



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL, POLITICAL
AND COGNITIVE SCIENCES

INTERDISCIPLINARY WORKSHOP SERIES

MIND & POLITICS: CONSPIRACY BELIEFS

Saturday, November 27, 2021 – 11AM-5.30PM

*Venue: **Presidio San Nicolò***

Online: <https://meet.google.com/ues-mwww-puu>

Rationale

This one-day workshop aims to bring together scholars of different disciplines with a view to initiating an interdisciplinary dialogue on the phenomenon of conspiracy theories. Our invited speakers are well established political scientists, psychologists, and philosophers. They will offer their original research on conspiracy theories, by analyzing their cognitive and societal roots, political supply and public demand, as well as suggesting remedial actions. It will be held in blended mode (i.e., online and in-person), and it is open to scholars and students of diverse fields. The official language of the workshop will be English.

Program

11-11.15am: *Opening welcome* (Patrizia Pedrini & Pierangelo Isernia)

11.15am-12.30pm: *Philosophical perspectives*

1. Quassim Cassam (Warwick) - How to Think About Conspiracy Theories (ONLINE)
2. Patrizia Pedrini (UNISI) - Bullshit in Conspiracy Theories

12.30-2pm Lunch

2.15-3.30pm: *Psychological perspectives*

3. Patrizia Catellani (UNICATT) - The effects of motivational factors on belief in fake news
4. Marika Rullo (UNISI) - Conspiracy fantasies and political efficacy

3.30pm Coffee break

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3.45pm-5pm: *Political science perspectives*

5. Salvatore Vassallo (UNIBO) and Moreno Mancosu (Carlo Alberto) – Different stories for different people. Scapegoating and explanatory conspiracy theories in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic

6. Sergio Martini e Pierangelo Isernia (UNISI) – Conspiracy beliefs in the pandemic: the Italian case

5-5.30pm Concluding remarks