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QAnon and the "Conspiracy of the pedosatanist elite" 1

From mole children, allegedly sequestered in tunnels by the cabal, to the Wayfair rumor, the theme of the conspiracy of the pedosatanist elite is central to the QAnon movement.

Introduction

QAnon aggregates other conspiracy theories that already exist. The QAnon nebula is part of a general climate of mistrust linked to the exponential growth of conspiracy theories since the seventies. An important factor in this climate of mistrust has been the abandonment of the complicit silence covering sexual violence against minors, and the interpretations given to this recognition. The accusation of an essential complicity linking pedophiles, these figures of absolute evil in the 21st century, to the political and social elites constitutes one of these interpretations, which feeds conspiracy theories. Through an analysis of QAnon productions, I will try to identify and then analyze the importance of this theme.

The revelations of pedophilia cases that occurred in institutions whose reflex had been to ignore the victims and protect their members, even though they were aggressors, have lastingly scandalized public opinion.

QAnon is a movement that is built around an allegation: President Donald Trump is fighting against the cabal of the deep state composed of satanic pedophiles. The main evil that POTUS [President Of The United States]'s vigorous intervention would eliminate during the Great Storm followed by the Great Awakening was the sexual exploitation of children. Indeed, the evil elites are recharging their batteries and cementing their power through the sharing of criminal pedophile behavior. All this would soon disappear, affirmed the QAnon doxa. Appeared in October 2017 [in the wake of Pizzagate], the QAnon phenomenon is still very much alive, despite the earthquake of November 2020 which saw the defeat of its hero, forcing followers to question the heart of their belief: the forthcoming success of the crusade led by Donald Trump against the deep state (Greenspan 2020).

The Harms of Child Sexual Exploitation, a Central Theme for QAnon

Whether in the movement's documents or in the comments of analysts, it appears that denouncing the harms of child sexual exploitation is at the heart of the QAnon movement. The first example is taken from the QAnon France website https://qanon-france.com/.

But their most profitable activity is by far the most sordid / Human beings trafficking, and mainly child sexual trafficking

Human trafficking is an industry that generates \$32 billion \$32 billion

More than 8 million children disappear each year in the world

For example in France, the number of children who disappear and are not found the following year is: 11,000 each year

These figures are a low estimate of the colossal profits generated by these crimes

¹ 8,993 words reduce to 2500-3000

In a QAnon review article *the New York Times* outlines the key role and in addition the multi-faceted nature of the movement's beliefs is emphasized:

QAnon is the umbrella term for a sprawling set of internet conspiracy theories that allege, falsely, that the world is run by a cabal of Satan-worshiping pedophiles who are plotting against Mr. Trump while operating a global child sex-trafficking ring (Roose 2020b)

In December 2020 *The New York Times* once again insists on the power of the QAnon mythology:

Millions of people have been lured down dark internet rabbit holes like <u>QAnon</u>, a pro-Trump conspiracy theory that claims satanic Democrats abuse and eat children and is fueled by someone posing as a government official (Nicas 2020)

Mole Children

Denunciations of the misdeeds of the powerful targeting children were frequent in the QAnon world from its appearance.

The pandemic seemed to fuel the movement and QAnon supporters followed Trump in his hostility to the wearing of the mask at the onset of the COVID-19 crisis. The wearing of the mask, to which Trump's supporters are logically hostile like their hero, is denounced because "letting your child wear a mask makes it harder for them to cry for help, which they will need to do, because there are evil people, right now, coming to kidnap them" (Jennings 2020)

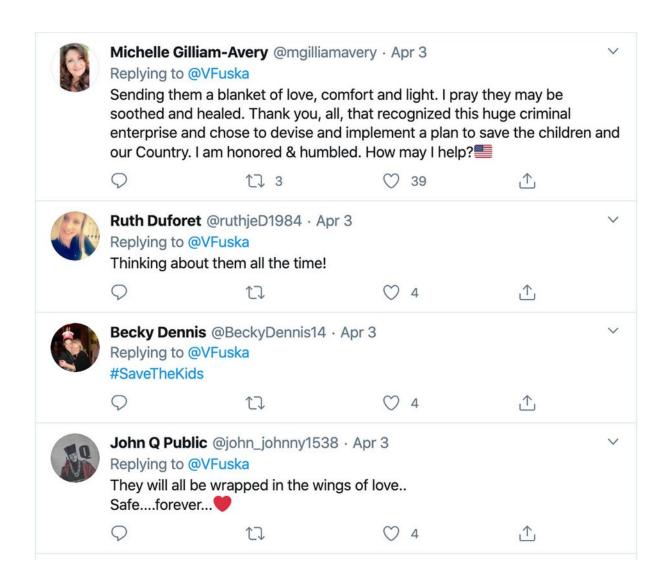
The installation of tents in New York's Central Park in the Spring of 2020 will be interpreted as indications of a rescue operation for mole children. These victims of the deep state having escaped from it and hiding underground are thus saved and taken care of. The tents operate under cover, the health reason being a decoy; indeed COVID-19 does not exist but serves to justify these rescue activities organized by POTUS.

