

# **COST Action Progress Report at 24 months (01/04/2016 to 01/04/2018)**

## **CA15101: Comparative Analysis of Conspiracy Theories (COMPACT)**

The Action was approved by the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) on 30-10-2015 and has the MoU reference COST 033/15.

This report was submitted on 30-04-2018 by the Action Chair on behalf of the Management Committee in fulfilment of the requirements of the rules for COST Action Management, Monitoring and Final Assessment.

## Action leadership and participants

### Leadership positions

Position	Name	Contact details	Country*
Chair	Prof Peter Knight	peter.knight@manchester.ac.uk +310613052398	United Kingdom

Position	Name	Contact details	Country*
Vice Chair	Prof Michael Butter	michael.butter@uni-tuebingen.de +4970712977341	Germany

### Working groups

#	WG Title	# of participants	WG Leader	Country*
1	Manifestations and Media	30	Dr Clare Birchall clare.birchall@kcl.ac.uk	United Kingdom
2	Actors and Audiences	15	Prof Annika Rabo annika.rabo@socant.su.se	Sweden
3	Causes and Consequences	30	Prof Nebojsa Blanus nblanus@fpzg.hr	Croatia

### Other key leadership positions

Position	Name	Contact details	Country*
Science Communication Manager	Prof Stef Aupers	Stef.Aupers@soc.kuleuven.be	Belgium
GH Scientific Representative	Prof Michael Butter	michael.butter@uni-tuebingen.de	Germany

\* The country displayed is:

- for the Action Chair, the country that nominated that person to the Management Committee before they were elected Action Chair;
- for the Vice Chair the country that nominated the person as a Management Committee Member,
- for all other leadership positions, if the person is a MC Member the country displayed is the country of nomination, otherwise it is the country of the person's primary work affiliation.

## Participants

COST members having accepted the MoU

<b>AT</b>	16/11/2015	<b>BE</b>	12/01/2016	<b>BA</b>	14/12/2015	<b>BG</b>	13/01/2016	<b>HR</b>	22/12/2015
<b>CY</b>	12/01/2016	<b>CZ</b>	12/02/2016	<b>DK</b>	07/01/2016	<b>EE</b>	04/12/2015	<b>FI</b>	16/11/2015
<b>FR</b>	25/11/2015	<b>DE</b>	23/11/2015	<b>EL</b>	24/11/2015	<b>HU</b>	15/12/2015	<b>IS</b>	14/01/2016
<b>IE</b>	22/12/2015	<b>IL</b>	02/12/2015	<b>IT</b>	26/01/2016	<b>LT</b>	05/01/2016	<b>MT</b>	10/01/2017
<b>NL</b>	08/12/2015	<b>MK</b>	17/11/2015	<b>NO</b>	02/12/2015	<b>PL</b>	13/11/2015	<b>PT</b>	14/01/2016
<b>RO</b>	15/01/2016	<b>RS</b>	19/01/2016	<b>SK</b>	10/02/2016	<b>SI</b>	15/11/2015	<b>ES</b>	13/01/2016
<b>SE</b>	10/02/2016	<b>CH</b>	21/01/2016	<b>TR</b>	29/02/2016	<b>UK</b>	17/11/2015		

## Other participants

<b>Institution Name</b>	<b>Country</b>
Georgian American University	Georgia
Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology	Russian Federation

## Summary

### **The main aim and objective of the Action is to**

generate the thorough comprehension of the history, politics, sociology, rhetoric and psychology of conspiracy theories needed to counter their often harmful effects on democratic values. Conspiracy theories have so far not at all been studied as comprehensively as their manifest importance demands

