

**Project Group (Number and Name): "What do you know?" Digital Cognitive Disruption? Knowledge Between Activism and Research, Google and Archives (Number:66)**

## **Comment**

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### **„What do we know?“**

#### **Digital cognitive disruption? Knowledge between activism and research, Google and archives**

What a broad topic. Different areas of interest emerged in the discussions about understanding the topic, but ultimately, we came to the consensus of questioning knowledge.

In addition, we phrased the following key question: "What different possibilities are available to critically question lifelong knowledge acquisition with a focus on social media?"

But why did we choose this topic? History shows how important it is to question generally accepted knowledge. What if we still thought the earth was flat or mercury helped against syphilis. Even today, a critical approach to knowledge leads to turningpoints in society. The concept of sexual identity and orientation is being reconsidered, as is humanity's awareness for environmental damage. But even in the simpler sense, it is becoming increasingly important to critically question. Anyone who has access to the medium of the Internet is exposed to potential fake news on a daily basis. It is therefore particularly important to provide the younger generations with methods to filter the flow of knowledge they receive. Of course, not everything is false, but the lack of effort on society's part to check can lead to a vicious circle of superficial knowledge. Surely many people heard President Donald Trump's statements about the alleged election fraud in 2020. The New York Times researched the claim, only to find out that Trump's assertion is false. Therefore, it is important to note that even authorities should not be trusted blindly. To inform yourself look at different and trustworthy sources, such as independent institutions of their expertise. Especially on social media platforms like TikTok or Instagram, be critical as there is potentially filtration and almost no actual control of the accuracy of the posted content. In politics in particular, misinformation can be deliberately used for manipulation. Additionally, censorship might restrict the possibilities of actively checking published information for its

reliability. In the further discourse, the question arose whether being falsely informed is one's own fault. For example, the social environment and lack of equal opportunities as well as censorship, resulting in limited access to verification options. This led us to the conclusion that our mindset is a result of how and where we grew up and what social interaction we faced. Still, it is our own responsibility to unravel the inaccuracy in what we witness to belief. In the spirit of Immanuel Kant lack of motivation is no excuse for absence of questioning. Still selection should not lead to general mistrust.

In our vision, we show, although exaggerated, the various methods that we would like to see universally used in the future. In our opinion, this would contribute to a world of peace, acceptance and equality of opportunities.

So please follow the methods.

Be open minded.

Look at various sources.

And be aware that everyone can be wrong.

Our vision starts now!

## **Video Information**

**Title of the Video:** Questioning A Life Long Acquisition Of Knowledge

**Authors of the Video:** Luise Willberg, Levi de Waardt, Lilly Kretschmer, Aydan Özerden, Céline Ruske, Valerie von Skerst, Alina Beringschmidt, Tim Schweigstill, Jessica Ringel, Moritz Kröger