

# Covid-19 disinformation collides with climate conspiracy theories in Italy | Coda Story

By Martina Biino

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Federico di Ceglie sounded convincing. There was something almost reassuring about the slow and deliberate way the 21-year-old law student built his argument against Italy's Green Pass — the mandatory Covid-19 passport that has become part of pandemic life in the country.

A native of Bergamo, the epicenter of the country's first devastating wave of coronavirus infections, Di Ceglie now heads the local wing of Italy's Students against the Green Pass movement. When I spoke to him, I could see why he became the group's leader. He dipped in and out of history and philosophy to explain why he believes the health pass to be a dangerous violation of freedom and human rights. I was almost buying it, until he threw in an unexpected twist.

"There is a reason why it's called the Green Pass," he said, then told me that the measure is more about the environment than the coronavirus.

The nexus of climate change and the pandemic was a conspiracy theory I had never heard of before. But since my conversation with Di Ceglie in September, I have also watched this idea spread across Italy's clamorous social media platforms — especially Telegram, where most of the anti-vaccination and anti-Green Pass groups live.

[...]

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