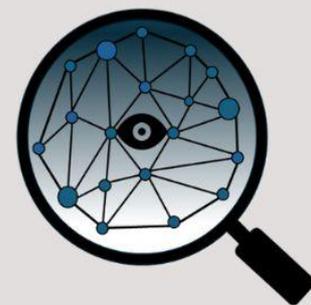


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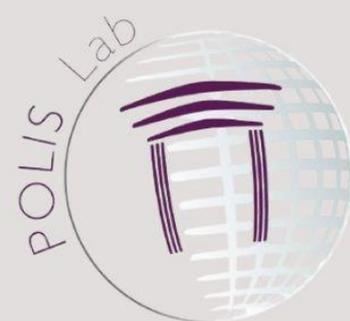
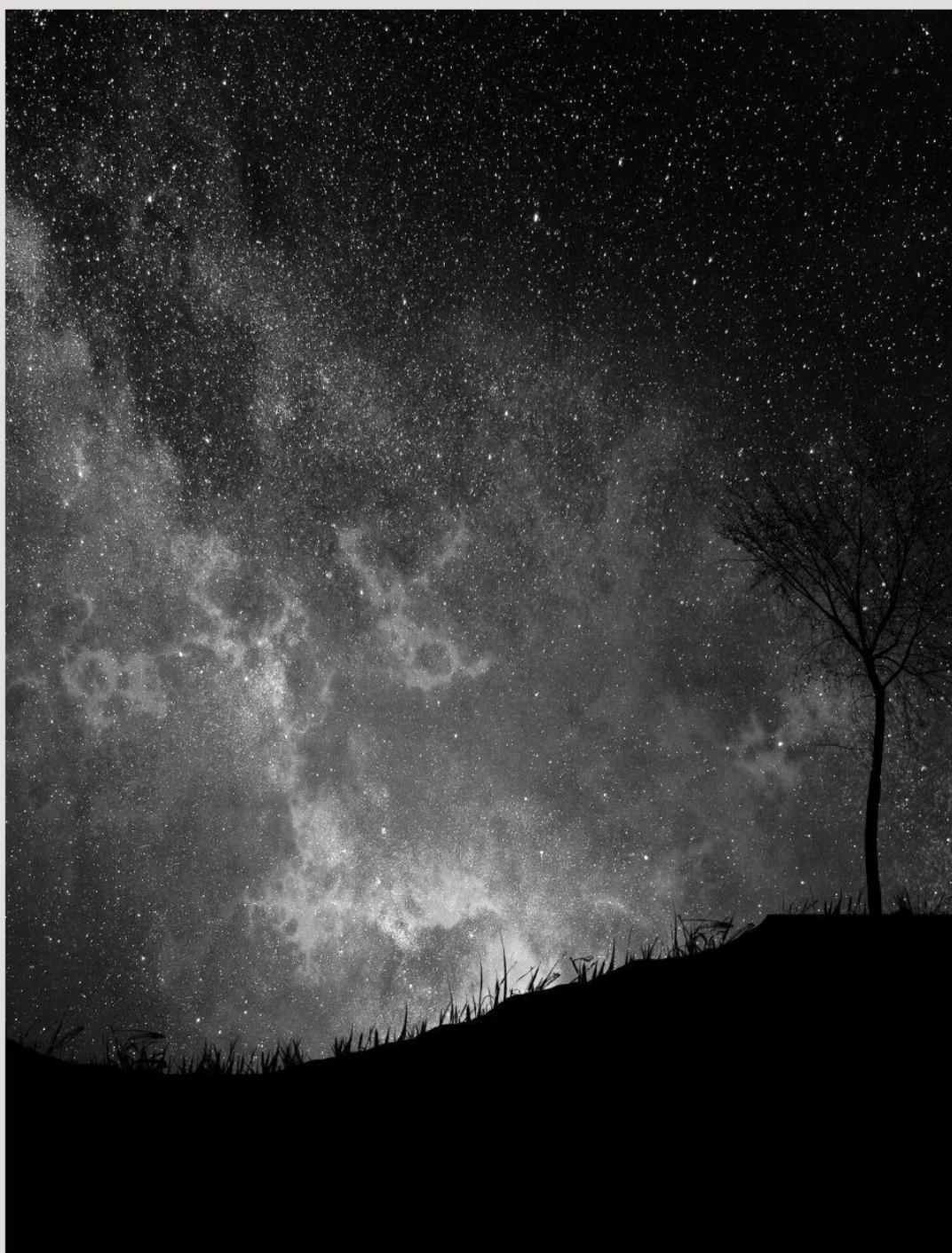
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«ΤΙ ΜΑΣ ΚΡΥΒΟΥΝ;»

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# ΔΙΑΛΟΓΟΙ ΓΙΑ ΤΗ ΣΥΝΩΜΟΣΙΟΛΟΓΙΑ



Laboratory of International Political and Legal Studies (POLIS LAB)

Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies

University of Macedonia

Thessaloniki 02/2026

***“What Are They Hiding from Us?”: Dialogues on Conspiracism.***

Following a particularly productive year, the seminar series entitled “What Are They Hiding from Us?”: Dialogues on Conspiracism, organized by the Laboratory of International Political and Legal Studies (POLIS LAB) of the Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies at the University of Macedonia, returns for the upcoming spring semester.

