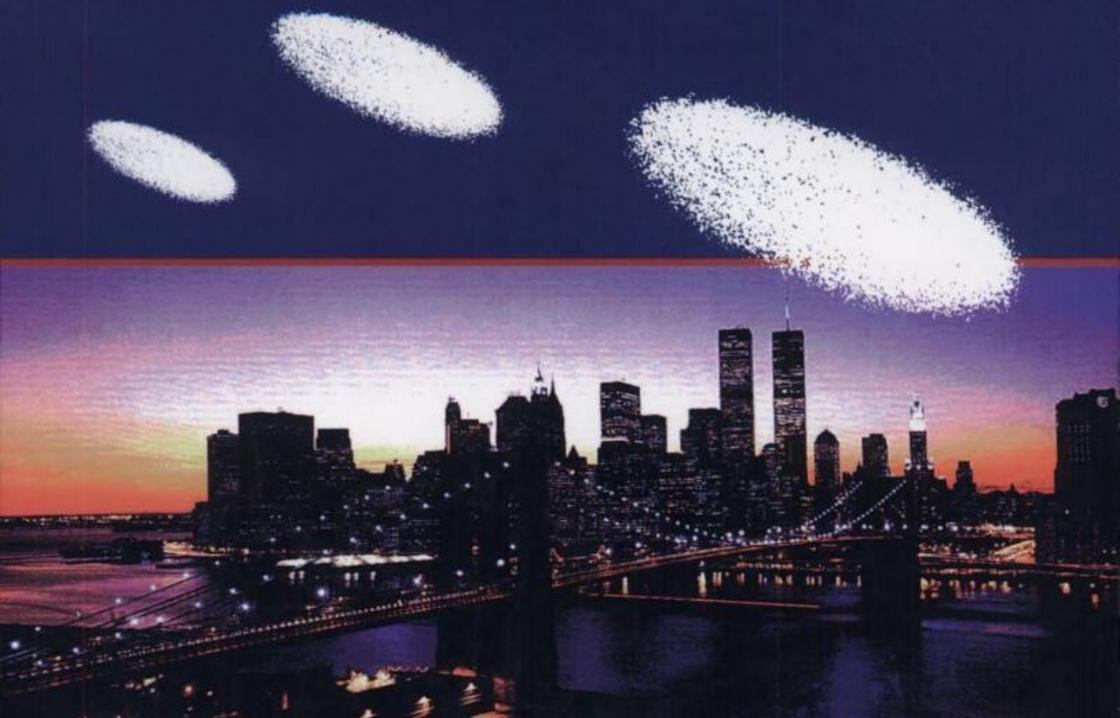


J o d i D e a n



ALIENS

in AMERICA

Conspiracy Cultures from Outerspace to Cyberspace

Aliens **in America**

Conspiracy
Cultures
from
Outerspace
to
Cyberspace

Jodi Dean



Cornell University Press

Ithaca and London

ALSO BY JODI DEAN

Solidarity of Strangers:

Feminism after Identity Politics

**I have described something I myself witnessed, and
I have reported something which I was told by someone
else, but someone I believed as thoroughly as if I had
witnessed the scene myself. I will now add something which
I have read about.**

Augustine of Hippo,

The City of God

**I realize *I don't know what to believe!* How does
one explain the similarities in the abductees' stories—
the consistence of detail, structure, scenario? What
would prompt a woman to make up a story about an
extraterrestrial creature trying on her high-heeled
shoe?**

C. D. B. Bryan,

Close Encounters of the Fourth Kind

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Geneva, New York

JODI DEAN

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Introduction **Alien Politics**

Earth vs. the Flying Saucers

Aliens have invaded the United States. No longer confined to science fiction and Elvis-obsessed tabloids, aliens appear in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and the *Wall Street Journal*, at candy counters (in chocolate-covered flying saucers and as Martian melon-flavored lollipops), and on Internet web sites. Aliens are at the center of a battle at Harvard, caught in the university's furor over the psychologist John Mack's work with alleged abduction experiencers and its attempt to revoke the Pulitzer Prize-winning professor's tenure. Aliens have been seen in credible company at MIT. There, at the 1992 Abduction Study Conference, psychiatrists, abductees, ufologists, and professors in sociology, religion, and physics seriously discussed the possibility that aliens are abducting people from bedrooms and cars and using their sperm and ova to create a