### **During its first two years the Action progressed the achievement of this as described below**

During the first half of its lifetime, the Action has grown to more than 140 members who come from more than 35 countries and represent more than a dozen disciplines. These numbers alone show the timeliness of the Action, and its size and diversity has put the Action on an excellent path to arrive at an unprecedented understanding of the pressing issue that is conspiracy theory. The milestones for the first two years have all been met, all deliverables have been produced, and many of the individual objectives have been achieved completely already. After an initial phase in which the Action members brought themselves up to speed with regard to work done on conspiracy theories outside their languages and disciplines, the Action is now producing new research. Action members are currently carrying out several quantitative and qualitative transdisciplinary and transnational research projects, compiling a definitive handbook on the subject, and collaborating on a number of edited collections dedicated to various aspects of the topic. They have also begun to apply for grants to explore research questions that have emerged from the collaboration and to produce materials for various groups of stakeholders with whom the Action has been working together very closely since the start.

### **Action website**

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## Achievement of MoU objectives, deliverables and additional outputs/ achievements

### MoU objectives

The Action reported the following progress in achieving its specific objectives.

MoU objective	Level of progress	Further information (hyperlink or other)
The Action aims at putting a spotlight on research in conspiracy theory by coordinating disparate studies into a coherent field of inquiry. While there is an increasing body of work on the topic, conspiracy theory studies is not yet such a recognised field.	76 - 100%	<p>This objective has largely been reached already. More and more disciplines are beginning to address the issue of conspiracy theories. Often this engagement begins with a reflection on what their discipline can contribute to our understanding of the topic. This question is, for example, the motivation behind a special issue on discourse analysis and conspiracy theory that is currently being prepared for publication by two German linguists. As they seek to situate their discipline in what they obviously already recognize as an established field, they have asked for contributions from other disciplines as well, and several Action members are currently writing articles for the issue. And this is only one of several special issues on the topic that has been published across various disciplines in recent years. Moreover, within those disciplines that have been addressing the topic for longer, interest is constantly growing. This is apparent from the large number of scholars who are still applying for membership in the Action.</p> <p>Because of the high visibility of the Action due to the manifold activities of its members, but also due to media attention it has garnered, there is also a growing awareness among scholars working on the topic that they are indeed contributing to a highly vibrant and interdisciplinary field of research. Obviously, this awareness is highest among Action members who are regularly in direct contact with more than 100 other scholars working in the field, but it also goes for scholars outside of the Action who engage with the research done by Action members. Across the scholarly community there is therefore much increased recognition of the contributions of other disciplines and their theories and methodologies are increasingly acknowledged.</p> <p>Finally, Routledge, one of the most renowned academic publishers in Europe, has just initiated a new series on "Conspiracy Theories," which is edited by the Action Chair and the Vice Chair. This series, in which monographs, short books and edited collections from all disciplines will be published, will further increase the visibility of work done on conspiracy theories and solidify the sense of an increasingly unified academic field.</p>
The Action aims at moving beyond restricting disciplinary approaches by creating dialogue and collaboration between scholars employing different methodologies. The Action will collate a large body of empirical and theoretical insights to produce a much richer and more robust account than has been possible to	76 - 100%	<p>This objective has largely been reached already as well. In terms of creating dialogue across disciplinary boundaries it has been completely. The WGs are organized thematically and not by disciplines and every WG has members from at least half a dozen disciplines. Thus, every WG meeting brings together scholars from fields as diverse as analytical philosophy, experimental psychology and literary studies. Accordingly, there is growing awareness that the contributions of other disciplines need to be taken into account, and an increased understanding of the mechanisms by which different methods and approaches to conspiracy theory generate divergent results.</p> <p>Close collaboration across the disciplines characterizes most of the edited volumes that network members are currently working on and that often originate in panels held at Action meetings. For example, a volume on "Conspiracy Theories and the Balkans" is edited by a social psychologist, but among the contributors are network member from, among others, the fields of history, political science and critical theory. The contributors to "In/Visible Hand: Semiotics of Conspiracy Theory," to name one other example, are all semioticians but they come from very different academic cultures (Spain, Italy, Portugal, Cyprus, Estonia etc.). Moreover, this volume is motivated by the desire</p>

date.		<p>to create a dialogue between two different schools in the field of semiotics: the School of Paris (Greimas) and the Semiotics of Culture (Lotman).</p> <p>The interdisciplinary collaboration of Action members is also manifest in the organizational structure of the Handbook of Conspiracy Theories which will be published with Routledge in 2020. Not only will the handbook make available everything that is known about conspiracy theories in a single volume for the first time; the different sections are edited by interdisciplinary teams and the organization of the sections reflects the Action's high degree of interdisciplinarity. Among the contributors to the section on "Social and Political Factors," for example, there will be, among others, scholars from American studies, history, political science, anthropology, religious studies and sociology. The articles have already been commissioned and Action members have begun to present draft versions at the various meetings. They thus receive valuable feedback from other disciplines and are enabled to take their perspectives into account. Consequently, their claims about conspiracy theories will be more robust and rely on more data and case studies.</p> <p>Finally, there are a number of collaborative research projects that have been initiated by the Action. These will be described below in the sections on objectives #4 and #5.</p>
With English as the common working language, this Action will 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.	76 - 100%	<p>This objective has also been largely met already. For the second WG meeting, the Action commissioned reports on the state of research. Action members summarized in a few pages the state of the art with regard to a discipline, a region or country or a specific topic or phenomenon (such as antisemitism or social media). As there are more than 35 countries represented in the Action, many reports also drew on studies not available in English which was eye-opening for many network members. Moreover, the regular Action meetings have proven an ideal forum to discuss research conducted in languages other than English with network members. The comprehensive bibliography of studies in the field that the Action is compiling of course also included non-English publications, and this further enables the Action to incorporate findings that have so far been largely invisible in much of the literature on the topic.</p> <p>Moreover, involvement in the Action has made it possible for some members to make the research produced in their national language available in English. Because he is an Action member, a Bulgarian scholar could edit a special issue on conspiracy theories for one of the most influential Bulgarian journals, <i>Critique and Humanism</i>. The issue, published in Bulgarian and English, brought together researchers from Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Germany, Romania, Spain, the United States, and the United Kingdom. The collection of papers established conspiracy theory studies as a promising research field in the Bulgarian context and made the Bulgarian work on conspiracy theories accessible to the European research community. In similar fashion, Action members from Romania have, motivated by the interest their work met when they talked about it, published a summary of their findings in English so that it is now available to the international scholarly community.</p> <p>But of course, integrating research published in different languages into a comprehensive picture remains an ongoing task which will culminate in handbook described in the section on objective #2. Since outlines and drafts of articles are already being discussed at meetings, there is ample opportunity of Action members to alert the authors to relevant research that they are unfamiliar with because of language barriers and to help them integrate it into their texts.</p>
By bringing together scholars whose individual research focuses on different aspects of the topic (manifestations in different countries, time periods etc.),	51 - 75%	<p>Each WG and other Action meeting contributes to the completion of this objective, as these meetings always include sessions during which scholars from different disciplines and employing different theories and methods tackle one aspect of conspiracy theorizing together. Frequently, these are aspects that have so far received little scholarly attention or are particularly controversial. A panel on conspiracy theories and knowledge at the Tübingen conference, for example, brought together researchers with backgrounds in cultural studies, sociology, social psychology, political theory, and critical theory. The panel provided a long-needed comparative perspective on the mechanisms of legitimization of</p>

