



Tübingen, October 25, 2018

**Minutes of the Seventh Management Committee (MC)
and the Sixth Working Group (WG) Meeting
of COST Action CA15101 “Comparative Analysis of Conspiracy Theories”**

**Dubrovnik, Croatia
October 19, 2018**

1. Welcome by Action Chair

The meeting is officially convened by the Action Chair at 9:15 a.m.

The conference participants are welcomed by the IUC director.

The participants are informed of last minute changes in the conference program due to last minute dropouts.

2. Quorum Call

Countries present at the meeting: United Kingdom, Estonia, Poland, Slovakia, Iceland, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Malta, Netherlands, Romania, France, Ireland, Norway, Bosnia and Herzegovina, fYR Macedonia, Spain, Turkey, Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, Serbia, Sweden, Finland, Cyprus, and Belgium.

The quorum is reached.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda is officially adopted by the MC.

4. Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting

The minutes are approved unanimously.

5. Status of the Action

Action Chair Peter Knight gives an update on the state of the Action:

1. Achieved objectives:
 - putting a spotlight on research in conspiracy theory by coordinating disparate studies into a coherent field of inquiry
 - creating dialogue and collaboration between scholars employing different methodologies
 - advance knowledge by enabling scholars to integrate findings that they have so far been unaware of because the research was conducted in an unfamiliar language
 - producing a comparative analysis of conspiracy theories that answers overarching and important questions
 - constructing new research questions and projects of transnational and transdisciplinary nature
 - train a new generation of scholars in this area of inquiry
 - grant-holding university will provide funds to maintain the project website after the end of the Action
2. Partially achieved objectives:
 - sustaining the collaboration of its members beyond its lifetime
 - close working relationships between academics and non-academics that will continue after the end of the Action
3. Still open objectives:
 - equipping the major stakeholders with robust knowledge and strategies to understand and counter accusations of conspiracy
4. Achieved deliverables:
 - STSMs
 - Workshop with stakeholders
 - Website; e-newsletter
 - Literature review
 - Two international conferences (incl. stakeholders)
 - Training schools
 - New research projects
 - Edited volume
5. Still open deliverables:
 - Create teaching resources, sample syllabi, a database of experts, and recommendations for policy makers and journalists

6. Report on the Second Training School

André Krouwel reports on the Summer School in Canterbury (July 30 – August 3, 2018): 18 students from all over Europe took part in the summer school. Some of the participants are already working together on follow-up projects. They also worked on/covered the referendum in Macedonia and one student even came back to Canterbury for a short scientific mission.

7. Report by the Grant Holder

The grant holder institution has produced a bibliography on Conspiracy Theory Studies which has been sent to all participants and is publicly available on the action website (https://conspiracytheories.eu/_wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Bibliography-of-

Conspiracy-Theory-Studies.pdf). Participants are asked to send mistakes or missing information to the grant managers.

Janine Schwarz will step down as grant manager.

8. Short Term Scientific Missions and ITC Conference Grants

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM):

- A call for applications for Short Term Scientific Missions is presented and Action Members encouraged to apply.

ITC Conference Grants:

- A call for applications for ITC Conference Grants is presented and Action Members encouraged to apply.

Further questions are to be directed towards the grant managers.

9. Miscellaneous to Vote on

1. venue of next editorial board meeting: VU Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands, March 28-29, 2019
 2. Date and venue of next MC/WG meeting
 1. Huelva: 23-24 May, 2019, Universidad de Huelva, Huelva, Spain
 2. Prague: 19-21 September, 2019, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic
 3. Accept as new Action member:
VAN OUDHEUSDEN, Marc
- All three items are unanimously accepted.

10. Confirmed Future Meetings in Grant Year 4

1. Huelva: 23-24 May 2019 (Universidad de Huelva)
2. Prague: 19-21 September, 2019 (Charles University)
More keynote speakers will be able to be invited as there will be more money available.
Participants are called to contact action chair Peter Knight about suggestions.

11. Any Other Business

No other business.

12. Action Publications

The Action Chair reports on the Action's publications:

1. Handbook
 - January 2019: deadline of drafts
 - May 2019: discuss section intros at Huelva conference + deadline for final versions of chapters
 - May 2019: deadline for final versions of chapters

- Summer 2019: editorial work
 - September 2019: submission of entire manuscript
 - March 2020: final workshop with stakeholders in Brussels + publication
2. Routledge Series/ Monographs:
- **Accepted / in press**
 - Katarina Thalmann, *The Stigmatization of Conspiracy Theory since the 1950s: “A Plot to Make Us Look Foolish”* [publication in March 2019]
 - Jaron Harambam, *The Truth is Out There* [ms. submitted]
 - **In development**
 - Péter Krekó, *Conspiracy Theories and Power*
3. Short Books:
- **Accepted / in press**
 - Mari-Liis Madison and Andreas Ventsel, *Conspiracy Theories & Information Operations: Strategies, Context and Function* [publication in March 2019]
 - Todor Hristov, *Impossible Knowledge: Conspiracy Theories, Power, and Truth* [ms. submitted]
 - Doğan Gürpınar, *Conspiracy Theories in Turkey: Conspiracy Nation*
 - **Proposals submitted or in development**
 - Ilya Yablokov and Precious N. Chatterje-Doody, *Curating Conspiracy: Politics, people and power on Russia Today*
 - Michael Butter and Katharina Thalmann, *The Conspiracy (Theory) Film* [ms. submission September 2019]
4. Edited Volumes
- **Proposals in development**
 - **More tentative**
 - Isabel Marcos et al., *The In/Visible Hand: The Visual Semiotics of Conspiracy*
 - Andreas Önnersfors and André Krouwel, eds, *Conspiracy Theories and Europe*
 - Michael Butter, ed., *Conspiracy Theories in the Age of Trump*
 - Stef Aupers, ed., *Conspiracy Theories and the Internet*
 - Kasper Grotle Rasmussen, ed., *The Afterlives of Conspiracy Theories / Travelling Ideas / The Transmission of CTs*
 - Annika Rabo, ed., *Conspiracy Theories in the Nordic Countries*
 - Julien Giry and Aurore van de Winkel, eds, *Making Fun of/with Conspiracy Theories*
 - Andrew Wilson (Derby, UK), *Conspiracy Theories and Extreme Politics*

Participants with interest in one of the volumes are asked to contact the action chair.

13. Closing

The Action Chair closes the meeting at 9:45 a.m.