On April 2, Timothy Holmseth, who presents himself as a Minnesota-based journalist, posts a question on his site on April 1, 2020: "Is there a child rescue operation in New York right now?" and asserts: "A recent U.S. military operation rescued 35,000 'malnourished, caged and tortured' children from tunnels beneath New York City's Central Park and other unnamed U.S. cities". We only know the content of Holmseth's message through the fact-checking article of the Reuters agency reporting and denying these assertions on June 15, 2020, as his message has been deleted. Holmseth was the only source, and no other evidence had emerged, Reuters concluded. The journalists stressed that this lack of evidence only strengthened the believers in their beliefs:

Reuters was unable to find any reliable reports pertaining to the post's central claim that 35,000 children had been found and rescued from "secret tunnels" in the U.S.'s largest city. Users on social media appear to take this as a sign of the media's complicity in obscuring the relevance of this story, an argument often used in conspiracy theories. One example comment on the lack of reporting states: "They want this to be hidden" (Reuters 2020)

On April 2, 2020, two days after Holmseth's post, an emotional exchange about the unfortunate mole children - which was mocked by commentators - echoed on Twitter:





Mole People and Mole Children

Many occurrences of the expression "Mole Children" on Facebook refer to productions intended for a child audience, and are mostly cartoons. The characters of such child types living in underground spaces are frequent in this world of happy fantasy..

The idea of underground characters, organized in counter-society or living in isolation from the society that rejected them, is frequently found in contemporary entertainment industry productions. We will limit ourselves to the example of the contemporary revival of the *Morlocks* invented in 1895 by H.G. Wells in *The Time Machine*:

In <u>Marvel Comics</u>, two very different underground "mole people" societies exist: the <u>Morlocks</u>, a society of <u>mutant</u> outcasts, named after the subterranean race from H.G. Wells' novel, that live in the abandoned tunnels and sewers beneath <u>New York City</u>; and the inhabitants of <u>Subterranea</u>, a fictional cavernous realm far beneath the Earth's surface where various species of subterranean humanoids exist. The <u>Moloids</u> (or Mole People) are the inhabitants of Subterranea most commonly depicted in the comics. Moloids usually serve as soldiers for the <u>Mole Man</u>, a human from the surface world

who discovered Subterranea and subsequently became ruler of the Moloids. Mole Man is frequently an antagonist of the <u>Fantastic Four</u>. (Wikipedia *Mole People*)

In the 1990s, the very real subject of the homeless, many of whom were living in New York City, often in abandoned underground transportation systems and tunnels, became topical; they were referred to as The Mole People in an article in the *New York Times* (Tierney 1990) and later in journalist Jennifer Toth's book (1993), which was a great success but was also accused of sensationalism. The titles of later books on this phenomenon, by Dutch anthropologist Toen Voeten (1996, 2010) and photo-journalists Margaret Morton (1995) and Andrea Star Reese (2015) were more neutral and descriptive.²

The Wayfair rumor, a first mobilization

In July 2020, the Wayfair rumor, which claimed that children were being smuggled in expensive furniture paved the way for the mobilization of #savethechildren:

The theory was widely debunked, but thanks in part to amplification from various lifestyle influencers, #Wayfairgate trended on multiple platforms, arguably setting the stage for #SaveTheChildren to start trending a few weeks later" (Dickson 2020)

The rumor appeared as a simple isolated supposition. A post published in Redditt's conspiracy section wondered about it on July 9, 2020. Beginning by noticing that Wayfair was selling some utility closets for over \$10,000 the post pursued:

Is it possible Wayfair involved in Human trafficking with their WFX Utility collection? Or are these just extremely overpriced cabinets? (Note the names of the cabinets) this makes me sick to my stomach if it's true (Evon 2020)

PrincessPeach1987, the author of the post of the preceding day, was interviewed the next day, and specified the names of these pieces of furniture of great price: Neriah, Yaritza, Samiyah and Alyvia. (Whalen 2020).