<p>the Action aims at producing a comparative analysis of conspiracy theories that answers overarching and important questions that scholarship so far has not or only unsatisfactorily tackled.</p>		<p>conspiratorial knowledge. By combining expertise in the mentioned fields, the panel posed the question of veridiction in conspiracy theories, i.e. how and in what circumstances conspiracy theories have the value of truth in the eyes of their proponents, a question so far ignored or addressed only implicitly, yet crucial for the understanding of their power.</p> <p>Moreover, Actions members are currently working on a number of joint projects (the Routledge handbook that will be published in 2020, various edited volumes as well as other projects) that explore in depth questions that have come up at Action meetings. The largest and most ambitious of these is "Political Ideology and Conspiracy Mentality" (PICoM). Its members have so far gathered datasets from 20 different countries including variables agreed on during the Turin WG meeting. In a short time, they will begin with the multi-level analyses to test two competing hypotheses on the relation between political orientation and a general tendency to endorse conspiracy theories. Other Action members, to name one more example, have teamed up to explore the role of conspiracy theories in different Balkan countries. They are conducting a coordinated data collection to compare shared and locally specific conspiracy theories. This collaboration will result in an edited volume.</p>
<p>The Action aims at constructing new research questions and projects of transnational and transdisciplinary nature. Moreover, it is to be expected that these projects will move beyond the scope covered by the Action and, for example, address conspiracy theories in Africa and Asia.</p>	<p>26 - 50%</p>	<p>The Action has so far led to the emergence of a number of joint projects, some of which have been outlined in the description of objective #4. As these projects invariably bring together Action members from diverse disciplinary and regional backgrounds they almost automatically have transnational and transdisciplinary dimensions. However, the construction of new research question and projects will be even more important for the second half of the Action's work. It will move to the forefront of attention in year 4 when the work on the handbook has been largely completed and the articles are being revised and finalized for print.</p> <p>It has proven difficult to move beyond the prevailing focus on Europe, North America and the Arab world in conspiracy theory research. The number of experts on other areas in the Action is still very small but so is the number of experts in the field for these areas worldwide. As COST Actions do not fund original research, we cannot hire PhDs or postdocs to carry out the studies we consider important in this regard. However, the handbook that is forthcoming with Routledge will contain articles on conspiracy theories in Asia and the relationship between Western notions of conspiracy theory and African ones of witchcraft.</p>
<p>The Action aims at equipping the major stakeholders with robust knowledge and strategies to understand and counter accusations of conspiracy directed against them or others. It thus will reach out and collaborate with scientists, politicians, journalists, NGOs and educators.</p>	<p>26 - 50%</p>	<p>The Action has by now established contacts to stakeholders across Europe. Among these are stakeholders that operate throughout Europe such as the East StratCom Task Force, national security agencies but also NGOs or journalists whose work concerns the regional level. Some stakeholders representing NGOs or Think Tanks have been to more than one Action meeting, some have even joined the Action.</p> <p>The Action successfully organized a stakeholder workshop which took place in Brussels in January 2017 to learn about stakeholders' needs and interests, and to put different stakeholders in contact with each other. Among the guests were representatives from the European Union, members of German and Croatian NGOs, journalists and a French filmmaker. Moreover, each WG meeting or Action conference features at least one panel that addresses the practical implications of belief in conspiracy theories and attempts to counter them. At the Turin meeting the focus was on vaccination; at the Bilderberg meeting it will be on security issues. Many of the papers discussed at these panels will be published in an edited volume on consequences and interventions that the Action is currently preparing.</p> <p>Of course, Action members are also closely collaborating with different stakeholders in small groups or individually. Because of the high visibility of the Action many are regularly contacted by journalists; others go to schools and train teachers or discuss conspiracy theories with students. Two Action members were leading researchers in a UNICEF funded project about knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding mandatory vaccination in Serbia. Conspiratorial beliefs (general conspiracy mentality, vaccine-related conspiracies and vaccine-related myths) proved to be far more useful for predicting future vaccination behavior</p>

