

# lacrunadellago.net

The website of Italian blogger Cesare Sacchetti, which has frequently published false and misleading information on the 2020 coronavirus pandemic, as well as unsubstantiated conspiracy theories.



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

**Score: 25/100**

## Ownership and Financing

Lacrunadellago.net is owned by Cesare Sacchetti, an Italian journalist. In May 2020, Sacchetti's Twitter account was listed among five Italian COVID-19 misinformation "Super-spreaders" by NewsGuard for sharing false information regarding the 2020 pandemic.

The site earns revenues from donations and advertising.

## Content

LaCrunaDellAgo.net (The eye of the needle) is described on the site as "Cesare Sacchetti's blog." On the About Me (Chi sono) page, Sacchetti writes that "I decided to create this site to build a small space for news and opinions that are censored by the inquisition of the politically correct and mainstream propaganda." ("Ho deciso di creare questo sito per costruire un piccolo spazio per pubblicare notizie e opinioni censurate dall'inquisizione del politicamente corretto e dalla propaganda mainstream").

The site's homepage presents the blog entries in chronological order, with links to Sacchetti's Twitter and Facebook profiles.

Typical headlines have included "The ECB [European Central Bank] is ready to report Germany: is the euro about to definitively collapse?" ("La Bce pronta a denunciare la Germania: l'euro sta per crollare definitivamente?"); "500 American doctors to Trump: 'the quarantine will cause more deaths than Covid'" ("500 medici americani a Trump: 'la quarantena farà più morti del Covid'"); and "The 2003 fiction that predicted the coronavirus epidemic in great detail" ("La fiction del 2003 che ha previsto nei minimi dettagli l'epidemia di coronavirus").

Content on the site is available in Italian and English.

## Credibility

The site has repeatedly published false and misleading claims about COVID-19, among other topics.

- ✗ 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.](#)

For example, in an April 2020 article headlined “The hacked emails of Wuhan and Bill Gates: ‘COVID-19 made in the laboratory and released intentionally’” (“Le email hackerate di Wuhan e Bill Gates: ‘covid-19 fatto in laboratorio e rilasciato intenzionalmente’”), the site stated that Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates “predicted the outbreak of a coronavirus pandemic in a simulation he financed last October 2019, called Event 201.” According to the article, the “simulation came out the same month that [Chinese virologist] Dr. Zhengli Shi would have released the virus in the Wuhan fish market, the ideal place for aggregation and travel to encourage the spread of Covid” (“La simulazione è uscita nello stesso mese in cui la dottoressa Zhengli Shi avrebbe rilasciato il virus nel mercato del pesce di Wuhan, il luogo ideale per aggregazione e spostamenti per favorire la diffusione del Covid”).

The article also mentioned a hacked email attributed to a Chinese doctor affiliated with the Wuhan Institute of Virology claiming that COVID-19 was “modified with parts of the HIV virus” (“Il COVID-19 sarebbe stato modificato con parti del virus dell’HIV”), and that “these same conclusions were reached by some Indian researchers who had published a study showing that COVID-19 is the result of a modification made in the laboratory.” (“Sono le stesse conclusioni alla quali erano giunti dei ricercatori indiani che avevano pubblicato uno studio secondo il quale il Covid-19 era il risultato di una modifica fatta in laboratorio”).

A January 2020 article, headlined “Bill Gates already knew about the coronavirus pandemic” (“Bill Gates sapeva già della pandemia del coronavirus”), also referenced Event 201, an October 2019 tabletop exercise hosted by the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security that simulated a global pandemic for the purpose of focusing on how different institutions would respond to one. Johns Hopkins partnered with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and World Economic Forum for the scientific exercise. The story stated the “the great elites seem to be perfectly aware of what could happen with this type of epidemic and also seem to be the first to reap the greatest benefits.” (“le grandi élite sembrano essere informate perfettamente di quello che potrebbe accadere con questo tipo di epidemie e sembrano anche essere le prime a ricavarne i benefici maggiori.”).

There is no evidence supporting the claim of a link between the simulation and the outbreak of COVID-19. Event 201 did not involve modeling or engineering the Covid-19 pandemic. As explained in the Event 201 report: “The model was used exclusively for the exercise in October 2019 and does not relate to or cannot be applied to the current 2019-nCoV.” The scenario used for the simulation set the outbreak of the pandemic in a pig farm in Brazil, and resulted in a fictional 65 million deaths.

Moreover, there is no evidence that COVID-19 was manufactured or altered in a laboratory and later released in Wuhan. 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.intelligence community said it “concurrs with the wide scientific consensus that the COVID-19 virus was not man made or genetically modified.”

