

Project Group (72, Academic sense and militant research):

Comment

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Comment: Academic sense and militant research

Over the past few decades, we have been experiencing quite a few turning points and massive changes in our society and planet, thus the need for research and thirst for knowledge is drastically increasing. Now as a citizen one asks oneself who do I trust and what kind of research is trustworthy.

Militant research can be defined as an attempt to combine activism and academics. The goal is to find a way of transmitting/finding knowledge, that subjectivity is a foundation of this method.

In our group we discussed the relevance of activist topics and how these topics can find access in academic research. But also, the limits of militant research.

At the beginning it was quite difficult for us to gain an understanding of militant research. We asked ourselves if militant research can be used to create a new sense of communication between extreme activist groups and the society. Nevertheless, not every opinion of activist groups can be either tolerated in our moral system or can be proven by traditional or logical scientific methods.

We had the pleasure of working together with Christopher Brunner. He provided new perspectives on our opinions and brought new input for us to gain a deeper understanding of militant research as a whole.

This week, we also came to the conclusion that, especially because of globalization and digitalization, news gained a new reach. This is why we believe that the media possesses the power to select what kind of news gets published and decide what topics get drawn attention to. Militant research enables emotions and experience to shape the world of science and research and to expand one's horizon on possible ways to include knowledge from minorities such as indigenous and locals. Moreover it makes citizens feel acknowledged by the institutions.

This links the world of institutions like universities with activists and the public and enables a new way of communication between them.

But we perceive militant research as an academic method as well. Even though this method might include more voices from “the street” or from minorities, often it’s been used by academics, so that leaves the question open, if militant research really can help to improve the communication with the “outside of the ivory tower”.

We conclude that opinions are often embedded in our cultural beliefs and hence harder to shape. Nonetheless we believe that militant research can't be the only tool in our scientific evolution, because subjects like medicine depend on scientific research. We realized that militant research helps evolve universities and their perspective as a whole.

Looking forward, we as a society must let go of biased opinions and make use of the diverse ways of including knowledge and opinions in our society. We must focus on what ways of knowledge can be used to improve our system.

This week we enjoyed getting some insight into this controversial yet vital academic issue and will keep an eye on this in the coming months of our first steps into our academic journey.

Video Information

Title of the Video: *072_militant-research*

Authors of the Video: Nils Schulze, Mika Fischer, Paul Rumann, Marlene Berlinghoff, Cedric Schulte, Azerina Spahalic, Natalie Kurt

Music:

<https://www.fesliyanstudios.com/royalty-free-music/download/dream-sound-effects/227>

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