

# luogocomune.net

A website that has promoted false claims and conspiracy theories about the COVID-19 pandemic, Sept. 11, and cancer.



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

**Score: 25/100**

## Ownership and Financing

Luogocomune.net does not disclose its ownership. The website is registered using a service that keeps the registrant anonymous. Massimo Mazzucco, who has produced films about the Sept. 11 attacks, as well as films such as “Cancer: The Forbidden Cures,” has told Italian media that he is the owner of the site and identifies himself as the “person in charge” in the website’s DVD shop section. Mazzucco is also the main anchor of Contro.tv, a video news site that has supported conspiracy theories.

The site does not run advertising. Luogocoune.net asks for donations via PayPal through a banner on every page of the site.

## Content

Luogocomune.net’s logo, which appears under the site’s name on the homepage, is “Commenting on the News” (“Le notizie commentate”). Luogocomune means “commonplace” in English. Content is sorted into dozens of sections, including Chemtrails (Scie Chimiche), The Great Conspiracies (Le Grandi Cospirazioni), Medicine & Health (Medicina & Salute), 9/11 (11 settembre), Italian Politics (Politica Italiana), and World News (News Internazionali).

The website published videos from websites that NewsGuard has found to repeatedly publish false content, including Contro.tv, Byoblu.com, and Pandora.tv.

Typical articles have run under headlines including “Piazza Fontana: What do the banks have to do with it?” (“Piazza Fontana: cosa c'entrano le banche?”); “News from Africa” (“Notizie dall’Africa”); and “Deep State: we have a problem.”

## Credibility

Luogocomune.net regularly publishes articles and videos that promote discredited conspiracy theories and unproven medical and scientific claims, including about the COVID-19 pandemic.

For example, a March 2020 video produced by Contro.tv and anchored by Mazzucco, “CORONAVIRUS: it was the ‘bat’” (“CORONAVIRUS: è stato il ‘pipistrello’”) claimed that the COVID-19 virus could have been

- ✗ 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.](#)

bioengineered by the U.S. Mazzucco asked in the video clip, “Was there an American hand that maybe left the bioengineered virus around in China?” (“Che ci sia stata una manina americana che magari ha lasciato il virus bioingegnerizzato in giro in Cina?”). He added that the arrival of the coronavirus helped the U.S. succeed in a plan to “thwart the Chinese economy with tariffs” (“contrastare in tutti i modi l’economia cinese con le tariffe”).

There is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus was engineered. A March 2020 study published in the journal Nature Medicine concluded that the virus “is not a laboratory construct or a purposefully manipulated virus.” In an April 2020 statement, the U.S. intelligence community said it “concur[s] with the wide scientific consensus that the COVID-19 virus was not man made or genetically modified.”

Another March 2020 video aired several false claims about the virus by Italian researcher Stefano Montanari. Montanari said in the video, “Healthy people suffer absolutely no harm from this virus” (“Le persone sane non subiscono assolutamente nessun danno da questo virus”), adding, “the virus mortality is very low, probably even non-existent” (“la mortalità da virus è bassissima, probabilmente addirittura inesistente”). Montanari, citing Italy’s National Institute of Health (ISS) as a source, also said that only three people had died of the COVID-19 virus in the country as of March 18, 2020.

The National Institute of Health never said that only three people had died of COVID-19 as of March 18. In a press release on that date, the institute’s president, Silvio Brusaferro, said that after looking at reports of the deaths of 2,003 people who died of COVID-19, the institute found that only three of those victims had no known previous health conditions. As of mid-May 2020, approximately 30,740 Italians had died as a result of the COVID-19 virus, according to the World Health Organization.

The World Health Organization and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, among other agencies, have also said that while older people and people with underlying health conditions are more likely to get seriously ill from the virus, that otherwise healthy people of any age have also become ill.

