



SUMMER SCHOOL
Jean Monnet Module
June 19th - June 23th 2023

Speakers:

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

Denialism and Conspiracy Theories in EU: Logic and Political Forms



Co-funded by
the European Union

Denialism and Conspiracy Theories in EU: Logic and Political Forms

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

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:

June 19th – June 23th 2023

MONDAY, JUNE 19TH

2-4 p.m.

Introduction to the summer school and

lecture by [Marco Solinas](#):

"Denialism and Conspiracy Theories in EU:
Logic and Political Forms"

4-6 p.m.

Lecture by [Peter Knight](#):

"The Great Reset and Conspiracy
Theorisation of Everything"

TUESDAY, JUNE 20TH

9 a.m. 1 p.m.

Lecture by [Peter Knight](#):

"What difference has the internet made to
creation, circulation and consumption of
conspiracy theories?"

1-2 p.m.

Lunch at the School (canteen)

2-4 p.m.

Lecture by [Nadia Urbinati](#):

"Conspiracy: Systemic and Pragmatic"

4-6 p.m.

Lecture by [Michael Butter](#):

"A Short History of Conspiracy Theories"

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21TH

9 a.m. 1 p.m.

Lecture by [Michael Butter](#):

"Populism and Conspiracy Theory"

1-2 p.m.

Lunch at the School (canteen)

2-6 p.m.

Lecture by [Stella Levantesi](#):

"The Politics of Climate Change denial:
Propaganda, Delay and Obstruction Tactics
to Climate Action"

THURSDAY, JUNE 22TH

9 a.m. 1 p.m.

Lecture by [Uffa Jensen](#):

"Antisemitism and Conspiracy Theories in
the EU" - first part

1-2 p.m.

Lunch at the School (canteen)

2-6 p.m.

Lecture by [Manuela Caiani](#):

"Online Hate Speech, Conspiracy and the
Radical Right"

6-7 p.m.

Learning check

8 p.m.

Social dinner

FRIDAY, JUNE 23TH

9-11 a.m.

Lecture by [Uffa Jensen](#):

"Antisemitism and Conspiracy Theories in
the EU" - second part

11 a.m. 1 p.m.

Lecture by [Marco Solinas](#):

"Logic and Political Forms of Conspiracy
Theories"

HOW TO APPLY

Please apply by using the template
provided on our website:

WWW.GOLDSTEIN

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

CALL DEADLINE: APRIL 28th 2023

MONDAY
JUNE 19TH



MARCO SOLINAS

Monday afternoon: 2-4 p.m.

Introduction to the summer school and lecture by [Marco Solinas](#):
"Denialism and Conspiracy Theories in EU: Logic and Political Forms"

Solinas is Assistant Professor in Political philosophy and Project Manager of Jean Monnet Module GOLDSTEIN: "Debunking Political Uses of Denialisms and Conspiracy Theories in EU".

He's currently working on critical theory of society and populism.

He published in important international reviews including Philosophy and Social Criticism, Critical Horizons, Zeitschrift für kritische Theorie, Philosophisches Jahrbuch, and he is the author of Via Platonica zum Unbewussten (2012), From Aristotle's Teleology to Darwin's Genealogy (2015).



PETER KNIGHT

Monday afternoon: 4-6 p.m.

Lecture by [Peter Knight](#):
"The Great Reset and Conspiracy Theorisation of Everything"

Knight is a professor of American Studies at the University of Manchester.

His research is on conspiracy theories, and the economic humanities.

He is the author of "Conspiracy Culture" (2000), "The Kennedy Assassination" (2007), "Reading the Market" (2016), and is co-author of "Invested (2022) and Conspiracy Theories in the Time of Covid-19" (2023).

He is co-editor of the Routledge Handbook of Conspiracy Theories (2020).

TUESDAY
JUNE 20TH



NADIA URBINATI

Tuesday afternoon 2-4 p.m.

Lecture by [Nadia Urbinati](#):
"Conspiracy: Systemic and Pragmatic"

Urbinati is the Kyriakos Tsakopoulos Professor of Political Theory at Columbia University.

She is a political theorist specializing in modern and contemporary political thought and the democratic and anti-democratic traditions.

She has been a member of the School of Social Sciences of the Institute for Advanced Study, Visiting Fellowship at Princeton University, permanent visiting professor at the Scuola Superiore di Studi Universitari e Perfezionamento Sant'Anna of Pisa.

She has published numerous works including Me The People: "How Populism Transforms Democracy" (2019) and "Democracy Disfigured: Opinion, Truth and the People" (2014).

TUESDAY
JUNE 20TH

Tuesday afternoon: 4-6 p.m.

Lecture by Michael Butter:

"A Short History of Conspiracy Theories"

Butter is Professor of American Literary and Cultural History at the University of Tübingen since 2014. He is the author of four monographs: "The Epitome of Evil: Hitler in American Fiction, 1939–2002" (2009), "Plots, Designs, and Schemes: American Conspiracy Theories from the Puritans to the Present" (2014), "Der »Washington-Code«: Zur Heroisierung amerikanischer Präsidenten, 1775-1865" (2016), and "The Nature of Conspiracy Theories" (2020). He is the Principal Investigator of the ERC project "Populism and Conspiracy Theory" and one of the PI's of the CHANSE project "Researching Europe, Digitilisation and Conspiracy Theory".



MICHAEL BUTTER

Wednesday morning: 9 a.m. 1 p.m.

Lecture by Michael Butter: "Populism and Conspiracy Theory"

WEDNESDAY
JUNE 21TH

Wednesday afternoon: 2-6 p.m.

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

Thursday morning 9 a.m. 1 p.m.

Lecture by Uffa Jensen:

"Antisemitism and Conspiracy Theories in the EU" -1 part

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

THURSDAY
JUNE 22TH

THURSDAY
JUNE 22TH



MANUELA CAIANI

Thursday afternoon: 2-6 p.m.
Lecture by Manuela Caiani:
"Online Hate Speech, Conspiracy and the Radical Right"

Caiani is Associate Professor in Political Science at the Scuola Normale Superiore, and associated faculty at the Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS) in Vienna. Her research focuses on Social Movements and Europeanization; Far Right Politics; Extremism online; Right Wing and Left Wing Populism; Movement-parties; Qualitative methods of social research. She is Co-director of the International Observatory on Social Cohesion and Inclusion-OCIS, <https://osservatoriocoesionedoesociale.eu/>.

She has directed and collaborated in various international projects. She published for the following publishers: Oxford University press, Ashgate, Palgrave, Routledge.

Thursday afternoon: 6-7 p.m.
Learning check

FRIDAY
JUNE 23TH

Friday morning: 9-11 a.m.
Lecture by Uffa Jensen:
"Antisemitism and Conspiracy Theories in the EU" -2 part

Friday afternoon: 11 a.m. 1 p.m.
Lecture by Marco Solinas:
"Logic and Political Forms of Conspiracy Theories"



DATES:

Monday 19th June - Friday 23th June 2023

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

CONTACTS:

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