right to believe whatever you want to*, **Daniel DeNicola**, Aeon, May, 2018

	Key idea	Summary
1	Supposed right?	Those who say we can believe in anything are 'wilfully ignorant'.
2	Belief is not knowledge	We have a right to know certain things. But 'knowledge' is not the same as 'belief'.
3	Factive, false, and repugnant beliefs	We believe in things that seem to us to be true. But our beliefs can be "unwarranted by evidence", and they can also be "morally repugnant".
4	Problematic beliefs	We think of beliefs as being voluntary, but in actual fact, we often 'inherit' or 'acquire' beliefs, and refuse to question their factual or moral validity.
5	Morally repugnant truths	A belief that is false, and a belief that is ugly, is <i>part</i> of what makes a belief morally wrong, however, there are also morally repugnant truths embedded in the world.
6	Irresponsible beliefs	Many beliefs are based on gossip, rumour, or flawed evidence. They may not fit with what we know to be coherent and logical, but we may hold onto them anyway.
7	The 'will to believe'	Because the world is so complex, it is inevitable that some of our beliefs will not be based on sufficient evidence. We may have to

		select a belief based on what we judge to offer the best outcome for society.
8	The 'right to believe'	The 'right to believe' means that we tolerate other religions and worldviews, but there are limits here - intolerant beliefs should not be tolerated.
9	True believers, but not believers in truth.	Some people have interpreted the 'right to believe' as allowing them to embrace beliefs based on wilful ignorance and false knowledge.
10	The epistemic community	We do not operate as knowers in isolation, and we have a responsibility to the other members of our 'epistemic community'. We do not have the right to possess false, morally repugnant, or irresponsible beliefs.