It would be a very curious method for traffickers to thus showcase their atrocious misdeeds. This absurd rumor, however, had serious consequences. In July a press release from the Polaris association (Polaris Statement 2020) which maintains a national call center on trafficking in human beings reported a large number of calls related to this unfounded rumor and recalled that this had prevented the call center from responding to real requests for assistance:

The extreme volume of these contacts has made it more difficult for the Trafficking Hotline to provide support and attention to others who are in need of help. (Evon 2020)

² 356 words for this section *Mole people and mole children* that can be left out

The movement is resourcing itself by incorporating the #savethechildren themes

At the beginning of August 2019, 8chan, one of QAnon's main communication channels, is taken offline by its hoster/protector. The crisis will be short-lived, since in November 8kun is launched by the founders of 8chan with several pages dedicated to QAnon (Amarasingam & Argentino 2020) and the development of QAnon continues.

After actions via Facebook and Twitter against the QAnon pages, a mobilization campaign around the hashtag "#savethechildren" leads to considerable developments for the movement. A *New York Times* article quotes Marc-André Argentino from Concordia University at Montreal, who studies QAnon. He has:

Identified 114 groups that bill themselves as anti-trafficking concerns, but are actually dominated by QAnon content"; and indicates that, between July and the end of September "these groups have increased their membership by more than 3,000 percent — yes, 3,000 percent — with a corresponding surge in activity. 'It's bringing down the average age of a QAnon follower' Mr. Argentino said. 'In 2019, this was mainly a boomer movement. Now we're seeing millennials and Gen Z getting on board'. (Roose 2020a)

This activity entails the appearance of videos in which: "parents sound the alarm about pedophiles brainwashing and preying on children" (Roose 2020a). And by the organization of parades and demonstrations throughout the United States that will take place throughout the summer of 2020. An article from NBC thus reports that more than 200 demonstrations are planned for Saturday, August 22. (Zadrozny & Collins 2020)

Observers stress the importance of the relays offered by Internet influencers. In their quest for notoriety on TikTok, they take advantage of the numerous reactions to these statements. The social network popular among teenagers has removed hashtags such as #WWG1WGA and #pizzagate, but has nevertheless hosted a great deal of this type of content:

TikTok with hundreds of likes shows a young mother triumphantly tossing her child's Toy Story bowl in the garbage (per QAnon lore, the star of Toy Story, Tom Hanks, is believed to be enmeshed in the deep state pedophile cabal) (Dickson 2020)

Let's return to QAnon and the allegations about unfortunate (and imaginary) mole children. On December 31, 2020, Robyn Pennacchia discusses the subject and points out that this accusation, like the Wayfair rumor, is based on the thinnest foundations:

Who among us can forget the MOLE CHILDREN. This was another one of those conspiracy theories, like the Wayfair conspiracy, that was pretty much based entirely on one person going "What if THIS thing were true?" and a whole bunch of other people going "Sounds about right to me!" (Pennachia 2020)

Why do QAnon's extreme allegations about child sex trafficking mobilize so successfully?

After detailing the extravagant allegations from the QAnon galaxy about child sex abuse, our purpose here will be to analyze how the extreme allegations about child sexual exploitation have strongly mobilized audiences in 2020 who have then, by contiguity as it were, adhered to all the QAnon theses.

A The United States

Denying the extreme figures

The QAnon galaxy circulates extreme figures about child sex trafficking, be it at the global level, in the United States or in France; it defines child sex trafficking in a very special way presenting it as one of the major activities of the evil "elite group of Satan worshippers" that the QAnon denounce and whose disappearance they announce. In the United States, the QAnon commonly cites the figure of 800,000 annual disappearances of children. These extravagant claims result in significant levels of approval. Thus in a survey for national public radio conducted from December 21 to 25, 2020 in the United States, the Ipsos institute asked to identify as true or false the statement: "A group of Satan-worshipping elites who organize a sexual network of child exchanges are trying to control our politics and our media". Only 47% answered "it's not true"; 37% did not know if the statement was false or true and 17% thought it was true.(Newall 2020)

Michael Hobbes, journalist who since May 2018 has been hosting "You're Wrong About", a blog that analyzes and denies the collective fears and urban legends of yesterday, the first episode of which was devoted to the satanic panics of the 1980s, has analyzed these appalling figures. (Hobbes 2020)

A first difficulty is that of definitions because nobody talks about the same thing when child sex trafficking is mentioned. Thus, the American legal definition is very broad since the paid meeting of an underage prostitute (or prostitute) constitutes trafficking even if its duration does not exceed one hour. While this is a distressing social fact, it is far from the worst-case scenarios that still feed contemporary blockbuster films describing the global networks of kidnapping of young virgins to order.