		<p>than, for example, socio-demographic variables. The Action members communicated these findings to major stakeholders (such as the Serbian Ministry of Health, the Public Health Institute, or the Association of Pediatric Health Practitioners) and tailored their communication recommendations accordingly.</p> <p>In fall the Action will begin to draft recommendations for stakeholders that will be downloadable in different languages from its website. As stakeholders have expressed little interest in a Training School, the Action will instead organize another stakeholder workshop in spring 2020.</p>
<p>The Action aims at sustaining the collaboration of its members beyond its lifetime. This will be achieved by establishing close working relationships and promoting the formation of international and transdisciplinary research teams that formulate new research programmes and apply for national and international funding to conduct the research.</p>	51 - 75%	<p>The Action aims at sustaining the collaboration of its members beyond its lifetime. This will be achieved by establishing close working relationships and promoting the formation of international and transdisciplinary research teams that formulate new research programs and apply for national and international funding to conduct the research.</p> <p>Close working relationships among Action members have been established on a number of different levels, and the Action has actively facilitated this by repeatedly asking for joint contributions to panels or volumes, and by setting aside time at each meeting for networking. The reports on the state of research that the Action commissioned for its second meeting were in many cases also co-written and thus put scholars in touch early on who have been continuing to collaborate ever since. As a consequence, networks within the network have begun to emerge. Some members, for example, have formed a group that concentrates on qualitative studies and aims at deepening the collaboration between the Universities of Tartu, Beira Interior, Turin and Gothenburg.</p> <p>STSMs have proven a particularly apt tool to form close working relationships between researchers. So far, the Action has funded seven STSMs, most of which have been done by ECIs. Often these visits have led to joint publications that are at the moment mostly still being written or in press. Participants have also used this tool to draft and revise grant applications on the national and EU level. Action members from Sweden, Estonia and Italy have, for example applied to the Horizon 2020 project H2020-MSCA-ITN-2018 "Varieties of Radicalization, Terrorism, and Extremism." A member from Germany unsuccessfully applied for a grant from the Academy of Sciences to study the history of conspiracy theories in Europe and Asia. Several Action members would have been part of this project as visiting fellows. An intended Horizon2020 application that would have involved several Action members could not be submitted because the designated PI fell ill. Securing funding to pursue the questions that have emerged as most pressing will be a priority of the Action in the next two years.</p>
<p>The Action will also help to train a new generation of scholars in this area of inquiry: by actively involving ECIs; by prioritising STSMs for ECIs at established centres of excellence; by offering placements with stakeholder organisations; and by organising two summer schools for MA and PhD students.</p>	76 - 100%	<p>This objective has largely been reached already. The Action has a high number of ECIs among its members, and many of them have benefitted disproportionately from the project by coming into contact with leading figures in the field. ECIs from across Europe are also still applying for joining the project. STSMs have been very important for deepening working relations between network members but also for tying PhD students from outside the Action to the newly established field of conspiracy theory studies. The STSM by an ECI from the UK to the University of Sofia, for example, gave a strong impulse for the formation of a Bulgarian research community in the field of conspiracy theory studies. The mission opened a dialogue between the perspectives on conspiracy theories of disciplines as different as literary history, critical theory, philosophy, media studies, social science, and art history. The dialogue is expected to lead to the publication of a special issue on conspiracy theories, fictionality, and counterfactuality in a journal recognizable in the Southeast European area, and to be of lasting importance for the career development of at least two Bulgarian PhD students at the University of Sofia and the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.</p> <p>The Action organized a Training School on qualitative research on conspiracy theories at the University of Tübingen last year. PhD and MA students from universities all over Europe and from disciplines as diverse as psychology, anthropology and German literature participated in the event. They surely are the new generation of researchers that the Action wants to produce. A second Training School focusing on quantitative research will take place at the University</p>



