



POPULISM AND CONSPIRACY THEORY

Conspiracy Theories and Leftwing Populism

Academic Conference

Location: University of Tübingen

Brechtbau, Wilhelmstraße 50, 72074 Tübingen

Rooms 027 (Panels and Keynotes), 031, 032 (Lunch and Coffee Breaks)

Thursday, March 10

04.30pm Check in, Covid tests

05.00pm Conference Opening: Welcome Remarks by Michael Butter

05.30pm Keynote by Kirk Hawkins (Brigham Young University): “The Irrationality of Populism”, *Chair: Michael Butter (University of Tübingen)*

07.00pm Reception and Catered Dinner

Friday, March 11

09.00am Check in, Covid tests

09.30am Panel 1: Further Theorizing the Relationship between Leftwing Populism and Conspiracy Theory, *Chair: Katerina Hatzikidi (University of Tübingen)*

Grigoris Markou (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki): “Populism and Conspiracy Theories: Two Distinct Phenomena”

Helge Petersen (University of Glasgow) and **Hannah Hecker** (Fritz Bauer Institute): “On the Elective Affinity between Post-Marxism, Left-Wing Populism and Conspiratorial World Views”

10.30am Coffee Break



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- 11.00am **Panel 2: Conspiracy Theories and Leftwing Populism in Europe I: Germany, Chair: Johannes Großmann (University of Tübingen)**
Nina Pilz (University of Greifswald): “The Invention of a Pandemic: Conspiracy Theory Reasoning in the German Left-Wing Newspaper ‘Demokratischer Widerstand’”
Leo Ropert (University of Hamburg): “Conspiracy Myths in the Aufstehen-Movement”
- 12.00pm **Catered Lunch**
- 01.30pm **Panel 3: Conspiracy Theories and Leftwing Populism in Europe II: France and Italy, Chair: Giacomo Loperfido (University of Tübingen)**
Pierre France (Orient-Institut Beirut): “From Ordinary Leftists to Conspiracy Militancy, and Back Again – The Case of 9/11 ‘Alternative Theories’ in France”
Giovanna Parmigiani (Harvard Divinity School): “‘As Above, so Below’ – Conspiracism and Environmentalism in Southern Italy: The Case of Xylella Fastidiosa”
- 02.30pm **Coffee Break**
- 03.00pm **Panel 4: Conspiracy Theories and Leftwing Populism in Europe III: Romania, Croatia, and Greece, Chair: Lili Turza (University of Tübingen)**
Onoriu Colăcel (Ștefan cel Mare University of Suceava): “Left-Wing Populism in Romanian-Language News and Opinion: Exposing Right-Wing Conspiracy Theories”
Nebojša Blanuša (University of Zagreb): “People-Centrism, Anti-Elitism, and Manicheism: Their Left-Wing and Right-Wing Articulations in Conspiracism in Croatia”
Vera Tika (Panteion University): “Between Conspirational and Populist Thinking in Left-Wing Parties: SYRIZA Political Discourse in and out of the Government (2015-2019)”
- 04.30pm **Coffee Break**
- 05.00pm **Keynote by Clare Birchall** (King’s College London): “Haute Baroque Bling: Style, Taste and Distinction in the Study of Conspiracist Populism”, *Chair: Michael Butter (University of Tübingen)*
- 06.30pm **Dinner (individually organized)**



Saturday, March 12

08.30am Check in, Covid tests

09.00am Panel 5: Conspiracy Theories and Leftwing Populism in Islamic Countries, Chair: Constanze Jeitler (University of Tübingen)

Turkay Salim Nefes (Spanish National Research Council / University of Oxford): “A Weberian Perspective on the Curious Leap: Conspiracy Theory Beliefs from the Left to the Right Populism in Turkish Politics”

Helen Murphey (University of St Andrews): “Conspiracy Theory and the Muslim Brotherhood – a Left-Right Convergence?”

Tarek Kahlaoui (Mediterranean School of Business): “Conspiracism as Populism’s Main Argument: Tunisia’s Leftwing Populists’ Case”

10.30am Coffee Break

11.00am Panel 6: Conspiracy Theories and Leftwing Populism in the United States and the Philippines, Chair: Olivia Rachwol (University of Tübingen)

Birte Christ (Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen): “The “Rigged Economy” and the “1 Percent”: Bernie Sanders’s Conspiracy Rhetoric in the 2016 and 2020 Presidential Primary Campaigns”

Franciszek Czech (Jagiellonian University in Kraków): “Conspiratorial Tropes in Rodrigo Duterte’s Populistic Rhetoric”

12.00pm Catered Lunch and End of Conference



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