A second problem comes from the quality of the figures circulating. They are often based on poor quality studies that extrapolate to the entire population basing themselves on results obtained from a small, biased sample (100 girls recruited through volunteer work, for example). In addition, they are made to tell what is not. Thus the 800,000 'disappearances' assumed to occur annually in the United States correspond in fact to a figure half as high of 424,606 reports of disappearance; a very high figure, however, most (99%) are resolved by the return of the child. The number of actual disappearances (stereotypical kidnappings corresponding to

the French *disparition inquiétante*) was 115 per year in 2011 according to NISMART (National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Throwaway Children). These revised figures do not correspond to a smooth and harmonious reality and parental abductions or runaways are indicators of much suffering. Hence the persistence of fantasy narratives of the *Taken* type, which have the advantage of attributing the ills to external and all-powerful sources.

In *Taken*, the heroic Lian Neeson saves his kidnapped daughter from Albanese networks ready to sell her in the Middle East. Released in 2008, the movie has been written and produced by Luc Besson; it played for 23 weeks in the U.S., receipts \$145 000 989 and for 11 weeks in France, 1 018 518 entrances; two follow-ups, in 2012 and 2015, and a TV series in 2017-2018 will prolong its success (Wikipedia *Taken* (film)). This brief account of the film's career shows that this kind of story - which all connoisseurs say is hardly anchored in reality - always has a great impact, even if the entertainment/information frontier here remains hazy and uncertain.

The 1980s in the United States: (a) Missing Children)

The QAnon accusations have led all commentators to refer to the 1980s in the United States, which were already mixing the very real problem of child sex abuse with the largely imaginary problem of satanic pedocriminality.

The theme of the fight against the sexual exploitation of children is not new one, but has been around for forty years in the United States. The missing children movement will be the first to mobilize public opinion. The dramatic abduction and murder of two 6-year old children will play a major role in this movement's construction:

Etan Patz will disappear in 1979 in New York on his way to his school bus and Adam Walsh in 1981 in Hollywood (Florida) in a shopping mall. Etan Patz will never be found (a conviction after a confession will take place in 2017); Adam's head will be discovered two weeks later in a drainage canal; his murder will only be attributed to Otis Toole, a serial murderer who died in prison in 1996, in 2008. In 1983 the television documentary Adam will be seen by 38 million spectators at its first screening.

Adam's father, John Walsh, was an active advocate for more responsive public policy and was instrumental in the creation in 1984 of the NCMEC National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, a federally funded center dedicated to combating child disappearances and exploitation during the Reagan era when federal disengagement was a major focus of public policy.

The missing children problem surged in a period:

Featuring considerable discussion about the victimization of children. The same newspapers and magazines which printed articles about missing children also explored child abuse, child prostitution, child pornography, Halloween sadism, incest, child molestation, satanic cults, and harmful rock lyrics. (Best 1987:117).

Joël Best, a sociologist who has devoted several articles and books to this problem, reminds us that this is about the setting-up of arguments designed to move people; activists who want to change things brandish numbers without always sorting them out; it's all about persuading:

The debate over stranger abduction reveals the importance of statistics in the discussion of social problems. Three principles seem clear: big numbers are better than little numbers; official numbers are better than unofficial numbers; and big, official numbers are best of all. (Best 1988:90).

Thirty-three years later, the recipe remains the same except for the preference for official figures that have fallen victim to the considerable progress of the rejection of institutions.

The 1980s in the United States: (b) Satanic panics

At the same time, the Americans of the 1980s were alarmed by the existence of a satanic cult with more than a million followers and some 60,000 baby sacrificed every year. Ignored by the serious press, these allegations were the talk of the town on television programs, where they sometimes peaked to large-scale audiences, and on radio; they inspired documentary books and fiction. Therapists helped survivors to recover - often under hypnosis - memories of the abuse they had suffered and these survivors successfully sued their abusive parents in civil court.

For sociologists studying the phenomenon, the contrast with the missing children's movement was striking because there was no evidence of the allegations' reality (Best 2001).