The Indian research mentioned in the LaCrunaDellAgo.net article originally appeared in February 2020 on the website BioRxiv.org, where users can submit studies before they are peer-reviewed or published elsewhere. According to an article on the fact-checking website HealthFeedback.org, the study’s finding that there is a similarity between the new strain of coronavirus and HIV “was detected using extremely short protein sequences, a practice that often gives rise to false positive results,” and the authors failed to note that the same sequences are found in many other organisms. The authors withdrew the study from BioRxiv.org two days after it appeared.

An April 2020 article headlined “The Rockefellers announced the pandemic and a one world government” (“I Rockefeller annunciarono la pandemia e il governo unico mondiale”) stated: “The Rockefellers had foreseen everything. Not just the pandemic of an unknown virus, but everything that is happening as a result of it” (“I Rockefeller avevano previsto tutto. Non solo la pandemia di un virus sconosciuto, ma tutto ciò che sta accadendo in conseguenza ad essa”). According to the article, a 2010 study published by The Rockefeller Foundation, which is funded by the

descendants of the founder of Standard Oil, proves that the coronavirus pandemic was designed to facilitate “the birth of a global authoritarianism” that will be accomplished using a “microchip capable of recording all citizens' information” (“microchip in grado di registrare tutte le informazioni dei cittadini”).

The Rockefeller Foundation study, titled “Scenarios for the Future of Technology and International Development,” presented a series of future scenarios including a global pandemic. However, a July 2020 fact-check by Snopes.com found that “the similarities between The Rockefeller Foundation’s envisioned scenario and the current COVID-19 crisis are few and far between.” In the Rockefeller Foundation’s scenario, the pandemic started in 2012, originated from wild geese, and killed eight million people within seven months, most of them healthy young adults. The use of microchips is never mentioned.

Snopes concluded that “While this document does explore how the global population could react during a pandemic, it is in no way an ‘operation manual’ for how to manufacture a virus in order to implement a police state.”

Moreover, there is no evidence supporting the claim that the coronavirus pandemic is a cover for a plan to implant trackable microchips, according to a May 2020 fact-check by the BBC.

In the Rockefeller-related article, as in many articles published on his site, conspiracy theories related to COVID-19 are intertwined with the so-called New World Order conspiracy theory, which posits the existence of elitist groups pushing to replace sovereign nation-states for the purpose of controlling the world. There is no evidence of such a plan.

In a June 2020 article headlined “VISA files a patent to eliminate cash and prepare for a unique global currency” (“La VISA deposita il brevetto per eliminare il contante e preparare una valuta unica globale”), the author stated that “the entity called ‘world state’ would have total control of the global population and whoever does not submit to its role would be banned by the new digital totalitarianism.” (“L’entità chiamato “stato mondiale” avrebbe il controllo totale della popolazione mondiale e chi non accetta di sottostare al suo ruolo, verrebbe messo al bando dal nuovo totalitarismo

digitale”). According to the article, global control would be achieved by the use of a microchip to access a digital currency patented by the American financial services institution VISA.

The patent filed by VISA describes a system to create digital currency on a centralized computer, as a way “to improve the payment ecosystem.” There is no mention of the use of microchips to access the currency, or of a global plan to eliminate physical currency and other digital currencies, which the site described as “digital totalitarianism.”

Because La Cruna Dell’Ago frequently publishes false claims and debunked conspiracy theories, NewsGuard has determined that the site frequently publishes false content, does not gather and present information responsibly, and fails to avoid deceptive headlines.

The site does not purport to publish straight news and is clear that it is the personal blog of conservative journalist Cesare Sacchetti. Therefore, NewsGuard has determined that it does not handle the difference between news and opinion irresponsibly.

Lacrunadellago.net does not publish a corrections policy and NewsGuard did not find any corrections on the site.

NewsGuard sent three messages via the contact form provided on the site, seeking comment on the articles cited above and the site’s approach to corrections, but did not receive a response.

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#### Transparency

Lacrunadellago.net identifies the site at the top of each page as “Cesare Sacchetti’s blog” (“Il blog di Cesare Sacchetti”), which meets NewsGuard’s standard for disclosing ownership and and who is in charge.

Sacchetti is identified as the writer on all the articles on the site. Users can reach the site using a contact form on the Contacts (Contatti) page.

Advertisements are distinguished from editorial content.

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#### History

The site was registered in January 2018 and its affiliated Facebook page was created in August 2018. Sacchetti previously worked for Libero Quotidiano and

l'Antidiplomatico, both of which were rated red by NewsGuard. He also has contributed to national newspapers Il Giornale and Il Fatto Quotidiano.

**Written by:** [Francesca Valdinoci](#)

**Edited by:** [Jim Warren](#), [Eric Efron](#), [Virginia Padovese](#), [Giampiero Gramaglia](#)

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

## Sources

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Ownership and Financing

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Credibility

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Transparency <https://lacrunadellago.net/contatti/>

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