

## **Workshop: Verschwörungsmychen und Fake News**

### **Fake News:**

- literally: „faked news“
- False, inexact or misleading information (misinformation) intentional deception (disinformation) or subconscious fake news
- Often politically charged
- single true details in a falsified context

### **How to recognize fake news**

- **1. Check source**
  - Who is the author?
  - Is the source reliable?
  - Are there contact details and an imprint?
- **2. Check the facts**
  - Are opinions supported by facts?
  - Is only one opinion strongly represented or are other perspectives shown as well?
  - Are the facts recent or outdated?
  - Is there an indication of sources?
  - Do others report about this topic as well?
- **3. Check appearance**
  - Does the text contain typing or spelling mistakes?
  - Is the language very emotional? Are there very lurid headlines?
  - Does the image fit the text?
  - Where is the message to be found? (Facebook post, chain letter without an address?)
- **4. Ask professionals**
  - Are the facts really facts?
  - Websites like [correctiv.org](https://www.correctiv.org) oder [hoaxmap.org](https://www.hoaxmap.org) check the facts

### **Why do some people believe in fake news:**

- They offer simple solutions for complex problems
- fear of loss of control
- transfer of responsibility
- need for individuality or desire for recognition

### **How do I best react to fake news:**

➔ Online

- Be critical/ question
- Counter arguments → link fact finder
- Check facts and sources
- Point others to fake news
- Report admin
- Do not forward

### ➔ **Offline (e.g. in my closer environment)**

- Do not lecture, insult or make fun of the person → meeting on eye level
- take concerns seriously and show understanding, reproduce motives
  - example sentences
    - „I have not understood yet ...“
    - „That thought is new to me. I am curious. Why is this the way you see it?“
    - „What exactly do you mean by that? I am not quite sure how I am supposed to understand it when you say ...“
    - „I am having a hard time understanding why ...“
    - ...“ I am just thinking. What exactly is so bad about ...?“
- question critically and encourage self-reflection (sow doubts)
  - Critical questions
    - Why do you believe that?
    - Where did you get this information?
    - How reliable is this source?
    - What other content does this source share?
    - Why should a YouTuber of all people get behind the secret?
- Research together
- Know your own competences → be well-informed yourself / be able to assess your own knowledge well
- Show alternative solutions for fears, doubts etc.
- mind your own choice of words: Do not repeat fake news ( Human beings remember what they have heard last. When repeating it, the fake news will reinforce themselves)
- If a normal discussion/conversation is not possible, distance yourself clearly from the other person's statements and possibly postpone the conversation/discussion.