Activity summary of CIAS research fellow in Budapest

Grant category: ☒ junior ☐ senior

Name: Tamás Tóth Ph.D.

Home institute (name, position, country): University of Public Service, assistant professor, Hungary

Academic Year / Semester: 2021-2022/ fall and spring

Duration: 10 months

Project title: Populism and the role of in-group solidarity in Hungary

Project description*: This project aimed to achieve two goals, namely developing further the concept of implicit populism and analyzing the attitudes of pro and anti-Trumpists. On the one hand, a theoretical contribution was pursued, on the other, we aimed to find differences or similarities between Hungarian respondents’ attitudes toward Donald Trump, considering anti-elitism, in-group solidarity, desire to act without solidarity, metaphysics and opposition to pluralist forms.

Achieved result(s)*: The project revealed two important findings. First, a new subdimension of implicit populism was developed by which the “enemy” could be detected in content analysis when the communicator articulates its presence. On the other hand, unarticulated threats (when we do not know who or what is the source of the problem) such as “danger,” “problem,” “hazard” might also appear in populist styles. Second, our other contribution shows that there is only one significant difference between the Hungarian pro and anti-Trumpists’ attitudes, namely in-group solidarity. Respondents who endorse Trump think that belonging to and defending their inner circles are crucial in their everyday lives. The results suggest that Trumpists think that protecting inner circles from external threats maintains cohesion within their national in-group.

Connected publications*
1. Title: Fractured implicitness. Why implicit populism matters?
   Date of submission/acceptance/publication: 2021/2021/2021-11-04
Journal category (if applicable): ☒ Q1 ☒ Q2 ☐ Q3
Status: ☒ accepted/published ☐ in progress ☐ planned

2. Title: We are the ones who matter! Pro and anti-Trumpists’ attitudes in Hungary
Date of submission/acceptance/publication: 2021/2021/2021-10-18
Journal: Journal of Contemporary European Studies
Journal category (if applicable): ☒ Q1 ☐ Q2 ☐ Q3
Status: ☒ accepted/published ☐ in progress ☐ planned

Professional collaborations, partnerships*
1. Name: Márton Bene
Institution: Centre for Social Sciences Institute for Political Science
Field of research: political science
Future plans for joined research: testing explicit and implicit populism on 28 countries social media posts
2. Name: Jörg Matthes
Institution: University of Vienna
Field of research: communication studies
Future plans for joined research: testing populist attitudes of Austrian and Hungarian journalists

Additional activities* (public lectures, presentations, professional meetings, media connections etc.):
1. Political communication and campaigns (lecture)
2. Populism and political communication (lecture)
3. Research Patterns in Communication (2009-2019): Testing Female Representation and Productivity Differences, within the Most Cited Authors and the Field (professional meeting with Manuel Goyanes)

Future plans, planned return (if any):
☐ I plan to return to Hungary later
☒ I plan to maintain my professional contacts via e-mail
☒ Any other comment: I plan to stay in Budapest, and I would love to join CIAS for another grant period if calls will be applicable.

*Please give us a properly detailed summary.

Date: 20 September 2022
Signature: