



POPULISM AND CONSPIRACY THEORY

Populism and Conspiracy Theories in the Americas

Academic Conference, 15-17 September 2022

Location: University of Tübingen

Brechtbau, Wilhelmstraße 50, 72074 Tübingen

Rooms 306 (Panels and Keynotes) and 406 (Meals and Coffee Breaks)

Thursday, September 15

02.30pm **Check in, Covid tests**

03.00pm **Conference Opening**

03.15pm **Letícia Cesarino** (Federal University of Santa Catarina), “**A Cybernetic Theory of Anti-Structural Publics**”

Chair: Michael Butter (University of Tübingen)

04.45pm **Coffee Break**

05.15pm **Cristóbal Rovira Kaltwasser** (Diego Portales University), “**Populism and Conspiratorial Thinking: Suggesting Some Avenues of Research**”

Chair: Michael Butter (University of Tübingen)

06.45pm **Reception and Catered Dinner**

Friday, September 16

08.30am **Check in, Covid tests**

09.00am **Panel 1: Historical Perspectives on Populism and Conspiracy Theory**

Chair: Claus Oberhauser (Pedagogical University of Tyrol)

Rodrigo Patto Sá Motta (Federal University of Minas Gerais): “**Anti-communism and Conspiracy Myths in Brazil: From the Cohen Plan (1937) to the Bolsonaroist Manipulation of the ‘Red Menace’**”

Adam Koper (University of York): “**Populism and Anti-Semitism in Henry Ford’s *The International Jew***”

10.00am **Coffee Break**



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- 10.30am **Roundtable Discussion: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Relationship Between Populism and Conspiracy Theory**
Chair: Annika Rabo (University of Stockholm)
 Discussants: Ela Drajzkiewicz (Slovak Academy of Sciences), Peter Knight (University of Manchester) and Claus Oberhauser (Pedagogical University of Tyrol)
- 12.00pm **Catered Lunch**
- 01.00pm **Panel 2: Conspiracy Theory in Populist Political Communication**
Chair: Lili Turza (University of Tübingen)
Thomas Stelzl (University of Passau): “Anti-Americanism as a Left-Wing Conspiracy Theory in German-American Relations”
Andrew Woods (University of Western Ontario): “Marxismo Cultural/ Cultural Marxism: Transnational Conspiracy Theories and the Brazilian New Right”
Christina Wurst (University of Tübingen): “Leftwing Populist Influencers Online and the Contentious Appeal of Conspiracy Theories”
- 02.30pm **Coffee Break**
- 03.00pm **Panel 3: Conspiracy Theory as a Weapon in Politics**
Chair: Constanze Jeitler (University of Tübingen)
Holger Mölder (Tallinn University of Technology): “War of Narratives - Trumpist Wave in the United States and Russian Federation in the Global Information Warfare”
Eirikur Bergmann (Bifröst University): “Weaponizing Conspiracy Theories in Populist Politics”
Franciszek Czech (Jagiellonian University): “The United States of Poland and Filipino Queen of Canada. Globalization of American Conspiracy Theories and Self-declared Social Media States”
- 04.30pm **Coffee Break**
- 05.00pm **Mark Fenster** (University of Florida), “**Studying Conspiracy Theory after the (Current) Rise of Right-Wing Populism**”
Chair: Michael Butter (University of Tübingen)
- 06.30pm **Dinner (individually organized)**



Saturday, September 17

09.00am **Check in, Covid tests**

09.30am **Panel 4: Populism, Conspiracy Theory and the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Chair: Olivia Rachwol (University of Tübingen)

Maren Schäfer (University of Heidelberg): “Blaming the ‘Others’ – Trump’s Populist Framing During the Covid-19 Pandemic”

Péter Kréko (Political Capital Institute, Budapest): “COVID Is Fake, Therefore the War is Fake, Too: COVID-related Conspiracy Theories in Hungary and Their Overlap with Belief in the Kremlin’s Conspiracy Theories on the Invasion of Ukraine”

Ela Drażkiewicz (Slovak Academy of Sciences): “Masters of Illusion: Mimesis, Mimicry, Conspiracy Theories and Civil Society in Ireland and Poland”

11.00am **Coffee Break**

11.30am **Panel 5: Theoretical Perspectives**

Chair: Peter Knight (University of Manchester)

Massimo Leone (University of Turin): “Global Unicorns, Ecuadorian Piglets, and Ancient Lions: Zoosemiotics of Conspiracy”

Gustavo Lamounier (University of Brasilia): “Building a Loop of Apocalyptic World Perception: Exploring the Communicative Link between Conspiracy Theories and the Far-Right Populist Communication Style”

Sebastian M. Herrmann (University of Leipzig): “Post-Narrative Politics? Theorizing Incoherence in Contemporary Conspiracism and Right-Wing Populism”

01.00pm **Catered Lunch and End of Conference**



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