

anguillesousroche.com

An anonymously owned website that has published false claims, including conspiracy theories about the COVID-19 pandemic.



Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic journalistic standards.

Ownership and Financing

AnguilleSousRoche.com does not identify its owner. It is registered through a domain privacy service.

The website's About page is written by an unnamed founder, who says, "I'm an average citizen, I don't belong to any political group, cult, influencer or anything else." The founder said the site was launched because "I just like sharing information that, I think, deserves some attention. The blog launched with the goal of keeping me busy and earning an income, yes, it was partly for the money... The revenue is also really not very stable, which can be problematic." ("Je suis un citoyen lambda, je n'appartiens à aucun groupe politique, secte, influenceur ou autre... J'aime simplement partager des infos qui selon moi méritent une certaine attention. Le blog a été lancé dans le but de m'occuper et avoir un revenu, oui, ça a été en partie pour l'argent... Les revenus ne sont aussi vraiment pas très stables, ce qui peut être problématique.")

The website derives revenue from advertising and sponsored content.

Content

Anguille Sous Roche is a French expression that means "There's something fishy" in English. The About page describes the website as an "entertainment blog" that "talks about Technology, Internet, Mankind, the World, News and other topics; it will cover and/or share various articles, anecdotes, fascinating, controversial, original, unusual, serious or funny stories." ("Ce blog va parler de Technologie, d'Internet, de l'Homme, du Monde, d'Actualité et d'autres thèmes, il va traiter et/ou relayer différents articles, anecdotes, histoires fascinantes, controversées, originales, insolites, sérieuses ou drôles.") Anguille Sous Roche went

Score: 7.5/100

- ✗ Does not repeatedly publish false content (22points)
- ✗ Gathers and presents information responsibly (18)
- ✗ Regularly corrects or clarifies errors (12.5)
- ✗ Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly (12.5)
- ✗ Avoids deceptive headlines (10)
- ✗ Website discloses ownership and financing (7.5)
- ✓ Clearly labels advertising (7.5)
- ✗ Reveals who's in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest (5)
- ✗ The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information (5)

Criteria are listed in order of importance.

[More information.](#)

through an “experimental” phase where it published “fake” and “sensational” news, according to the About page.

Most articles are republished from right-wing websites, including English-language news sites such as InfoWars.com and ZeroHedge.com. The site typically covers scientific discoveries as well as conspiracy theories involving political elites and world governments.

Typical headlines include “YouTube must stop policing the corona debate” (“YouTube doit cesser de contrôler le débat corona”); “President Trump: I have a chance to break the deep state” (“Le président Trump : ‘J’ai une chance de briser l’État profond”); and “Government trust rating is down again, survey finds” (“La cote de confiance envers le gouvernement de nouveau en baisse, selon un sondage”).

Credibility

AnguilleSousRoche.com does not publish original content. Its articles are often republished from U.S. and French websites that NewsGuard has determined repeatedly publish false content, such as American conspiracy site Summit.News, nationalist Swiss site LesObservateurs.ch, Russian site RT France, and U.S. anti-Muslim site FrontpageMag.com.

On its About page, the site’s anonymous founder acknowledges that AnguilleSousRoche.com has itself produced false stories. “The site has gone through different small phases since its creation, the very beginning was quite dull and serious, then I tried so-called ‘sensational’ (fake) articles, and that was quite successful,” the page said. Although the founder asserts that “Since 2018 the theme is much more serious,” the founder adds, “If you’re nitpicking, yes you can always find some fakes this year.” (“Le site est passé par différentes petites phases depuis sa création, le tout début était assez plat et sérieux, ensuite j’ai essayé des articles dit “sensationnels” (des fake), et là ça a connu un certain succès... Depuis 2018 la thématique est bien plus sérieuse... Si vous cherchez la petite bête oui vous pourrez toujours trouver quelques fake cette année.”)

NewsGuard found that the site still publishes false information, including about the COVID-19 pandemic and the virus that caused it, SARS-CoV-2.

For example, in April 2020, the site posted an article titled “‘This should deeply disturb us’ - A documentary that sends shivers down the spine reveals the probable origin of COVID-19” (“‘Cela devrait nous troubler profondément’ – Un documentaire qui fait froid dans le dos révèle l’origine probable du COVID-19.”) The story, republished from French news site AubeDigitale.com, included an English-language video produced by the Epoch Times, an anti-Chinese government news site, which claimed that SARS-CoV-2 may be a bioengineered virus released from a virology institute in Wuhan, China. The video also said, without evidence, that French security services suspected that “the Chinese regime was conducting biochemical weapons experiments” at the P4 laboratory at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

There is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus was engineered as a bioweapon. A March 2020 study published in the journal Nature Medicine concluded that the virus “is not a laboratory construct or a purposefully manipulated virus.” An earlier study, published in February 2020 in the journal Nature, found that the COVID-19 virus is “96% percent identical at the whole-genome level to a bat coronavirus.” In an April 2020 statement, the U.S. Office of the Director of National Intelligence, said “The Intelligence Community (IC) also concurs with the wide scientific consensus that the COVID-19 virus was not manmade or genetically modified.”

