



SUMMER SCHOOL

Jean Monnet Module

July 1st - July 5th 2024

Speakers:

Francesco Antonelli

Eirikur Bergmann

Karen Douglas

Serena Giusti

Uffa Jensen

Stella Levantesi

Giuseppe Martinico

Marco Solinas

Political Conspiracy Theories

SECOND
EDITION
2024



Co-funded by
the European Union

Political Conspiracy Theories

This INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL is part of JEAN MONNET MODULE - GOLDSTEIN "Debunking Political Uses of Denialisms and Conspiracy Theories in EU" - directed by Marco Solinas.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The summer school will provide an introductory overview, through lectures offered by world-class experts, on strategies to analyze, decode, and debunk some of the forms of political use of denialism and conspiracy theories.

An interdisciplinary perspective will be adopted, including political theory, political philosophy, history, and political science, in order to offer a wide-ranging analysis of the phenomena being considered.

Speakers: Francesco Antonelli, Eirikur Bergmann, Karen Douglas, Serena Giusti, Uffa Jensen Stella Levantesi, Giuseppe Martinico, Marco Solinas.

COURSE TARGET

The summer school is open to anyone interested in the topic, from undergraduate students, PhD students and post doc to journalists and policymakers. In selecting applications, however, preference will be given to doctoral students and post doc, particularly from the area of political science. Enrollment fee 100 €.

TRAINING OBJECTIVES

The training objectives are to offer analytical tools that will first and foremost enable the interpretation and decoding of the processes by which denialism and conspiracy theories are used in political terms in order to gain consensus.

TEACHING METHODS

The summer school offers 32 hours of classes spread over 5 days. It will take place at the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna in Pisa. Lectures and seminars activities will be offered in order to co-involve participants in the production of papers and presentations.

The main preparatory texts will be provided preliminarily.

THE SUMMER SCHOOL PROVIDES 2 ITALIAN UNIVERSITY CREDITS.



DATE:

July 1st – July 5th 2024

MONDAY, JULY 1ST

2-6 p.m.

Introduction to the summer school and lecture by [Marco Solinas](#):
"On Political Conspiracism"

TUESDAY, JULY 2ND

9 a.m. 1 p.m.

Lecture by [Giuseppe Martinico](#):
"Constitutional Counter Narratives, Populism and Conspiracy Theories. A General Introduction"

1-2 p.m.

Lunch at school canteen

2-6 p.m.

Lecture by [Stella Levantesi](#):
"The Politics of Climate Change Denial: Propaganda, Delay and Obstruction Tactics to Climate Action"

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3RD

9 a.m. 1 p.m.

Lecture by [Uffa Jensen](#):
"Antisemitism and Conspiracy Theories in EU"

1-2 p.m.

Lunch at school canteen

2-6 p.m.

Lecture by [Francesco Antonelli](#):
"Extremism, Scapegoat and Self-Victimization: The Sociocultural Bases of Conspiracy Theories"

THURSDAY, JULY 4TH

9 a.m. 1 p.m.

Lecture by [Karen Douglas](#):
"The Psychology of Conspiracy Theories"

1-2 p.m.

Lunch at school canteen

2-6 p.m.

Lecture by [Eirikur Bergmann](#):
"Political Weaponization of Conspiracy Theories"

8-10 p.m.

Social dinner

FRIDAY, JULY 5TH

9 a.m. 1 p.m.

Lecture by [Serena Giusti](#):
"Manipulation of information, strategic narratives and conspiracy theories in Foreign Policy"

1-2 p.m.

Learning check

HOW TO APPLY

Please apply by using the template provided on our website: www.santannapisa.it

WWW.GOLDSTEINPROJECT.COM

The summer school is open to anyone interested in the topic, from undergraduate students, PhD students and post doc to journalists and policymakers.



FRANCESCO ANTONELLI

Lecture by Francesco Antonelli:

“Extremism, Scapegoat and Self-Victimization: The Sociocultural Bases of Conspiracy Theories”

Francesco Antonelli is Professor of Sociology, Political Science Department, “Roma Tre” University, where he coordinates the bachelor’s degree courses in “Political Sciences” and “Politics, Cooperation and Development”. He was the coordinator of the Horizon2020 Projects PARTICIPATION (2020-2023) and TRIVALENT (2017-2020), both of them focused on the study of violent radicalisation. At the Italian Association of Sociology (AIS), he is President of the Research Advisory Board and Coordinator of the Research Committee “Sociological Theory and Social Transformations”. Among his latest publications: “Technocratic Politics. Beyond Democratic Society?” (Routledge, 2022); (with Lorenzo Marinone, eds.) “How to Explain Radicalisation?” (Mimesis International, 2022).