The initiative continues its systematic engagement with the study of conspiracy theories through critical and interdisciplinary lens, seeking to contribute meaningfully to both the broader academic discourse and the public debate surrounding the phenomenon.

Having previously covered a range of different aspects concerning the development of conspiracy theories—such as through the perspective of the media or social anthropology—this year’s structure once again aspires to serve as an open platform for dialogue. It will provide space for subject-matter experts, early-career researchers with relevant scholarly output, as well as works addressing the phenomenon of conspiracy theories from diverse, and at times differing, perspectives and positions. The seminars are not confined solely to the presentation of related thematic areas; rather, they also seek to shed light on issues that, while connected to the discussion, have received comparatively less attention.

As in the previous year, the structure of the seminar series is grounded both in dialogue among invited speakers and in discussion with the audience, thus constituting an open laboratory of critical thought and exchange of views. With regard to the rationale underpinning this year’s presentations, it is made clear—just as during the previous academic period—that these are not necessarily conceived as a forum for the continuous affirmation of a predetermined viewpoint on the issue under examination. Instead, they may at times function as a meeting point—or even a testing ground—for opposing arguments, with the objective of deepening our understanding of the phenomenon of conspiracy theories. In other words, the hosting of heterogeneous or even



opposing views does not imply the team's endorsement of them; rather, it reflects our conviction that public discourse—and especially scholarly discourse—ought to be exposed to counterargument. Our position, already articulated through the present initiative, remains consistently present: engaged in dialogue, vigilant, and, where necessary, maintaining critical distance in accordance with our theoretical principles.

At the same time, this year's continuation also constitutes preparation for the future. As the research team further seeks to align its work with the corresponding international discussion and with the broader research orientation of the Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies at the University of Macedonia, the thematic choices for the spring academic semester aim to explore, as fully as possible, the boundaries of domestic dialogue, scholarly production, and emerging research directions surrounding the phenomenon of conspiracy theories. In other words, before turning our gaze to the wider world, we seek a deeper understanding of the subject through the domestic experience.

The seminar series is conducted under the supervision of the scientific coordinator, Assistant Professor, Leonidas Karakatsanis (Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies, University of Macedonia), and Postdoctoral Researcher Grigoris Markou (same department), in collaboration with a team of researchers: Georgia Rina (Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Macedonia), Katerina Ppseniskof (PhD Candidate, Department of Political Sciences, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki), Dimitris Tsirimpas (PhD Candidate, Department of Political Sciences, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki), and Konstantina Kastoriadou (MA student in International Politics, KU Leuven).

The seminars are held online once a month (Thursday evenings) and last approximately two hours. The initiative is non-funded and voluntary in nature and is open to all interested participants.

As in the previous year, each session features an invited speaker — researcher, author, or academic — who presents aspects of their work in the field, followed by a moderated discussion with the audience. Participants are encouraged to contribute reflections, raise questions, and actively engage in the exchange of perspectives.

For the current academic year, the first seminar will take place online on **5 March 2026 at 19:00**. Nikos Demertzis (NKUA) and Iosif Chalavazis (NKUA) will engage in a discussion



entitled: “Conspiracy Theories Under the Microscope: A Discussion on the Occasion of “Pseudosciences and Conspiracy Theories”. The event will be moderated by Katerina Ppseniskof (AUTH).

Registration is required in order to receive the access link. Registered participants will also receive a post-event newsletter summarizing the key points of each presentation and discussion. Recordings of the seminars will be made available on the Laboratory’s YouTube channel.

Further procedural details (e.g., registration form, abstracts, upcoming programme) regarding the first seminar and subsequent sessions will be announced shortly through our official communication channels.

*For more information: <https://dialoguesconsp.wixsite.com/dialoguesconspiracy>*

*Facebook: “What Are They Hiding from Us?”: Dialogues on Conspiracy Theories.*

*Kindly requested for publication.*

*If you wish to be removed from the mailing list, please inform us.*

