

Instagram Is Full of Conspiracy Theories and Extremism | The Atlantic

By Taylor Lorenz

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Jack, a 16-year-old who asked to be referred to by a pseudonym to protect his identity, has learned a lot about politics through Instagram. In 2020, he'll be able to vote for the first time, and so he recently started following some new Instagram pages to bone up on issues facing the country. "I try to follow both sides just to see what everyone's thinking," he said. While he's struggled to find many compelling pages on the left, he said he's learned a lot from following large conservative Instagram meme pages such as [@dc_draino](#) and [@the_typical_liberal](#), which has nearly 1 million followers and claims to be "saving GenZ one meme at a time." Recent posts include a joke about running over protesters in the street, an Infowars video posted to IGTV, and a meme about feminists being ugly. "It's important to have The Typical Liberal and DC Draino to expose the [media's] lies, so we can formulate our own opinions," Jack told me.

[...]

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