EIRIKUR BERGMANN

Lecture by Eirikur Bergmann:

“Political Weaponization of Conspiracy Theories”

Dr. Eirikur Bergmann is a Professor of Politics at Bifrost University in Iceland. Author of twelve academic books and numerous journal articles, he writes mainly on Nationalism, Populism, Conspiracy Theories, European Integration, Icelandic Politics and Participatory Democracy. Bergmann is also the author of three novels published in Icelandic. In 2020, Palgrave Macmillan published his book, “Neo-Nationalism: The Rise of Nativist Populism”. In August of this year, Routledge will publish his book “Weaponizing Conspiracy Theories”. Further information are found on his website: eirikurbergmann.com



KAREN DOUGLAS

Lecture by Karen Douglas:

“The Psychology of Conspiracy Theories”

Karen Douglas is a Professor of Social Psychology at the University of Kent in the United Kingdom. Her research focuses on the antecedents and consequences of belief in conspiracy theories. She has published widely on these topics and her research regularly features in the media. Karen is currently working on a European Research Council Advanced Grant to study the consequences of conspiracy theories for individuals, groups, and societies.

Lecture by [Serena Giusti](#):
“Manipulation of information, strategic narratives and conspiracy theories in Foreign Policy”

Serena Giusti is associate researcher at Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies, Senior Associate Research Fellow at the Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI) and Assistant coordinator at the Italian National School of Administration in the European and IR department. Among her latest publications: S. Giusti, *La disinformazione e la Politica estera*, Milano, Vita & Pensiero, 2023; S. Giusti, *The Fall and Rise of National Interest: A Contemporary Approach*, London, Palgrave Macmillan, 2022; S. Giusti & G. Grevi (Eds.), *Facing War: Rethinking Europe’s Security and Defence*, Milano, Ledizioni, 2022; S. Giusti & E. Piras, (Eds.) *Democracy and Fake News: Information Manipulation and Post-Truth Politics*, London, Routledge, 2021.



SERENA GIUSTI

Lecture by [Uffa Jensen](#):
“Antisemitism and Conspiracy Theories in EU”

Uffa Jensen is a historian at the Center for Research on Antisemitism at the Technische Universität in Berlin and its deputy director. His research interests are the history of antisemitism, of German Jewry, of psychoanalysis, of the history of emotions as well as visual history. He has previously worked at the University of Sussex, the Universität Göttingen and the Max Planck Institute for Human Development. His most recent publications include “Zornpolitik” (2017), “Wie die Couch nach Kalkutta kam: Eine Globalgeschichte der frühen Psychoanalyse” (2019) and “Ein antisemitischer Doppelmord” (2022).



UFFA JENSEN

Lecture by [Stella Levantesi](#):
“The Politics of Climate Change Denial: Propaganda, Delay and Obstruction Tactics to Climate Action”

Levantesi is a climate journalist and author. Her main areas of expertise are climate denial, delay, obstruction and disinformation, greenwashing, corporate responsibility on the climate crisis and climate change communication. Her book “I bugiardi del clima” (Climate Liars), published by Laterza 2021, investigates the history of climate change denial and obstruction strategies to climate action. She is the author of *Gaslit*, and she is a TEDx Talk speaker. Her works have been published on DeSmog, Nature Italy, The New Republic, Internazionale, BBC World Service, DW and others.



STELLA LEVANTESI



GIUSEPPE MARTINICO

Lecture by Giuseppe Martinico:
"Constitutional Counter Narratives, Populism and Conspiracy Theories. A General Introduction"

Giuseppe Martinico is Full Professor of Comparative Public law at the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Pisa. Prior to joining the Scuola Sant'Anna, he was García Pelayo Fellow at the Centro de Estudios Políticos y Constitucionales (CEPC), Madrid and Max Weber Fellow at the European University Institute, Florence. He is author of "The Tangled Complexity of the EU Constitutional Process. The Frustrating Knot of Europe" (2022) and "Filtering Populist Claims to Fight Populism. The Italian Case in a Comparative Perspective" (2021).



MARCO SOLINAS

Introduction to the summer school and lecture by Marco Solinas:
On Political Conspiracy

Marco Solinas is Assistant Professor in Political Philosophy at Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies and Project Manager of Jean Monnet Module "Debunking Political Uses of Denialisms and Conspiracy Theories in EU" (GOLDSTEIN). His research is on critical theory of society, populism and conspiracy theories. His most recent work on conspiracism is the edition of the Special Issue "Conspiracy Theories: Genealogies and Political Uses" forthcoming in "Genealogy".

FIRST EDITION SPEAKERS:

Michael Butter, Manuela Caiani, Uffa Jensen, Peter Knight, Stella Levantesi
Marco Solinas, Nadia Urbinati.

HOW TO APPLY

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CALL DEADLINE: MAY 15th 2024

GOLDSTEIN DEBUNKING POLITICAL USES OF DENIALISMS AND CONSPIRACY THEORIES IN EU

DATES:

Monday 1st July - Friday 5th July 2024

32 total hours of lectures plus one hour of
checking learning - 2 Italian university credits

CONTACTS:

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