		of Kent this summer.
The measures taken to involve stakeholders will lead to close working relationships between academics and non-academics that will continue after the end of the Action.	51 - 75%	The measures taken to involve stakeholders have been addressed above in the description of objective #6. We are confident that the close collaborations that Action members and stakeholders are engaged in in various contexts will continue after the end of the Action. In Germany, for example, close working relationships have been established to stakeholders and civil society organizations such as the Amadeu Antonio Foundation. An Action member is currently applying for a research grant from the German Ministry of Education to examine cohesion and integration in society; this application partly builds on insights from the Action and includes collaboration with civil society organizations. It will be carried out mostly after the end of the Action.
The grant-holding university will provide funds to maintain the project website after the end of the Action. The bibliography will be regularly updated, as will be the database of experts who participated in the Action. Stakeholders will thus be able to identify and contact experts for the foreseeable future.	76 - 100%	<p>The funds necessary to maintain the project website beyond 2020 have been secured. The Grant Holder Scientific Representative is scheduled to retire only in 2044 and it is unlikely that he will transfer to another university in the meantime. Thus, the continuity of the network after the Action has ended is guaranteed.</p> <p>The bibliography of relevant work done in the field is constantly updated by the Grant Manager and student assistants. Action members are regularly reminded to name newly published work especially in languages other than English, German or French. Soon the bibliography will also be published on the Action website which has been up since year 1 of the project.</p> <p>The website contains bio burbs of all Action members to allow stakeholders to identify and contact members with expertise in specific areas and with the language skills required. A database of experts will be set up during the second phase of the project to make such searches even quicker and easier. Such a database with prove particularly important after the end of the Action when there is no longer a Grant Manager who can respond to requests by stakeholders within a day or two.</p>

## Deliverables

The Action reported the following progress with achieving its deliverables

Deliverable	Month deliverable due	Delivery status	Further information (hyperlink or other)
The Action will initiate STSMs throughout its entire duration to further promote cross-disciplinary and cross-national exchange and to give ECIs the chance to do research at established centers of excellence in the field.	6	Delivered	<a href="https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm/apply/39390">https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm/apply/39390</a>
The Action will host a workshop to which representatives from all relevant stakeholder groups will be invited.	11	Delivered	<a href="https://conspiracytheories.eu/activity/stakeholder-workshop-brussels/">https://conspiracytheories.eu/activity/stakeholder-workshop-brussels/</a>
The Action will review the existing literature in the field and produce brief summary reports for circulation. The Action will then compile a comprehensive bibliography based on these reports.	15	Delivered	<a href="https://conspiracytheories.eu/activity/turin-conference/">https://conspiracytheories.eu/activity/turin-conference/</a>
The Action will hold a major international conference which will include a range of other scientists and stakeholders not formally part of this Action.	15	Delivered	<a href="https://conspiracytheories.eu/activity/tubingen-conference/">https://conspiracytheories.eu/activity/tubingen-conference/</a>
The Action will launch a website to promote the project and to disseminate information to interested stakeholders. The Action will also send out an e-newsletter on a regular basis.	12	Delivered	<a href="https://conspiracytheories.eu/">https://conspiracytheories.eu/</a>
The Action will hold a Training School in the form of a week-long intensive summer school for MA and PhD students.	18	Delivered	<a href="https://conspiracytheories.eu/activity/training-school-tubingen/">https://conspiracytheories.eu/activity/training-school-tubingen/</a>
Action Participants will develop new research questions and projects and apply for funding.	25	Delivered	<a href="https://conspiracytheories.eu/activity/lisbon-meeting/">https://conspiracytheories.eu/activity/lisbon-meeting/</a>
The Action will hold a Training School in the form of a week-long intensive summer school for MA and PhD students.	36	Not delivered, but expected before end of Action	
The Action will publish an edited volume containing articles by researchers affiliated with the Action. The volume will be planned and edited by the Dissemination Subcommittee.	48	Not delivered, but expected before end of Action	
The Action will begin to disseminate its findings in the form of teaching resources, sample syllabi, a database of experts, and recommendations for policy makers and journalists.	37	Not delivered, but expected before end of Action	
The Action will hold a Training School specifically for stakeholders in order to disseminate findings to researchers outside the Action and the wider public.	48	Not foreseen	
The Action will hold a final conference, aimed at disseminating findings to researchers outside the Action and the wider public.	48	Not delivered, but expected before end of Action	

## Additional outputs/ achievements

The Action reported 9 publications on the topic of the Action, co-authored by at least two Action participants from two countries participating in the Action, and for which the Action networking was necessary.

The Action has also produced the outputs/ achievements described below.

