

# On Unhealthy Social Media Use / If Epicurus Were Alive Today, Would He Use A Smartphone?

Post by “Matt” of January 15, 2021 at 3:55 PM

So I pulled this from an article:

***“Apophenia: the tendency to perceive a connection or meaningful pattern between unrelated or random things (such as objects or ideas).”***

I see this as *one* of the cruxes of how conspiracy theories and “malinformation” are spreading today online and on social media. I see this from an Epicurean perspective as a failure to analyze data properly.

We can see that many people have unfounded opinions about a whole host of things, based on anecdotal claims from extremely unreliable sources. The “information” is created at random and then disseminated to the social media users (often with very little restriction). The users then absorb the information and then they disseminate it to even more users, so that the information spreads exponentially.

On a personal note...I’ve heard some “humdingers” lately. Really unbelievable claims, from people I considered to be of somewhat sound mind. I believe multiple factors are involved to include social isolation...but it appears this “acceptance” of false narratives seems to be evolving.