

# CONTENTS

- 1 **Introduction** 1  
Gilda Sensales
- Part I Transcultural Comparative Analyses**
- 2 **Political and Psychological Processes Contributing to European Populisms of the Left and Right** 25  
Eduardo J. Rivera Pichardo, Jacopo Custodi, and John T. Jost
- 3 **The Inner Logic: An Intergroup Approach to the Populist Mentality in Europe** 49  
Christian Staerklé, Matteo Cavallaro, and Anna Cortijos-Bernabeu
- Part II Psychosocial Constructs in Action**
- 4 **COVID-19 Threat and Populism: The Mediation Effect of Epistemic and Significance Motivations** 97  
Erica Molinario, Gabriele Di Cicco, Gilda Sensales, and Arie W. Kruglanski
- 5 **Conspiracy Ideation and Populism** 139  
Valerio Pellegrini, Mauro Giacomantonio, and Luigi Leone

- 6 **Populist Thin Ideology: From a Theoretical Conceptualisation to the Development of a New Scale** 187  
Efisio Manunta and Maja Becker

### Part III The Italian Case

- 7 **This Is Not the End: How the Appeal of Populism Changed Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic** 235  
Michele Roccato, Nicoletta Cavazza, and Pasquale Colloca
- 8 **Representations of Populism, Pandemic, and War Among Italian Citizens of Different Political Orientations: A Psycho-Linguistic Analysis of Their Associative Productions (2019–2022)** 263  
Gilda Sensales, Gabriele Di Cicco, Erica Molinaro, Laura Prislei, and Arie W. Kruglanski

### Part IV Populist Communication in the Blogosphere

- 9 **Italian Populist Leaders and Their Followers on Facebook (2019–2022): Representational Fields and Empirical Evidence from a Psycho-Social Linguistic Perspective** 347  
Gabriele Di Cicco, Laura Prislei, and Gilda Sensales
- 10 **Double Bind or Political Advantage? The Negotiation of Womanhood in the Online Discourse of Female Right-Wing Populist Politicians** 405  
Katarina Pettersson and Inari Sakki
- 11 **Concluding Remarks** 437  
Gilda Sensales

- Index** 469