I have discussed this collective fear, which had spread to the United Kingdom but had spared France, proposing an interpretation of it:

Contemporary legends often appear in the context of social conflicts, but they also alter them. Their role is political, in that they make ambiguous and stressful situations controllable and interpretable. The emergence of a legend is an index of strain and stress, revealing the expectations of a public who spread the legend and are convinced by it. Thus, though a legend may be unbelievable, it embodies very real fear and anguish. When the eighteenth-century Parisian hostess Mme du Deffand was asked, 'Do you believe in ghosts?' she answered, 'No, but I am afraid of them'. The same thing might be said about the extravagant allegations that are made today in the United States about the extraordinary evil-doings of satanic sects or cults. (Campion-Vincent 1993: 238).

The craze for the idea of a bloody satanic cult was short-lived: investigations launched by skeptics led to the denial of dramatic allegations (Nathan, Snedeker 1995); sociologists spoke of moral panic, i.e. collective fear without foundation (Richardson, Best and Bromley 1991); psychologists denounced false memories induced by suggestive hypnotic therapies (Loftus 1993); the survivors' parents organized themselves and created the *False Memory Syndrome Foundation* (1992-2019); finally some survivors sued - always in civil courts – their hypnotherapists for implantation of false memories.

B Evolution 1980-2021

Child sex abuse, Satanism

Forty years later, it is striking that we find the two themes associated; however, with important differences: traumatic amnesia following sexual abuse, long questioned because of the excesses of suggestive hypnotic therapies, is quite widely recognized although debates remain among professionals. If the term satanists is still used, it is as a simple attribute of the elites, a dreadful trait (but not developed in the hypothesis of organized worship) which is part of the evil essence of the elites. As for the accusations of murders of young children, always present, they are technicized since it is to obtain a rejuvenating substance, adrenochrome, that these murders are said to be perpetrated.

A long-standing issue, but always in mutation

Concern around child sex abuse is – in the United States but mostly in France – an evolving issue. After the centration, reassuring, upon the danger caused by the outside aggressor one arrives at the recognition of the ubiquity of aggressors who are our close ones, our kin, like us.

At the same time, the demonization of the elites seems to be progressing, with the denunciation of their complicity in sexual abuse in the broadest sense, also targeting women and the weak: this is the explosion of #MeToo hashtags from 2017 onwards. The success of the accusations in the QAnon galaxy can be explained by the merging of these two issues.

. Pedosatanist elites: an utmost

In the long run, the threats yesterday attributed to foreigners and minorities are now transferred to the corrupt elites and the misdeeds attributed to them seem to prove their deep abjection by their very enormity. These misdeeds constitute an *utmost*, since these pedosatanists attack children, the heart of the group's life. Certainly the external enemies of yesterday are not forgotten and the complicity that unites "them" and "ours" often evoked, however the emphasis is placed on the enemy within.

C In France

The recognition of child sex abuse is, in France in 2021, a hot topic in rapid evolution.

Two recent books have questioned the complicity and the selfishness of the elites: Le Consentement (2020) denouncing a writer who had long boasted about his liaisons with young

teenage girls while remaining appreciated and protected by public authorities and intellectual circles: Gabriel Matzneff; *La Familia Grande* (2021), revealing a "family secret" known but buried as early as 2008, will lead to the demolition of a major figure of the elite. We'll limit ourselves to a discussion of the aspects that account for the French public's receptiveness to the extreme allegations presented by the QAnon movement on child sex abuse.

From the May 1968 attitude (unlimited sexual liberation) to indignation

Over a long period of time, marked by what is commonly referred to as the May '68 attitude (i.e., an unlimited sexual liberation, normalizing homosexuality and sometimes describing children as desirous and accomplices), public opinion in France seemed to accept the legitimacy of adults' sexual relations with children and adolescents. The exchange between Gabriel Matzneff, complacently questioned by Bernard Pivot in *Apostrophes* about the multiple adolescent conquests listed in his latest opus, and the Canadian journalist-writer Denise Bombardier, who expressed her rejection, which lead to sneers on the set and then to an outcry against the protester, dates from March 2, 1990. More subtle than the intellectuals who derided her, President Mitterrand, anxious to distance himself from Gabriel Matzneff which he had received, invited Denise Bombardier to the Elysée Palace. She will tell the story of their exchange ten years later:

So, this Matzneff, you have pushed him around, he told me with a complicit smile. It is true, he went on, that once I recognized him some talent and a certain culture. Unhappily (his voice became theatrical) he has descended into pedophilia ... and the orthodox religion!

— I added: In my country he would be jailed, Mr. President.

