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### **Cognitive Analysis of Conspiracy theories**

Together with “fake news” and “post-truthism”, conspiracy theories (CTs) have experienced a boom during the past decade, which has been characterized by a succession of multi-crises in the fields of economics, the environment, public health (COVID-19), migration movements and International Relations (including wars in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East). CTs pretend to explain these crises by pointing to secret conspiracies as their origin. In response, historical, political and social sciences as well as psychology and philosophy and humanities have taken a close interest in CTs and have quickly produced wide range of publications and conferences. Linguistic analyses have been fewer and have concentrated mainly on partial aspects (truth value semantics, narrativity, metapragmatic features). Using a variety of CT examples but with special focus on present-day right-wing CTs, I will make the case for a cognitive approach to CTs that also takes into account their pragmatic function and their relation to cultural history.