### Co-authored Action publications - peer-reviewed

1. <a href="https://doi.org/10.5334/irsp.8">doi:10.5334/irsp.8</a>	
Title	Measuring Belief in Conspiracy Theories: Validation of a French and English Single-Item Scale
Authors	Lantian, Anthony; Muller, Dominique; Nurra, Cécile; Douglas, Karen M.
Type	Journal article
Published in	International Review of Social Psychology
ISSNs	2397-8570; 0992-986X
Subject	Social Psychology

### Co-authored Action publications - other

1. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1027/1864-9335/a000306">doi:10.1027/1864-9335/a000306</a>	
Title	"I Know Things They Don't Know!"
Authors	Lantian, Anthony; Muller, Dominique; Nurra, Cécile; Douglas, Karen M.
Type	Journal article
Published in	Social Psychology
ISSNs	1864-9335; 2151-2590
Subjects	Arts and Humanities (miscellaneous); Sociology and Political Science; General Psychology; Social Psychology
2. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1002/ejsp.2331">doi:10.1002/ejsp.2331</a>	
Title	Connecting the dots: Illusory pattern perception predicts belief in conspiracies and the supernatural
Type	Journal article
Published in	European Journal of Social Psychology
ISSN	0046-2772
Subject	Social Psychology
Links	<a href="https://api.wiley.com/onlinelibrary/tdm/v1/articles/10.1002%2Fejsp.2331">https://api.wiley.com/onlinelibrary/tdm/v1/articles/10.1002%2Fejsp.2331</a> ; <a href="http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ejsp.2331/fullpdf">http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ejsp.2331/fullpdf</a>
3. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1177/1750698017701615">doi:10.1177/1750698017701615</a>	
Title	Conspiracy theories as part of history: The role of societal crisis situations
Authors	van Prooijen, Jan-Willem; Douglas, Karen M
Type	Journal article
Published in	Memory Studies
ISSNs	1750-6980; 1750-6999
Subjects	Experimental and Cognitive Psychology; Cultural Studies; Social Psychology

## Links

<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/1750698017701615>;  
<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full-xml/10.1177/1750698017701615>;  
<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/1750698017701615>

### 4. [doi:10.1002/ejsp.2265](https://doi.org/10.1002/ejsp.2265)

Title	Too special to be duped: Need for uniqueness motivates conspiracy beliefs
Type	Journal article
Published in	European Journal of Social Psychology
ISSN	0046-2772
Subject	Social Psychology
Links	<a href="https://api.wiley.com/onlinelibrary/tdm/v1/articles/10.1002%2Fejsp.2265">https://api.wiley.com/onlinelibrary/tdm/v1/articles/10.1002%2Fejsp.2265</a> ; <a href="http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ejsp.2265/fullpdf">http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ejsp.2265/fullpdf</a>

### 5. [doi:10.1111/spsr.12270](https://doi.org/10.1111/spsr.12270)

Title	The Elite Is Up to Something: Exploring the Relation Between Populism and Belief in Conspiracy Theories
Authors	Castanho Silva, Bruno; Vegetti, Federico; Littvay, Levente
Type	Journal article
Published in	Swiss Political Science Review
ISSN	1424-7755
Subject	Political Science and International Relations
Links	<a href="https://api.wiley.com/onlinelibrary/tdm/v1/articles/10.1111%2Fspsr.12270">https://api.wiley.com/onlinelibrary/tdm/v1/articles/10.1111%2Fspsr.12270</a> ; <a href="http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/spsr.12270/fullpdf">http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/spsr.12270/fullpdf</a>

### 6.

Van Prooijen, J.-W., Douglas, K., & De Inocencio, C. (in press). "Connecting the dots: Illusory pattern perception predicts belief in conspiracies and the supernatural." *European Journal of Social Psychology*.

### 7.

Van Prooijen, J.-W., & Douglas, K. M. "Conspiracy theories as part of history: The role of societal crisis situations." *Memory Studies*, 10, 2017, pp. 323-333.

