

Customer Review

☆☆☆☆☆ **This book is Intellectual Theft**

By [Book Lover](#) on June 20, 2018

Format: Hardcover

This book is nothing more than intellectual property theft.

Let me clarify. The idea that humans are the only animals that can access another thoughts via words and questions is hugely important, thus the material covered in the book is important. But the authors didn't come up with this "novel" or "revolutionary" idea, and not only is this a simple case of 2 people coming up with a similar idea at the same time, anything more than a cursory review makes it clear the authors are intentionally pilfering the idea of another academic scholar. Dr. Henriques, a psychologist and one of the nation's leading experts on suicides and depression, put forth the Justification Hypothesis back in 2003 in his Tree of Knowledge system. He clearly explains how the Justification Hypothesis works and why it had such a radical impact on our evolution and development. These ideas simply copy his, with zero references or acknowledgements (indeed the lack of referencing his work is even more damning because it is obvious they intentionally left references to him out). And it isn't like this was a "one and done" deal with one obscure paper that a person can't be expected to read, he has been talking about these ideas in many public venues, including multiple peer reviewed journals, for 15 years.

Are the ideas presented in this book important? Yes. Are they the authors' original and novel ideas? Absolutely not. And I don't believe it is a good idea to support those that take the work of others and propose it as their own.

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[Hugo Mercier](#) 3 hours ago (Edited)

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Although it is possible that Dr Henriques had some relevant insights, I can assure you that neither of us had ever heard of him or of his hypotheses (they really don't seem to be as popular as you paint them to be). To be honest, reading a bit about it now, I doubt there are that many similarities (for example ours isn't a theory of consciousness at all), but even if there were, that's a common enough occurrence (and, then, if we'd known about these ideas, we would have happily acknowledged them).

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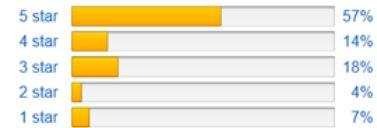
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The Enigma of Reason
by Hugo Mercier

☆☆☆☆☆ 28

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