

Cover to come



MY BROTHER IS A CONSPIRACIST
How to Re-establish Dialogue and Social Bonds
David Morin and Marie-Ève Carignan

How to reach an understanding of those who believe in conspiracy theories and to maintain a relationship with them.

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“Conspiracy theories” are not a new social phenomenon, as shown by the many theories about the attacks of September 11, 2001, the assassination of JFK, or the first man to walk on the Moon. There has nonetheless been an unprecedented surge in them as a result of the pandemic, to the point where we all now have someone we know who has gone over to an alternative and radical view of the crisis and to whom we give the not very flattering title of “conspiracist”. But what does that really mean? What are these “theories” so often discussed in the media? Who are these people who become radicalized and why do they do it? What is the role of socio-digital networks and the news media in this adherence process? What does this phenomenon tell us about the state of our societies? What are the political, social, public health, and public safety issues and consequences? And above all, how do we deal with this, individually and collectively?

David Morin and Marie-Ève Carignan aim to re-examine this complex phenomenon without making judgments. This book is a tool to help us better understand the belief in conspiracy theories and reflect jointly on what it means for our societies. Lastly, while there is no magic recipe, it tries to offer individual and collective solutions for dealing with this phenomenon and for better preparing ourselves for the next crisis.

STRONG POINTS

- A complex phenomenon explained in a clear and easily readable way.
- Examples and first-hand accounts that present a concrete picture of the phenomenon for readers and help them make sense of situations they've experienced.
- Advice from experts, including a psychologist.
- Authors are experts in the field of radicalization and disinformation and appear regularly in the media.

Subjects: conspiracy theories, radicalization, extremism, polarization, social networks, family, society, dialogue, COVID-19, pandemic

David Morin is a professor in the School of Applied Politics at the Université de Sherbrooke, and co-holder of the UNESCO Chair in Prevention of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism. A specialist in security issues, he has been working on the phenomena of radicalization and polarization for many years and has participated in numerous research projects and publications on these subjects in Canada and internationally.

Marie-Ève Carignan is a professor and the Head, Media Division, for the UNESCO Chair in Prevention of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism. She mainly focusses her research on the impact of media on society, disinformation, and risk and crisis communication, as well as on communication strategies.