

Abstracts

Magt og afmagt: konspirationsteorier i Danmark og udlandet

'Don't ask me who these forces are' – on presumed conspiracies

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This article examines the presumed conspiracy as a conspiracy theory genre. It is a genre that eschews explicit actor and causal explanations in favor of points of observation connecting events and documents in a network of parallel instances rather than in a dynamic actor model. Empirically, the focus is on two anti-gender conspiracy theories by the German Catholic activist and sociologist Gabriele Kuby and the Danish literary scholar and writer Marianne Stidsen. Both are prominent opponents of what they see as a power grab orchestrated by radical feminists as well as gender and sexual minorities. This backlash against an ongoing liberalization of gender and sexuality norms has in recent years produced a number of conspiracy theories on a 'LGBT lobby' or radical feminist conspiracy. The article's basic claim is that the assumed conspiracy is an under-researched but highly used conspiracy theory model, and I conclude by discussing whether it is currently on the rise in certain ideological environments.

Singing Theories of Conspiracy – Anti-Corona Songs as Political Protest in Denmark and Sweden

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This article explores the response to the COVID-19 pandemic (2020-2023) in global con-

spiracy culture, focusing on anti-corona music in Denmark and Sweden. It investigates songs as political protest expressions fueled by conspiratorial ideation. The study analyzes four songs (two each from Denmark and Sweden), using deductive and inductive coding of lyrics and online performance observations. The songs express typical rhetorical strategies and narrative tropes found in online anti-vaccination rhetoric and music in the German anti-vax protest milieu. The Danish songs reflect the confrontative culture of the 'Men in Black', while the Swedish ones echo the 'freedom movement's' vague freedom claims. The article doesn't generalize due to the small sample size but attempts to contextualize the songs within the political protest culture.

Conspiracy Theories and Violent Radicalization

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Traditionally, research into conspiracy theories has concerned their causes, communication, and consequences for democratic participation and stability. This paper examines one of these consequences, namely the association between conspiracy theory beliefs and violent radicalization, that is, the process of becoming increasingly involved in violent extremist attitudes and/or actions. The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of this association as it is depicted in the contemporary research landscape. This is firstly done through a thorough conceptualization of both concepts, and secondly through the identification and appreciation of two meta-theoretical perspectives on their relation: a linear perspe-

ctive according to which particular conspiracy theory beliefs can be regarded as a direct cause of subsequent radicalization towards violent extremism; and a complexity theoretical perspective according to which the association between conspiracy theories and radicalization may be direct, but where both phenomena also can be viewed as two either related or independent outcomes of the same underlying social and psychological causes and processes. The paper ends with a discussion of the implications these differing perspectives have for the prevention and countering of violent extremism.

“It's not a vaccine - it's been planned and organized for a long time” - Conspiracy theories about vaccines and how to address them

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This article explores the phenomenon of anti-vaccine conspiracy theories, which have deep roots but have gained renewed attention in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. Employing the concepts of pseudoscience, stigmatized knowledge, and denialism, it examines the arguments within these theories and argues that traditional methods such as debunking have limited effect. The main idea of the article is that belief in conspiracy theories is not merely due to a lack of knowledge but requires a deeper understanding of the underlying psychological motivations. It analyzes the online networks behind the dissemination of anti-vaccine conspiracies during the COVID-19 pandemic and discusses potential societal and health consequences. Finally, it presents a practice-oriented approach for healthcare professionals to communicate with patients who are attracted to conspiracy beliefs. A nuanced approach is advocated, one that recognizes the complexity of beliefs and the social and psychological needs that sustain them through a non-judgemental dialogue.

9/11, COVID-19, and Uncle Shrimp: Conspiracy Theories in Denmark in the 21st century

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This article examines the development of conspiracy theories in Denmark in the 21st century, focusing on war, the economy, health, and culture in relation to 9/11, the financial crisis, COVID-19, and the Uncle Shrimp-affair. It argues that conspiracy theories should be understood in reference to national and international societal crises, the advent of social media, and the import of an American conspiracy culture, which expects conspiracy from the power elite, because the power elite has previously engaged in conspiracy. The Americanization of conspiracy theories becomes a way of expressing dissatisfaction, and a way of understanding the world.

Towards a Museum Reform: An Analysis of the Proposed Funding Model

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This article analyzes the incentive structure of the funding model for Danish state-recognized museums, as proposed by the Working Group for Museum Reform in November 2023. The article presents the elements and building blocks of funding models. It also highlights the dilemmas these models can create, potentially leading to tension between professional considerations and economic incentives. The analysis is anchored in a functionalist perspective, where the expected

consequences of models are assessed based on theoretical and empirical knowledge. The potential risks of simplified performance targets and inappropriate incentive structures are discussed through a critical evaluation of the proposed funding model. The article contributes to understand-

ing how funding models affect museum operations and emphasizes the need for well-considered incentive mechanisms.