# Article information:

From 'Westworld' to 'Stranger Things' to 'The OA,' What's With Pop Culture's Metaphysical Moment? - The Atlantic  
<https://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2017/01/the-oa-stranger-things-westworld-metaphysical-moment-alternative-realities-tv/511808/>

# Article summary:

1. Pop culture is exploring the idea of multiple realities, blending science fiction, theoretical physics, and spirituality to offer a glimpse into a wider perception of reality.

2. Shows like The OA, Stranger Things, Westworld, and movies like Arrival and Doctor Strange are all examples of this trend.

3. These works grapple with death and offer a secular take on the promise of the divine, providing imaginative comfort that religion has long provided.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The Atlantic's article "From 'Westworld' to 'Stranger Things' to 'The OA,' What's With Pop Culture's Metaphysical Moment?" explores the recent trend in popular entertainment of blending science fiction, theoretical physics, and spirituality to offer a new perspective on reality. The article discusses various TV shows and movies that explore the idea of multiple realities, such as The OA, Stranger Things, Westworld, Arrival, Doctor Strange, Falling Water, and The Good Place.

The author notes that these works often draw from real scientific research but also incorporate elements of fantasy and surrealism. They suggest that this trend may be a response to the current political climate and the desire for escapism or a way to cope with death and grief. Additionally, the article suggests that these stories may be filling a void left by declining church attendance and widespread spiritual crisis.

While the article provides an interesting analysis of this trend in pop culture, it does have some potential biases. For example, it assumes that declining church attendance is evidence of a spiritual crisis rather than other factors such as changing cultural attitudes or alternative forms of spirituality. Additionally, the article focuses primarily on Western pop culture without considering how similar themes may appear in other cultures or media.

Furthermore, while the article acknowledges that these works are often based on real scientific research, it does not explore any potential risks or ethical concerns associated with blurring the lines between science and fantasy. It also does not consider any counterarguments or criticisms of this trend in pop culture.

Overall, while "From 'Westworld' to 'Stranger Things' to 'The OA,' What's With Pop Culture's Metaphysical Moment?" provides an interesting analysis of a current trend in popular entertainment, it could benefit from more balanced reporting and consideration of alternative perspectives.

# Topics for further research:

* Criticisms of blending science and fantasy in pop culture
* Cultural attitudes towards spirituality in non-Western media
* Alternative forms of spirituality and their impact on declining church attendance
* Ethical concerns of using real scientific research in fictional works
* Psychological effects of using metaphysical themes in entertainment as a coping mechanism
* Historical context of metaphysical themes in popular entertainment

# Report location:

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