



Fake News, Myth-Building, Conspiracy Theories II Saloon Bar Gossip and Global Players, on Everyone's Lips All Over the World?

12-14 May 2021, online

We are still at an early stage of 2021, but even now, the topics of fake news and conspiracy theories continue to make headlines. The assault on the Capitol by a minority of right-wing political extremists was a shock to the USA and the whole world. The rioters were motivated by a departing President who never tires of trotting out his fairytale about a stolen election to display himself in a better light, and at the same time to undermine the foundations of democracy. But when we look at a worldwide level, the current US situation is not an unusual one.

At the Silvester Conference we provided initial insights on the subject; now we will discuss the world of fake news, myths and conspiracy theories in a global context.

How are countries outside Germany dealing with this topic? In addition to the USA, EU members – the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland – will be examined, along with Ukraine and Senegal.

Talks by experts from the various countries will be complemented by participants' own experiences.

One final aspect will be the issue of global climate change in relation to the conference subject and therefore which strategies could be successful against fake news and conspiracy theories.

The conference aims to provide answers and explanations of why fake news etc. is able to find supporters in different areas of society and also gain credence across different countries and cultures.

The entire conference will be held online using Zoom. Furthermore the conference will be in English as well as in German. All lectures will be interpreted simultaneously into the respective other language. Language settings are available for each individual lecture in Zoom.

All times in this program are in Central European Summer Time (CEST).

Provisional Programme

Wednesday 12 May 2021

10:00 – 11:00 h	Welcome, Expectations of participants, run-through of conference programme, organisational details with Jonathan Utsch
11:30 – 13:00 h	Fake news, 1919 style. The stab-in-the-back legend. Talk and discussion (English) with Dr Ian King
14:00 – 16:00 h	Covid-19 conspiracy theories and the anti-vax movement, talk (English) and working parties with Stuart Sweeney
19:00 – 20:00 h	Summary of the day and informel discussions

Thursday 13 May 2021

- 10:00 – 11:30 h Fake news in the age of the Euro-Maidan, the Donbass conflict and the Russian annexation of Crimea – a Ukrainian dimension. Talk and discussion (English) with Anton Liagusha
- 11:45 – 13:15 h How George Soros became an enemy of the people. Conspiracy ideas and right-wing populism in Poland and Hungary. Talk and discussion (German) with Klaudia Hanisch
- 14:15 – 15:45 h Myths and legends, historical, political and cultural fictions as an integral part of Czech history, talk and discussion (German) with Dr Jan Capek
- 16:30 – 17:30 h Workshop: Fake news and conspiracy theories in participants' countries with Jonathan Utsch

Friday 14 May 2021

- 10:00 – 11:30 h Fake news and conspiracy theories in Senegal, talk and discussion (German) with Amadou Hagne
- 11:45 – 13:15 h Climate change in the Harz region, in the fake news context. Talk and discussion (German) with Dr Friedhart Knolle
- 14:15 – 15:45 h The paranoid style of American politics? Conspiracy theories and fake news in the age of Trump. Talk and discussion (English) with Jasper Theodor Kauth
- 16:15 – 17:15 Conference evaluation session with Jonathan Utsch

If no other speaker is listed, the unit will be lead by the conference team.

Organiser

Sonnenberg-Kreis – Gesellschaft zur Förderung internationaler Zusammenarbeit e.V.
Clausthaler Str. 11, 37444 St. Andreasberg

Conference Chair

Jonathan Utsch, M.A., Hamburg

Conference Assistant

Nitya Julia Pages, Bad Harzburg

Speakers

Jan Čapek, Prelouc (Tschechien)

Amadou Hagne, Mainz

Klaudia Hanisch, Göttinger Institut für Demokratieforschung, Göttingen

Dr. Friedhart Knolle, Pressesprecher Nationalpark Harz, Wernigerode

Jasper Theodor Kauth, M.Sc., Nuffield College, University of Oxford

Dr. Ian King, Sonnenberg Association of Great Britain, London

Anton Liagusha, Assoc. Prof., Department of Journalism, Linguistics and Communication, National University of
Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine

Stuart Sweeney, Sonnenberg Association of Great Britain, London

Interpreter

Pia Sabados-Loges, Meckenheim

Conference Language

Deutsch/Englisch

Conference Fee

90,00 EUR Online participant

60,00 EUR Online participants – school and college students and trainees

Conference Number

16657

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This seminar is listed/announced with contents and conditions on
Homepage of Sonnenberg-Kreis e. V.: <http://www.sonnenberg.international>
and **Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung:** <http://www.bpb.de/veranstaltungen>

Registered for Funding



The conference fee is split: 2/3 are assigned to the seminar, 1/3 is used on institutional cost coverage.

Education and Conference Center

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