

PRESS RELEASE

The great wave: the disruptive effect of the Coronavirus told through the data

A data driven survey carried out by the journalist Davide Mancino is now online. The work is the result of a scholarship funded by SISSA and the writer Paolo Giordano



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“An epidemic is so dangerous because nothing happens until everything happens. The great wave fed on bodies, growing exponentially doubling after doubling, until in March it became the largest blue mass we’ve seen in decades. As in wartime, there were no more good decisions but only some less bad than others”.

There are the words of Davide Mancino describing the pandemic in the first pages of his long and in-depth data journalism investigation “The great wave”. It is the result of one of the two scholarships of the Interdisciplinary Laboratory of SISSA – Scuola Internazionale Superiore di Studi Avanzati, with the collaboration of SISSA Data Science group, for the realization of an original and unpublished journalistic investigation based on the data of the Covid-19 pandemic in Italy. The scholarship was co-financed by the School with the contribution of the writer Paolo Giordano, teacher of the SISSA Master’s course in Science Communication “Franco Pratico”, with the proceeds from his book *Nel contagio* (Einaudi, 2020).

From “patient zero” in Italy to the effects that Covid-19 has generated in the health and economic systems, the investigation recounts the evolution of



pandemic starting from the data with in-depth links, stories and interviews, ending with an analysis of what did not work and why.

“Davide Mancino’s survey is the result of a meticulous work that lasted a year on some of the most significant questions regarding the pandemic in which the answers are finally found in the data” says Paolo Giordano.”The results of his investigation demonstrate how the impact of the public crisis in which we have been involved for almost two years is still unknown, and above all they confirm the need for quality journalism that requires time and resources. on the pandemic data. I hope that my decision to donate my book’s proceeds to this and the other survey on the pandemic data already published by Riccardo Saporiti could encourage similar initiatives”.

The work is available on <http://www.grandeonda.it/it/> , published in English thanks to the collaboration with the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) of Washington on <http://www.grandeonda.it/en/>

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SISSA

Scuola Internazionale
Superiore di Studi Avanzati
Via Bonomea 265, Trieste

W www.sissa.it

Facebook, Twitter
@SISSAschool

CONTACT

SISSA

Marina D’Alessandro
→ marina.dalessandro@sissa.it
T +39 349 2885935

Nico Pitrelli

→ pitrelli@sissa.it
T +39 335 6073350