

Project Group (Number and Name): 65 — What do you know?

Comment

Authors of the Comment: Alissa Hosemann, Pia Voigtländer, Jorina Wogan

Comment:

Questioning knowledge.

In our project group we dealt with the colonization of knowledge and the lack of perspectives of knowledge in western-centered thinking.

We worked with the paper „DELINKING The rhetoric of modernity, the logic of coloniality and the grammar of de-coloniality“ written by Walter D. Mignolo published in 2007 and with the video of our academic, Lieselotte Hermes de Fonseca.

We defined decolonization of knowledge in criticizing the western totalitarian claim of trying to know everything.

Working on this we realized the complexity of this issue and focused on two important challenges.

For generations people’s minds have been influenced by western way of thinking and western culture worldwide.

Other cultures and ways of thinking are getting pushed back and will disappear eventually.

We asked: Can the colonization of knowledge be reversed?

One said: let’s google it!

But what exactly is Google? Google is an american, capitalistic driven company that makes money of people’s curiosity. Google is a search engine that has become synonymous with the act of looking up anything on the internet. In doing so it has outrivaled all of its competitors and has become the monopoly of knowledge online. What do you see when you google something? Probably a short definition, ads and about 15 search results. The rest is

catapulted into the oblivion via the 2nd page. It supplies us with pre-filtered, often western embossed information and therefore has the power to highly influence the way we see the world.

This is one of the biggest examples for modern colonization regarding knowledge these days.

Our vision: creating a search engine, more like a global library, that is not monetized. One that offers a plurality of perspectives to every person in the world. You decide to know.

We imagined an utopia in that every person worldwide has the opportunity to access knowledge and results of research from all over the world. No monetized western company controls the perspectives people have on the world.

Sounds good? For us, it does!

But who are we? Who are we to decide if and how decolonization takes place? We, as privileged people living in Germany.

These are the questions we asked ourselves again and again during the process of dealing with the topic we chose for the opening week.

In some way we feel uncomfortable with being the ones to come up with ideas to change the world from our superior, western position. But what we can do now with the knowledge we gained is trying to change the way we look at information we get and behave accordingly with being open to other perspectives and critique we receive.

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