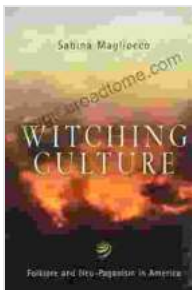


# Folklore and Neo-Paganism in America: A Contemporary Ethnography

Neo-Paganism is a growing religious movement in America, with an estimated 1 million adherents. Neo-Pagans draw inspiration from ancient polytheistic traditions, particularly those of Europe, and their beliefs and practices often incorporates elements of folklore and mythology. This book provides an in-depth exploration of the beliefs, practices, and experiences of contemporary Neo-Pagans in America, based on extensive ethnographic research.



## Witching Culture: Folklore and Neo-Paganism in America (Contemporary Ethnography) by Sabina Magliocco

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1568 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 277 pages



## Methodology

The research for this book was conducted over a period of five years and involved participant observation at Neo-Pagan festivals, rituals, and other events. The author also conducted in-depth interviews with over 100 Neo-Pagans from a variety of traditions. This research provides a rich and

nuanced understanding of the beliefs and practices of contemporary Neo-Pagans.

## **Beliefs and Practices**

Neo-Pagans believe in a variety of gods and goddesses, and they often draw inspiration from ancient polytheistic traditions. However, Neo-Paganism is not a monolithic religion, and there is a great deal of diversity in beliefs and practices within the community. Some Neo-Pagans focus on nature-based spirituality, while others are more focused on ancestor worship or divination. Some Neo-Pagans practice magic, while others focus on meditation and ritual.

One of the most important aspects of Neo-Paganism is the celebration of seasonal festivals. These festivals are often based on the agricultural calendar and mark the changing of the seasons. Neo-Pagans also celebrate a variety of other festivals, such as the solstice and equinoxes. These festivals are often held outdoors and involve music, dancing, feasting, and other activities.

## **Rituals**

Rituals are an important part of Neo-Pagan practice. Rituals can be used for a variety of purposes, such as marking the changing of the seasons, honoring the gods and goddesses, or casting spells. Neo-Pagan rituals often incorporate elements of folklore and mythology, and they can be very elaborate and dramatic.

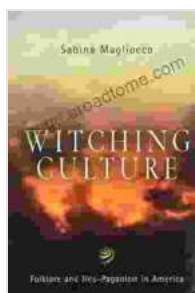
One of the most common Neo-Pagan rituals is the circle casting. A circle casting is a ritual that creates a sacred space for ritual work. The circle is typically cast by walking around the perimeter of the space and calling

upon the gods and goddesses for protection. Other common Neo-Pagan rituals include the invocation of deities, the offering of prayers, and the performance of spells.

## Identity

Neo-Paganism is often seen as a counter-cultural movement, and many Neo-Pagans identify as outsiders. Neo-Pagans often reject the dominant religious and cultural norms of society, and they may feel a sense of alienation from mainstream culture. However, Neo-Paganism is also a very diverse community, and there is a great deal of variation in how Neo-Pagans identify themselves. Some Neo-Pagans identify as witches, while others identify as Druids, shamans, or simply as Pagans. Some Neo-Pagans are openly Pagan, while others choose to keep their beliefs private.

Folklore and Neo-Paganism in America is an in-depth and comprehensive exploration of the beliefs, practices, and experiences of contemporary Neo-Pagans in America. This book provides a valuable resource for scholars of religion, folklore, and cultural studies, as well as for anyone who is interested in learning more about Neo-Paganism.



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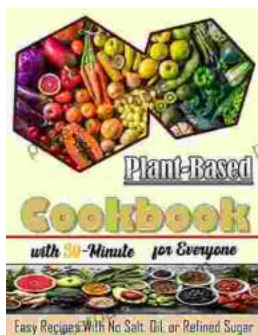
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