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Wahn, Weltanschauung und Habitus. Zur sozialwissenschaftlichen Kritik der Theorie des Wahns im Werk von Karl Jaspers

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Karl Jaspers' theory of delusion (*General Psychopathology*, 1913/1946) is still widely discussed today, much unlike his theory of worldviews, laid out in his 1919 work *Psychology of Worldviews*, which has more or less fallen into oblivion. Based on Jaspers' casuistic observations of nihilistic delusion and nihilistic worldview, as presented in 1919, we first analyze the relationship between delusion and worldview – a relationship analogous to that between “psychotic process” and “development of personality” in his concept of psychopathology. We then scrutinize this categorical distinction and its underlying methodical assumptions and consider possible links between delusion and worldview. Our conclusion is that, today, phenomenological and sociological concepts like “habituality” (Husserl) and “habitus” (Bourdieu) are more suitable, both for a theoretical explanation of these links and for a therapeutic use.