

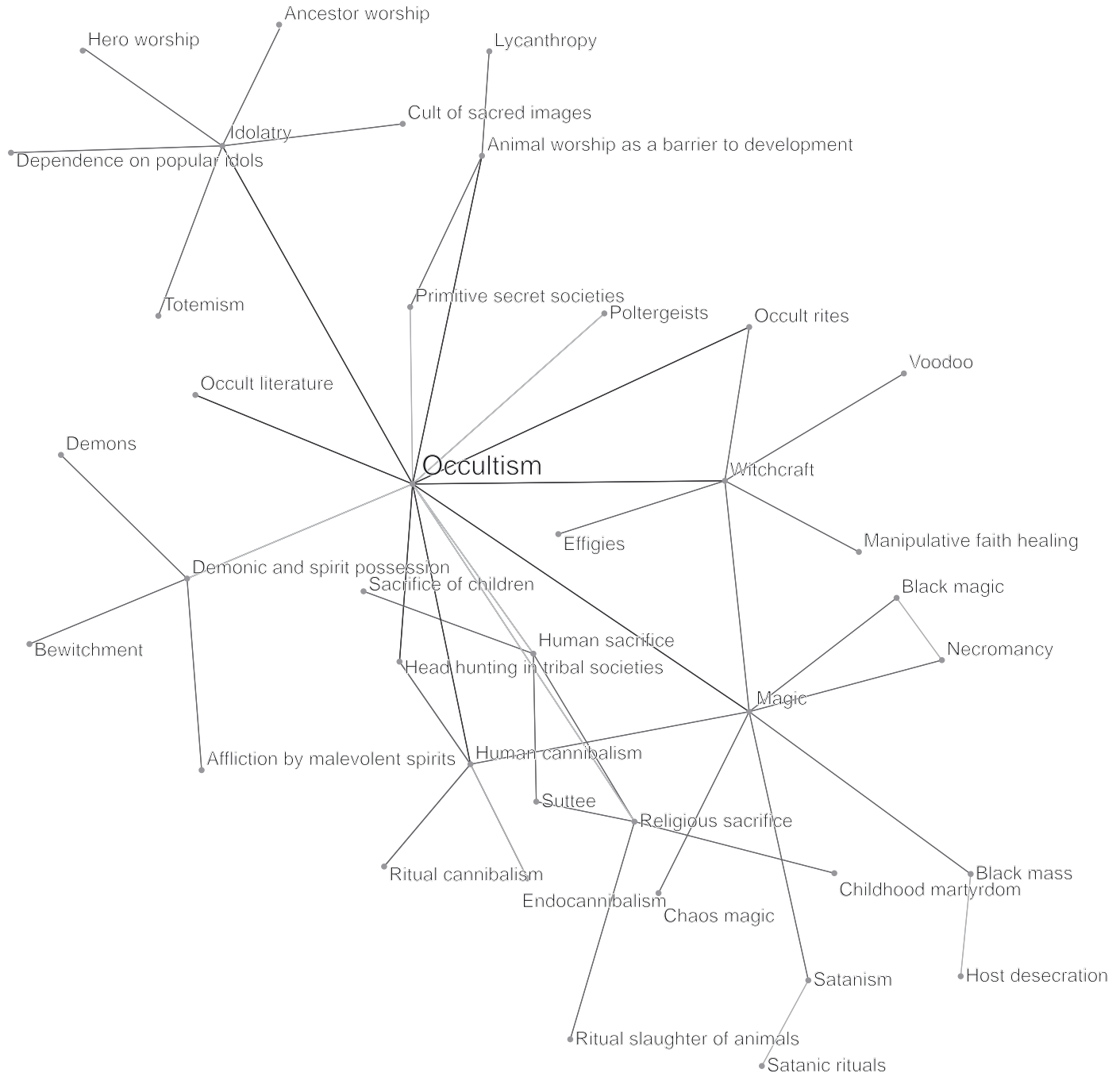
Figure 10.2.29.
Occultism

Database: World Problems and Issues

Link type: narrower problems

Network nodes: 39

UIA database: <http://db.uia.org/scripts/sweb.dll/uiaf?DD=PR&CL=2&DR=F3312>



Occultism is the study of supposed supernatural forces and the belief and attempt in the possibility of controlling them. Occultism is often associated with the practice of black magic and other rites for satanic or evil purposes. The object of the occultist may be esoteric knowledge, health, domination over others, wealth, psychic or physical powers, satisfaction of scientific curiosity, the performance of acts of religious ritual and worship, or to be a benefactor of humanity. Occultism thus appeals to, among others, megalomaniacs, would-be Messiahs and those with schizophrenic tendencies. The sense of possessing secret knowledge which develops in the occultist, can aggravate existing personality disorders; and some of the techniques (magical, yogic) may be injurious to the physical health of the practitioners, their helpers, and their victims. Occultism may also be criminal. Occultism occurs in developed countries, more especially among the rich, the effete, and the deviant. In primitive societies where the occult is part of the social structure, only certain people study and practice it.