### 8. [doi:10.1177/0392192116669289](https://doi.org/10.1177/0392192116669289)

Title	Bridging the Great Divide: Conspiracy Theory Research for the 21st Century
Authors	Butter, Michael; Knight, Peter
Type	Journal article
Published in	Diogenes
ISSNs	0392-1921; 1467-7695
Subjects	General Arts and Humanities; Cultural Studies

Links

<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0392192116669289>;  
<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full-xml/10.1177/0392192116669289>;  
<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0392192116669289>

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**Proposals/ projects**

N/A

**Other outputs / achievements**

N/A

## Impacts

The Action reported the following impact(s):

Description of the impact, i.e. what will change, and for whom, as a result of what the Action achieved	Type of impact	Timing of impact
The Action will produce the first comprehensive, interdisciplinary study of conspiracy theories, to be published as a Routledge handbook in 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scientific / Technological</li> </ul>	Foreseen within two years of the end of the Action
The Action is coordinating the first wide-ranging, multi-country survey of popular attitudes to conspiracy theory ("PICOM").	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scientific / Technological</li> </ul>	Foreseen by the end of the Action
The Action will provide new insights for stakeholders (government security agencies, NGOs, journalists) who are trying to make sense of conspiracy theories and their effect on contemporary society.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Societal</li> </ul>	Foreseen by the end of the Action

## Dissemination and exploitation of Action results

### Dissemination and exploitation approach of the Action

The Action's dissemination and exploitation approach as well as all activities undertaken to ensure dissemination and exploitation of Action results and the outcomes of these activities are described below.

Action members publish the results of their research, which in many cases is significantly shaped by the Action, in books, journals and edited collections all over the world. An Action member from Iceland will soon publish a monograph on the relationship between populism and conspiracy theories, and the Vice Chair has just published, in German, an introduction to the topic for a general audience, to name just two examples. But to increase the visibility of research done on in this newly established field, the Action has secured a contract with Routledge to publish a series on conspiracy theories from 2018 onward. Edited by the Chair and Vice Chair, the series will comprise monographs, short books and edited collections. The Handbook of Conspiracy Theories will be published there in 2020. It will be the most comprehensive and ambitious publication in the field ever undertaken and collect for the first time all that is known about different aspects of the topic in a single volume. Various network members are also collaborating on edited collections on various aspects of the topic which will also be published in this series, and so will be several monographs.

### Dissemination

#### Dissemination meetings funded by the Action

The Action did not fund any Dissemination Meetings

#### Other dissemination activities

The Action also undertook the following dissemination activities:

<b>Activity</b>	Day workshop meeting with network members and stakeholders in Brussels, 25 January 2017
<b>Target</b>	Selected stakeholders from EU government/security organisations (e.g. East StratCom), the media (e.g. French documentary maker), and NGOs.
<b>Outcome</b>	Sharing of knowledge from the network, with stakeholders discussing projects they are currently engaged in, or aspects of the phenomenon of conspiracy theories they would like to see more research on.
<b>Link</b>	<a href="https://conspiracytheories.eu/activity/stakeholder-workshop-brussels/">https://conspiracytheories.eu/activity/stakeholder-workshop-brussels/</a>

### Exploitation activities

The Action undertook the following activities to ensure exploitation (use, in particular in a commercial context) of the Action's achievements:

No input provided by the Action

## Action Expenditure

The table below shows the budget allocated to the Action for each Grant Period (funds allocated for the first meeting of the Action and any Final Action Dissemination are not included):

#	Grant Period	Start Date	End Date	Budget allocated to Action (EUR)
1	AGA-CA15101-1	1-5-2016	30-4-2017	140,990.00 (EUR)
2	AGA-CA15101-2	1-5-2017	30-4-2018	179,888.87 (EUR)
3	AGA-CA15101-3	1-5-2018	30-4-2019	183,995.40 (EUR)
4	AGA-CA15101-4	1-5-2019	31-3-2020	168,981.00 (EUR)