

CONNECTING POPULISM AND CONSPIRACY THEORIES:

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF FOUR WESTERN EUROPEAN RADICAL RIGHT-WING PARTIES

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The aim of this work is double: on the one hand, it seeks to contribute to the existing literature by trying to bridge Populism and Conspiracy Theories through the study of populist discourses by Radical Right-Wing actors. On the other, it delivers a better understanding of four different Western European Radical Right-Wing Parties by comparing how they use populist conspiratorial discourses in three specific topics. These latter have been chosen due to their prominence in political public debates and because of their embeddedness in the conspiratorial *milieu*. Indeed, Immigration, Climate Change and Covid-19 are differently mobilized by parties to set their own agendas.

In order to answer our Research Questions, the parties' discourses will be examined through a mix of quantitative and qualitative analysis that will enable us to grasp if and to what extent the selected parties similarly employ populist conspiratorial discourses. In this process, historical and political contexts, as well as party structures, will be taken into account to ensure a more encompassing and insightful study.