



Can we trust the media?

Can we trust the media? This question is answered by Swiss peace researcher Dr. Daniele Ganser and journalist David Goeßmann, insider to the branch.

Since we are facing manipulation, distortion and war propaganda, media literacy is required! There are simple rules of verifying the trustworthiness of news reports ...



The Swiss historian and peace researcher Dr Daniele Ganser raised this question in his lecture in Basel on March 3rd, 2018. He stresses that of course there are good journalists. There is no reason to generally distrust all media reports. But the time, in which you trusted the media blindly, is over, according to Ganser.

Because over and over again there are manipulations, distortions, lies and war propaganda to be found in the media. Dr. Daniele Ganser differentiates between "NATO-compliant" and "NATO-critical" newspapers which report very differently about political events. Most widespread newspapers in the German-speaking realm are said to be NATO-compliant and to be reporting almost the same, as well as the radio stations.

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"Here you have Spiegel, on this axis, it is NATO-compliant. And Rubicon, it's NATO-critical - it is not exactly Russia Today - but it's NATO-critical."

Ganser emphasizes how much words influence our thinking and opinion: the more often we hear things, the more they stick to our minds, whether they are true or not. Dr. Ganser therefore calls to mindfulness in one's own media behavior. He recommends to not let oneself be scared or enchanted –and thus guided- by feelings of anxiety or newspaper headlines but rather to inform oneself through various media outlets while observing one's own thoughts and feelings.

This enables oneself to check the trustworthiness of what you hear and consume in an "awake" state of mind and results in media competence.

"You would have to look at these things very, very carefully. I would recommend everyone: Certainly with the media - either you consume nothing - okay, you just leave the whole theater aside - or you consume in an "awake" state of mind."

In his lecture, Daniele Ganser concretely presents eleven media stories and challenges the audience to look inside and to check on the effect these stories have.

Concerning the trustworthiness of the media, also journalist and insider of the branch, David Goeßmann, commented in his interview on the topic "Do the media lie?" from the year 2016.

"Anyone who looks at who owns, finances, manages and provides the daily stream of information and news or can influence and discipline them with backfire" should open the newspaper in the morning or turn on the news with a deep foundational sense of skepticism".

The questions one should always ask are: Does the world really look that way? Are we getting the full picture of relevant events? Who receives a big forum and who does not?

Where are there distortions, lies, omissions, hidden facts and where is being reported with double standards? Of course, one can also follow the idealism of a "free press." This is the basic attitude we've been taught. It does not make sense, though. Because the social power structures really do not end just nicely at the gates of media companies and broadcasters."

This was a brief excerpt from the interview with David Goeßmann.

Since the media's competence obviously is not a matter of what they can do, but rather a

matter of what they may do, media literacy seems more important than ever. Following you will see the Kla.TV broadcast “One world – three news agencies”.

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Sources:

<https://www.raum-und-zeit.com/r-z-online/mediathek/gesellschaft/kriegsluegen/>
<https://www.rubikon.news/artikel/wenn-regierungen-lugen-und-medien-mitmachen>

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