The anti-scientific movement may shake the civilized world as we know it.

We live in times of unprecedented growth in anti-intellectualism and distrust in facts, or "the death of expertise." This epistemic crisis of modern society leads to a questioning of basic truths. The erosion of trust in science is systemic and linked to the declining trust in knowledge institutions.

The anti-intellectualism is propagated through social media in many topics. However, in some of them, the devastating potential is major. This is especially true in the case of human-induced climate change denialism: in spite of the unquestionable scientific consensus and ostensible ongoing catastrophe, individuals, certain media, as well as organized communities propagate the idea that climate change is either not significantly induced by human activities, or even not observable.

Bruno Latour (2017) points to anthropocene as the defining notion of our times and calls for more studies of the social phenomenon of climate change reception and legitimization strategies. The project is a response to this call and it addresses a challenge at the intersection of three major social changes:

1. Increasing distrust in science, and anti-intellectual sentiments in the society,

2. New forms of self-organization online (peer production, open collaboration);

3. Democratization of knowledge creation and distribution through citizen science.

These phenomena are all manifested in citizen anti-science: participative, self-governed communities challenging the scientific knowledge, such as human-induced climate change deniers. The project's goal is to analyze the online discourse of climate change denialism: social networks, and Polish and US media, in a study combining information/computer science, sociology, organization studies, and anthropology.

To do so, it will combine Big Data and Social Network Analysis approaches with "thick" analysis, a mixed-method introduced by the PI in a forthcoming Oxford University Press monograph. It will rely on:

1. TribeFinding (TF): a deep learning tool for semi-automated classifying of users by linguistic patterns, so as to analyze the language of climate change deniers,

2. Social Network Analysis (SNA): an analysis of ties, connections, homophily, etc. of a network of climate change deniers' communities and discussion groups online (as well as to identify professional and bot anomalies in spreading its propaganda),

3. Narrative analysis (NA): an ethnographic study of the stories in a given discourse and in the media (identifying the key archetypes, memes and stories shared, as well as studying the evolvement of climate change narratives in online text media in Poland and in the US across the political spectrum and in time).

The project will open a new field of scholarship on "citizen anti-science", to provide key contributions to the broader discussion on social hierarchies of knowledge and anti-intellectualism, lead to discoveries about climate change deniers.