**Проектное предложение/ project description**

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| **Type of project** / Тип проекта  | *Research* |
| **The name of project** / Название проекта  | *Conspiracy Theories as a Component of Populist Rhetoric* |
| **Department of university** /Подразделение инициатор проекта  | *Faculty of Social Sciences / School of Politics and Governance**International Center for the Study of Institutions and Development* |
| **Project supervisor** / Руководитель проекта  | *Patrick Scott Sawyer* |
| **Project summary** /Подробное описание содержания проектной работы  | *What is the role of conspiracy theories in building support for populist leaders?**Whereas the literature on conspiracism and populism has seen contributions to it by a number of scholars over the past several years, research on the general implications of such a connection have been neglected. What value, if any, do conspiracy theories serve for the populist movement? Is there instrumental value in using conspiratorial rhetoric by populist leaders? This project focuses on the usage of conspiracy theories by US President Donald Trump, and involves an investigation into the ways in which conspiracy theories are used to demonize political opponents, position Trump as a “defender of the people”, provoke “crises,” and reject epistemological truths from mainstream political and media actors. The analysis involves the usage of qualitative content analysis (QCA) in order to distinguish between the ways in which conspiracy theories are used by Donald Trump in order to advance his political agenda. Qualitative Content Analysis (QCA) is a methodology which allows the researcher to analyze political rhetoric, and is advantageous insofar as it allows one to reduce data, focus on selected topics in the data, and describe the data in terms of these topics (Schreier, 2012). In this respect, we hope to provide an answer as to the utility that conspiracy theories serve in building support for a populist leader by identifying key mechanisms associated with conspiratorial rhetoric.* |
| **The goals and objectives of the project** /Цель и задачи проекта  | -Collection of text-based sources.-Analysis of text and Twitter-based sources in order to identify conspiracy theory rhetoric.-Identification of the functions of conspiratorial rhetoric for populist candidates. |
| **Project’s tasks** /Проектное задание  | -Training for Nvivo, Explanation of the Methodology (2 hours, online/offline)-Attending group meetings (online/offline)-Coding of conspiratorial rhetoric in text according to the qualitative content analysis methodological framework. |
| **Project implementation period** / Сроки реализации проекта  | *November 1 – April 30*  |
| **The number of credits** / Количество зачетных единиц  |  |
| **The form of the final control (exam or test)** /Форма итогового контроля  | Test |
| **Entry requirements for student** /Требования к студентам, участникам проекта | *-Participation in a workshop/training on qualitative content analysis (QCA\_ in Nvivo.**-Light background reading on populism, conspiracy theories, and QCA.* |
| **The results of the project** /Планируемые результаты проекта  | *Mastering of Skills**-Textual data methods (Qualitative content analysis).**-Search for background information.**-Ability to use Nvivo.**-Knowledge of US politics and a new research literature.* |
| **The presentation of the project’s results to estimate** / Формат представления результатов, который подлежит оцениванию  | *-Report**-Nvivo data files**-Visualizations/Statistics* |
| **Assessment criterion** / Критерии оценивания результатов проекта  |  *-Coding of rhetoric according to pre-defined categories of the coding frame.* |
| **The number of vacancies** / Количество вакантных мест на проекте  | *2* |
| **Selection criteria of students** /Критерии отбора студентов  | *-Advanced or native English skills (required).**-Basic contextual knowledge of the American political landscape (required).**-Submission of a personal CV when applying (required).**-Interest in/background knowledge of the literature on populism/conspiracy theories (desired).**-Interest in US politics (desired).**-Experience with qualitative research (desired).**-Experience with Nvivo (desired).*  |
| **Educational programs for** /Рекомендуемые образовательные программы  | *Any* |
| **Location** /Территория  | *Moscow* |