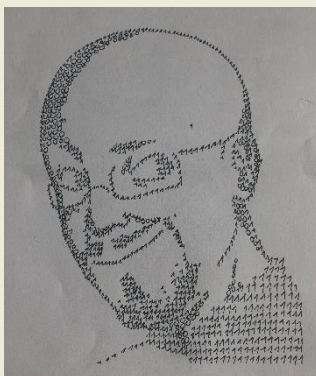# Austrian online meeting

WELCOME

The Austrian meeting – which was for **teachers** only – was held **online** as we could only meet digitally because of the ongoing pandemic. Nevertheless, we tried to present our region and school using a video. We wanted the teachers from the other participating counries to get to know Styria and Leibnitz.

The overall theme of the meeting was **internet safety**. Two speakers were invited to work with us and to provide more insight in this topic – let us introduce our experts on internet security and fake news!

1. Pawel "alxd" Ngei

... is an educator and free software/open notebook science activist interested in neuroscience, technology, and policies around the world. He is the creator of Glieder Ink project and a member of Global Innovation Gathering, connecting hackers from the Global South. Currently based in Poland and blogs at https://alxd.org/

Fake News has been with us since the dawn of the written word, but the rise of social networks in the XXI century has totally changed the social mechanisms which propagate it in our societies. We examined the problem from both social and technological perspectives, we looked for the sources of the problem, possible systemic solutions and learned a concrete set of tools to analyze and debunk fake news. Additionally, we discussed their bloody consequences in Pakistan and Sudan, logical fallacies and biases, dopamine cycles and attention optimization.
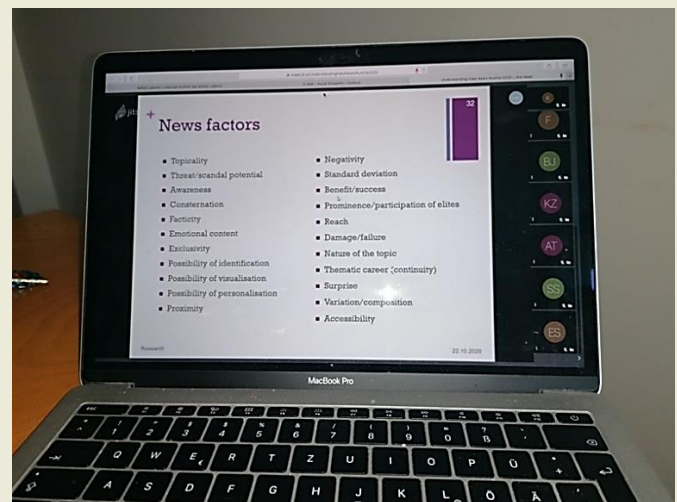
Lecture 🎤
by Michael Roither

2. Michael Roither

by Kim Braun

… is the Vice Rector for International Affairs, Professor for Digital Media and Communication, University of Applied Sciences Burgenland; Program Director, Digital Media and Communication (Master) in Eisenstadt; Co-Founder & Managing Director (eLAC eLearning Academy for communication GmbH); Freelance Journalist (Salzburger Nachrichten since 2009); Lecturer / Reviewer in Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Hungary, Poland, Latvia.

Useful resources for teachers & students:

Cybersecurity:
https://youtu.be/j2HUjl8cros &
https://slides.com/pawelngei/cryptoparty-2020-en

Fake News:
https://youtu.be/UoOel_Vgnl8 &
https://slides.com/pawelngei/fake-news-2020

Discord is available at
https://discord.gg/Ru3wgkT.

For a introduction on fake news, please check out:
https://getbadnews.com/

A map of fact-checking organizations: https://reporterslab.org/fact-checking/

Surveillance self defense:
https://ssd.eff.org/en

Merkel wants 12 million immigrants. The pope recommend electing Trump. Alexander van der Bellen has cancer. Three prominent examples of clear "fake-news". The lecture addressed the phenomemon from the journalistic and media-scientific point of view. The former in the form of media examples, the latter in the form of practical input on the mechanism behind them, including news value theory and the construction of reality in the media. The question of where "fake news" actually begins was particularly exciting there. The provocative thesis, based on initial research results: It is not the clear fake news that is problematic from a socio-political point of view, but the systematic, partly ideologically instrumentalized distortion of "news", which is clearly less clear than "fake".

Workshops and lectures

Basics of cybersecurity

By Pawel Ngei

In the western world every one of us uses the Internet in their daily life whether they're aware of it or not, but very few of us got a good quality education about how to use it properly and securely - and even fewer of us have kept their knowledge up to date. We talked about a wide variety of threats and systemic problems and looked at tools with which we can address every one of them. From social networks, phishing emails, ransomware, insecure passwords - we debunked the myths and looked at usable daily practices which can help us use the internet responsibly.

Fake News Debunking Workshop

By Pawel Ngei

During this workshop we were divided into groups and worked together to debunk a list of different claims, classifying them as true, false, or impossible to tell. For this, we used the tools that were introduced in the previous lecture - lateral reading, checking our sources, reverse image search and existing fact-checking reports. The practical skills acquired here should help the participants not only in their daily lives, but also preparing educational materials for their students.