Ah! Said he, with a sweeping arm gesture, you know as well as me these Parisian intellectuals. They are so obsessed to seem liberal, especially in these so delicate matters, that they stray. (Bombardier 2000).³

The debate around the merchant networks

Iconic faits divers play a major role in the recognition of abuse. I have shown earlier how the Dutroux (1996, Belgium) Alègre (2003, Toulouse, France) Outreau (2001-2005, Boulogne, Northern France) criminal cases overcame these complacent attitudes. However:

One of the negative consequences of the recognition of child sex abuse has been the adherence to the theses of a pedophile conspiracy of the powerful. (Campion-Vincent 2008:53).

The existence of merchant networks is very real, and the growth of the Internet, which has created a lucrative market for child sex abuse images, has greatly increased their occurrences (Dance & Keller 2019-2020). But beyond these real

³ 250 words. Can be suppressed

cases, the existence of merchant networks involving elites continues to be a matter of debate. This hypothesis is so firmly rejected by the French judicial institution, scalded by the mistakes committed during of the Outreau case, that the institution sometimes is over-cautious even when complicities are obvious. Thus it will be only 18 months after Jeffrey Epstein's suicide on August 18, 2019 that Jean-Luc Brunel, head of a model agency very close to Epstein, will be indicted and jailed in France (Autran 2020). On the other side of the fence, some children's defense associations firmly maintain the most extreme hypotheses.

Marc Dutroux was "the provider of fresh flesh for orgies involving the Belgian Gotha"; Patrice Alègre supplied the sadomasochist network in Toulouse; the accused declared innocent in Outreau were indeed guilty; last but not least Jeffrey Epstein was present in Paris when - from 14 to 16 June 2019 - a meeting of the "sulfurous Trilateral" was held (Garde, Sellier & Zéro 2020:30 and 39).

Victims 'associations' and activism around disappearances

The numbers of missing minors in France are high. We find the same distinction as in the United States, not always easy to explain, between reports of disappearances (51,287 in 2019) and disturbing disappearances (918 in the same year, supplemented by 524 parental abductions, often by a parent living outside France). Since 2012 the public authorities have been subsidizing a unique call number - which exists at the European level - 116 000. However, the associations, which are numerous and often created after the loss of a loved one, deplore the lack of coordination between all the players in this multifaceted and complex field. France does not have the equivalent of the American NCMEC.

These disappearances sometimes correspond to murders, and when the murderers are repeat offenders, politicians join grieving families in attacking the judicial institution. For the past thirty years, the families of victims, or those whose cases are closed and remain unsolved, have complained about the indifference of the public authorities and have organized themselves into associations. This activism is hardly to the liking of the judicial institution

D To conclude

Kidnapping of children by a network of powerful corrupt people acting on a very large scale? It is a phantasm, a delusion, but a recurring one, exploited by a whole sector of these scary fictions that we all consume. The phantasm is also indirectly used by activists who want to change an opinion they consider indifferent as they present their causes by matching their demands for redefinition of a state of affairs with appalling (but fortunately rare) examples that are likely to stir up the public they want to convince. Thus, the demand for a more active fight against child sex abuse will be introduced by atrocity tales intended to persuade, which are rhetorical arguments, quite legitimate. These atrocity tales remain and subsequently play a central role.

However, the advent of the Internet has led to a development that everyone agrees is exponential in the trade of images of sex abuse. Raping children can be very lucrative, and it is tempting to choose those children readily available, to rape *your* children. Activists, journalists, police forces agree on one point: this exponential growth is beyond their control:

The distinction between the intra and extra-familial has become tenuous at a time of cyber-criminality, live streaming ... The rape of a kid, at home, by a relative may be shared in several countries via a webcam (Garde, Sellier and Zero 2020:27).

As the technologies lower people's inhibitions, online groups are sharing images of younger children and more extreme forms of abuse. "Historically, you would never have gone to a black market shop and asked, 'I want real hard-core with 3-year-olds,'" said Yolanda Lippert, a prosecutor in Illinois who leads a team investigating online child abuse. "But now you can sit seemingly secure on your device searching for this stuff, trading for it.". (Dance and Keller 2020)

In France the task-force PHAROS fights online child abuse, however its resources are not up to the task, as explained a recent legislative proposal: "Thirteen investigators are in charge of online child abuse [...] This group is overwhelmed by the cases and has to prioritize certain files. Meanwhile the scourge of child pornography spreads. (Proposition 3627, 2020).

To reject the delusional phantasm of a world-domineering pedosatanist elite must not mean being blind towards the seductions and harsh realities of evil.

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