



**PSYCHOANALYTIC CENTER OF  
PHILADELPHIA PRESENTS...**

# **AMERICAN CONSPIRACY THEORIES**

**Saturday, May 21, 2022 10:00 am to 12:00 pm**

**Presenter: Joseph Uscinski, PhD**

**Discussant: Andrew Smolar, MD**

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The program will address the origins, determinants, individual psychological susceptibility and methods of dissemination with regard to conspiracy thinking. It will also address the impact of recent geopolitical events on patterns of conspiracy thinking and will consider potential solutions to this problem. An emphasis on the presentation of conspiracy thinking in the clinical setting will be explored with technical interventions discussed for clinical practice.

The program will be divided into two phases. A didactic presentation by Dr. Uscinski will be followed by a discussion of clinical applications by Dr. Smolar.

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**2 CE/CME'S AVAILABLE**

FREE for PCOP Members

\$60 for Non-Members Seeking CE Credit

\$30 for Non-Members not Seeking CE Credit



**CLICK HERE TO ATTEND VIA ZOOM**



A close-up, high-angle shot of the American flag, showing the blue field with white stars and the red and white stripes. The flag is draped and folded, creating deep shadows and highlights in the fabric.

# BIOGRAPHIES

**Joseph Uscinski, PhD**, is one of the foremost experts on conspiracy theories and the people who believe them. For more than a decade, he has been polling Americans about their beliefs in conspiracy theories and other dubious ideas. His research has helped to uncover why people believe in conspiracy theories, when, and to what effect.

Uscinski is a professor of Political Science at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida, where he currently leads a National Science Foundation funded interdisciplinary team, which seeks to fight the spread of extremist conspiracy theories in online networks. Most recently, he was named a lifetime fellow at the Center for Scientific Inquiry.

He has authored more than 50 published scientific articles and chapters, many of which are highly influential and have appeared in top scientific outlets. He is the author of *Conspiracy Theories: A Primer*, the first textbook on conspiracy theories, and co-author of *American Conspiracy Theories*, widely considered the foundational study of modern conspiracy theories. He is currently at work on a book that explains conspiracy theories in the Trump era.

Uscinski's research and views have been covered extensively in the New York Times, The Washington Post, The Los Angeles Times, USA Today, The Atlantic, The Guardian, Newsweek, and Politico. He has appeared as a guest on NPR, CBS, Fox News Channel, BBC, and numerous other national and international outlets. Most recently, he appeared in HBO's "Q: Into the Storm" documentary about QAnon. Growing up in New England, he earned his BA at Plymouth State University in Plymouth, NH, his MA at University of New Hampshire, and his PhD at the University of Arizona.

**Andrew I. Smolar, MD**, graduated from Haverford College in 1983, from Stony Brook University School of Medicine in 1987, and completed his Psychiatric Residency and Fellowship in Group Psychotherapy at the Mount Sinai Hospital in New York in 1992. He moved to Philadelphia, where he first worked at Albert Einstein Medical Center and Temple University (where he holds an academic appointment as Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry; he also holds the appointment of Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Drexel University), and later began a private practice in adolescent and adult psychiatry. He completed psychoanalytic training at the Philadelphia Psychoanalytic Institute in 1999, was certified in adult psychoanalysis by the American Psychoanalytic Association in 2000, and was promoted to Training and Supervising Analyst in 2010.

Dr. Smolar has practiced and taught psychotherapy to mental health professionals, and he led a support group for hospice staff at Einstein Hospital from 1996 to 2002. He has served as President of the Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia from 2015-17. He has published articles on various psychotherapeutic topics -- including gift-giving, psychotherapy across cultural differences, work with survivors of incest, augmenting psychotherapy, and combining group therapy with psychoanalysis -- and he has co-authored a book on group psychotherapy. He contributes op-ed mental health columns regularly for the Pittsburgh Tribune Review.

## EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Understand and describe the psychological, social, and political motivations that drive people to believe in conspiracy theories
2. Consider and utilize in clinical practice, or in community settings, methods for potentially mitigating conspiracy theory beliefs

## CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION/CONTINUING EDUCATION

### Continuing Medical Education (CME):

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of American Psychoanalytic Association and the Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia. The American Psychoanalytic Association is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The American Psychoanalytic Association designates this Live Activity for a maximum of 2 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

**IMPORTANT DISCLOSURE INFORMATION FOR ALL LEARNERS:** None of the planners and presenters for this educational activity have relevant financial relationship(s)\* to disclose with ineligible companies whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients. \*Financial relationships are relevant if the educational content an individual can control is related to the business lines or products of the ineligible company.

- Updated July 2021 -



### Continuing Education for Psychologists (CE):

The Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia maintains responsibility for this program and its content. Every session of this program offers CE credit for psychologists.

### Continuing Education for Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors (CE):

In accordance with the requirements of the Commonwealth of PA dated 12/23/06 [PA Code: Title 49, Ch. 47-49], The State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors recognizes the American Psychological Association (APA) as a preapproved provider of continuing education programs for social workers and clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, and professional counselors in the State of Pennsylvania. The Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education programs.

**For more information, please contact the Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia:**

**Rockland – East Fairmount Park**

**3810 Mt. Pleasant Drive Philadelphia, PA 19121**

**215-235-2345**

**[pcop@philanalysis.org](mailto:pcop@philanalysis.org)**