Luogocomune.net has also published conspiracy theories about the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks. For example, a September 2019 article titled “New research: Building 7 did not collapse because of the fire” (“Nuova

ricerca: l'edificio 7 non è crollato a causa del fuoco”) said that “it was enough to look at the rapid and symmetrical collapse of the building to understand that it was a controlled demolition,” referring to the collapse of 7 World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

Several federal investigations, including a 2008 study by the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology, concluded that the World Trade Center buildings collapsed after hijacked jets were flown into the two towers and caused fires that weakened the buildings’ structures. NIST found that the third tower, 7 World Trade Center, collapsed for the same reason after debris from the trade center’s north tower damaged it.

Luogocomune.net has regularly promoted false claims about cancer, including an October 2019 article that said the disease is caused by a fungus and can be treated with baking soda.

The article, titled “My goodness, does the fungus cause cancer?” (“Ohibò, il fungo causa il cancro?”) claimed that cancer is caused by an overgrowth of a type of fungus called candida. “For some time now we have framed the concept of cancer seen as resulting from a fungal infection,” the article said, adding that “the individual pathogen is in close relationship not only with the immune system, but even more directly with the local microbiota” (“Noi già da qualche tempo abbiamo inquadrato il concetto del cancro visto come derivante da un’infezione fungina inserita ... il singolo patogeno è in stretta relazione non solo con il sistema immunitario, ma ancor più direttamente con il microbiota locale”).

The article also praised discredited Italian doctor Tullio Simoncini for his claim that baking soda, or sodium bicarbonate, can cure cancer. “In support of his [Simoncini] thesis there are dozens and dozens of healing testimonies, also published on Luogocomune ... thanks to baking soda, a substance that has always been well accepted as an antifungal” (“A favore della sua tesi ci sono le decine e decine di testimonianze di guarigione, anche pubblicate su luogocomune, operate con il bicarbonato di sodio, sostanza da sempre pacificamente accettata come antifungina”).

Simoncini was convicted of manslaughter after one of his patients died after being injected with sodium bicarbonate. He began serving a 5 ½-year prison sentence in January 2018.

The claim that cancer is a fungus that can be killed by baking soda is “not supported by science or clinical evidence and is contrary to widely-accepted basic facts

of oncology and microbiology,” according to a 2008 article published by the American Cancer Society. A March 2014 article from Cancer Research UK notes that while early-stage research has shown that “sodium bicarbonate can affect cancers transplanted into mice or cells grown in the lab,” there is also evidence that “high doses of sodium bicarbonate can lead to serious - even fatal - consequences.”

Because Luogocomune.net regularly publishes false claims and conspiracy theories, NewsGuard has determined that the website repeatedly publishes false content, does not gather and present information responsibly, and does not avoid the use of deceptive headlines.

Luogocomune.net does not articulate a corrections policy and NewsGuard did not find corrections on the site.

NewsGuard sent two messages through the web form on the site, inquiring about Luogocomune’s publication of false information and its corrections practices, but did not receive a response.

Luogocomune.net does not separately label its content news or opinion, and most of its content includes the author’s point of view. However, the website’s tagline, which is clearly visible under the logo, says “Commenting on the News” (“Le notizie commentate”), making clear to users that the website is an opinion site.

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#### Transparency

The site does not disclose its ownership or provide information about its editorial leadership.

NewsGuard did not receive a response to two emails about the site’s failure to disclose its owner and editorial leaders.

Most of the articles are attributed to Mazzucco. Although his biography and individual contact information is not provided, a Contact page provides a generic form, and says that visitors can use it “to contact Mazzucco personally.”

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#### History

Luogocomune.net launched in 2003.

**Written by:** [Angelo Paura](#)

**Edited by:** [Virginia Padovese](#), [Amy Westfeldt](#), [Giampiero Gramaglia](#)

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

#### Sources

Ownership and  
Financing

<https://www.luogocomune.net/shop/film-in-italiano>  
<https://domainbigdata.com/luogocomune.net>

Content

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Credibility

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Transparency <https://www.luogocomune.net/contatti>

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History <https://domainbigdata.com/luogocomune.net>