In March 2020, the site published an article titled “Bill Gates wants to introduce ‘microchips’ to help fight diseases like coronavirus” (“Bill Gates veut mettre en place des ‘micropuces’ pour aider à lutter contre des maladies comme le coronavirus”). The story claimed that during an online discussion on the Reddit platform, Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates proposed using microchips to track people who have been tested for COVID-19 and who may eventually be vaccinated for the virus. “During his session on Reddit, Mr. Gates

talked about 'digital certificates' that reveal who has recovered or has been vaccinated against COVID-19. This has raised concerns among many people who fear that the billionaire and philanthropist will want to implant microchips in everyone. But is this fear founded? Did he really say that? The answer is yes; Bill Gates suggested such a thing." ("Lors de sa session sur Reddit, M. Gates a parlé des 'certificats numériques' qui révèlent qui s'est remis ou a été vacciné contre le COVID-19. Cela a suscité l'inquiétude de beaucoup qui craignent que le milliardaire et philanthrope ne veuille implanter des micropuces dans tout le monde. Mais cette crainte est-elle fondée ? A-t-il vraiment dit cela ? La réponse est oui ; Bill Gates a suggéré une telle chose.")

The article distorted a comment Gates made on Reddit. In response to a question about how businesses should operate during the pandemic, Gates said, "Eventually we will have some digital certificates to show who has recovered or been tested recently or when we have a vaccine who has received it." Gates did not say that digital certificates would involve "implantable microchips." The Gates Foundation told Reuters that Gates' reference to "digital certificates" relates to efforts to create a digital platform "with the goal of expanding access to safe, home-based testing."

In December 2019, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, with funding from Gates' philanthropic foundation, published a paper about developing technology that can keep a vaccination record on a patient's skin with an ink-like injection that could be read by smartphone. This research is unrelated to COVID-19, the study's lead researcher, Kevin McHugh, told FactCheck.org.

The site has also promoted unfounded scientific claims. For example, a May 2020 article claimed that wireless network technology causes negative health effects. "Research on electromagnetic fields and their environmental impact is quite limited, and human studies show that this type of radiation affects biological organisms, especially humans," the article said. AnguilleSousRoche.com also cited a 2018 study

published in the journal Environmental Research, which claimed, “Repeated Wi-Fi studies show that Wi-Fi causes oxidative stress, sperm/testicular damage, neuropsychiatric effects including ... cellular DNA damage, endocrine changes, and calcium overload.” (“Les recherches sur les champs électromagnétiques et leur impact environnemental sont assez limitées, et les études sur les humains montrent que ce type de rayonnement affecte les organismes biologiques, en particulier les humains... Des études répétées sur le Wi-Fi montrent que le Wi-Fi provoque un stress oxydatif, des dommages aux spermatozoïdes/testicules, des effets neuropsychiatriques, notamment des modifications de l’EEG, l’apoptose, des dommages à l’ADN cellulaire, des modifications endocriniennes et une surcharge en calcium.”)

However, most of the studies cited in the Environmental Research article were done in labs and on animals, and not confirmed in humans. The French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l’alimentation, de l’environnement et du travail or ANSES) found that studies on the health effects of wireless technology were generally inconclusive. Both the Federal Communications Commission in the U.S. and ANSES found no evidence of a causal link between wireless device use and other illnesses.

Because AnguilleSousRoche.com has promoted unsubstantiated claims and false information, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false content, does not gather and present information responsibly, and fails to avoid deceptive headlines.

The site does not disclose a political agenda or point of view. According to its About page, “The articles offered on Anguille Sous Roche do not necessarily represent the opinion, convictions or beliefs of the author. (Neither my own)”. (“Les articles proposés sur Anguille sous roche ne représentent pas obligatoirement l’opinion, les convictions ou encore les croyances de l’auteur. (Ni de ma personne)”).

However, the site consistently shares articles labeled as news that express right-wing views.

For example, in June 2020, the site published the translation of a Summit.News story that criticized a New York Times column about the Black Lives Matter movement, stating, “The column once again emphasizes how leftist identitarians love to engage in two things. 1) Using victimhood mentality and onerous cult intimidation tactics to demand everyone think the same. 2) Breaking up the family unit by any means possible.” The article was labelled as news.

In September 2019, the site shared a news article by far-right site Bvoltaire.fr, titled “Rouen: Evidence that environmentalism is only a political weapon” (“Rouen : la preuve que l’écologie n’est qu’une arme politique.”) In it, the author wrote, “Environmentalism is the punishment that the global superclass, and its proxies including Macron, inflict on Westerners.” (“L’écologie, c’est la punition que la superclasse mondiale, et ses fondés de pouvoir dont Macron, infligent aux Occidentaux.”)

Because AnguilleSousRoche.com publishes unlabeled opinion in its news stories, from an undisclosed right-wing perspective, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

AnguilleSousRoche.com does not publish a corrections policy, and NewsGuard could not find corrections on the site.

The website did not respond to two emails seeking comment on the articles cited above, its lack of corrections, and its handling of opinion content.

Transparency

AnguilleSousRoche.com does not identify its owner or who is in charge of the content. On its About page, its anonymous founder wrote, “I will not reveal my identity and I will not show my photo. It’s just a matter of rights, of privacy, of online anonymity.” (“Je ne révélerai pas mon identité et je ne m’afficherai pas en photo. C’est simplement une question de droit, de vie privée, d’anonymat en ligne.”)

While articles often name the original publication that was republished, the website does not identify its own editorial staff or provide biographical or contact information for its content creators.

Users can contact the webmaster via a general email address.

Advertising and sponsored content are distinguished from editorial content.

AnguilleSousRoche.com did not respond to two emails seeking comment on why the site does not identify its owners, editorial leadership, and content creators.

History The site was created in 2015.

Written by: [Sophia Tewa](#)

Edited by: [Amy Westfeldt](#), [Chine Labbe](#), [Yves Clarisse](#)

Send feedback to NewsGuard:[Click Here](#)

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Transparency

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