

# The Obama Deception and Other Episodes in Recent Political Demonology

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Focusing on a selection of the many conspiracy theories that have developed around Barack Obama and that cast the president, among others, as a Muslim impostor or a proponent of the New World Order, this talk will provide an introduction to the various forms and functions of conspiracy theories in the United States. Drawing on the work of Mark Fenster, I will argue that conspiracy theories are usually simplistic and frequently problematic, but that they should not be pathologized but must be seen as populist responses to a perceived crisis of political and semiotic representation.

