

Public trust and the media

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Public trust and the media

1. What are the trends in trust,
 - a. how does the information environment contribute to this?
 - b. courts and media.
2. Why "information environment" and not "media"?
3. And what is the role of the media in this whole picture?

Populism
Trust
Strategic disinformation

Trust in the judiciary



53%

of population perceived it
very good or fairly good

-1 pp

since 2017

Source: DG COMM

Perceived independence
of judiciary in 2021



50%

of population

+3 pp

since 2017

Source: DG COMM

People with confidence in the
European Parliament in 2022

36% say: "bad" (fairly or very)

TRUST for courts

- OECD 2022: 56%
- ECJ: 50% (between 33-73%)
- EU national: 53% (17-86%)



TRUST for courts

Lower trust:

- Lower education
- Lower income
- Young age
- Women
- Perceived vulnerabilities.

Higher trust:

University degree: +8%
Higher income: +23%



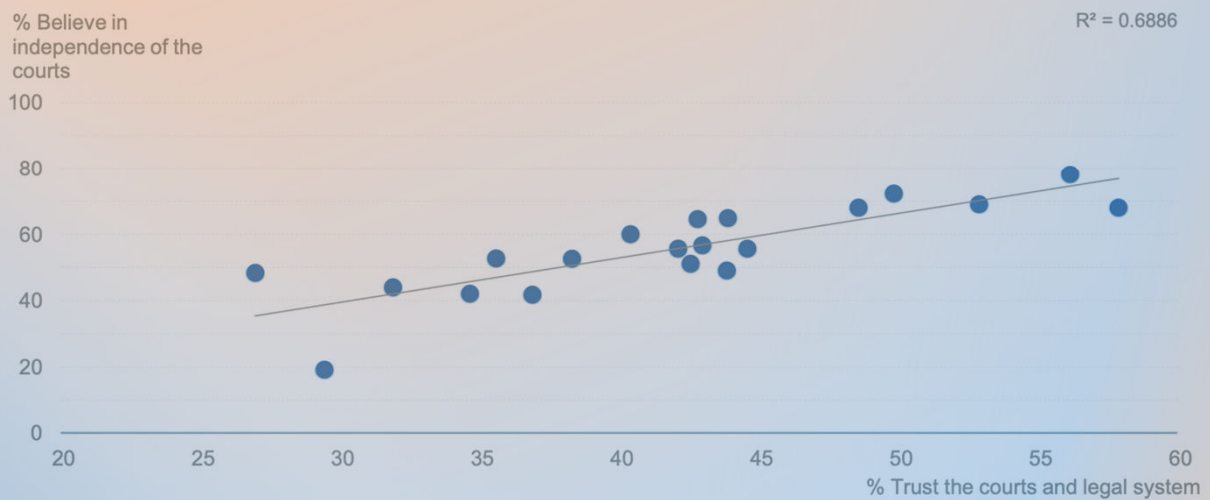
TRUST for courts

- A foundation of legitimacy
- Both rational and irrational



Figure 2.4. Trust in the courts and legal system is positively associated with perceptions of independence of the courts

Share of respondents who believe a court in their country would make a decision free from political influence (y-axis) and share of respondents who trust the courts and legal system (x-axis), 2021



Components of trust 1:

Rational component: the perception of **control** over the process:

Procedural fairness

Impartiality

Neutrality



Elements of trust 2:

Irrational: a.k.a. SOCIAL CAPITAL
– faith – predictability

Accountability

Transparency



“TO KNOW COURTS IS TO LOVE THEM”

Faith in ... ?

Faith in independence

“The watcher of the watchers”

Trust in media

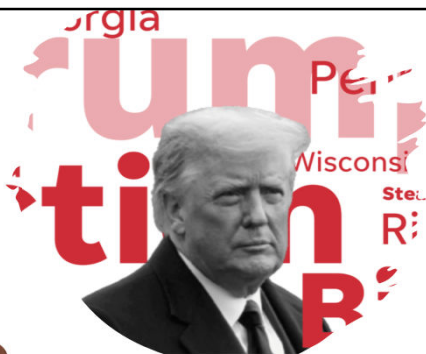
- EU 50%
- OECD 38%

Courts and media

No1. targets of illiberalism



Justiz ermittelt gegen Verbreitung von Fake News



Populistic narratives:

- Label judges as “Servants of elite”
- Attack polarizing decisions
- Personal attacks on judges; including deep fakes, smear campaigns



Activism on disinformation

- Brasil, Superior Electoral Court, Supreme Court
- Removal of disinformation, sanctioning social media

Transformed information environment

VANISHED GATEKEEPERS



NO ENTRY BARRIERS



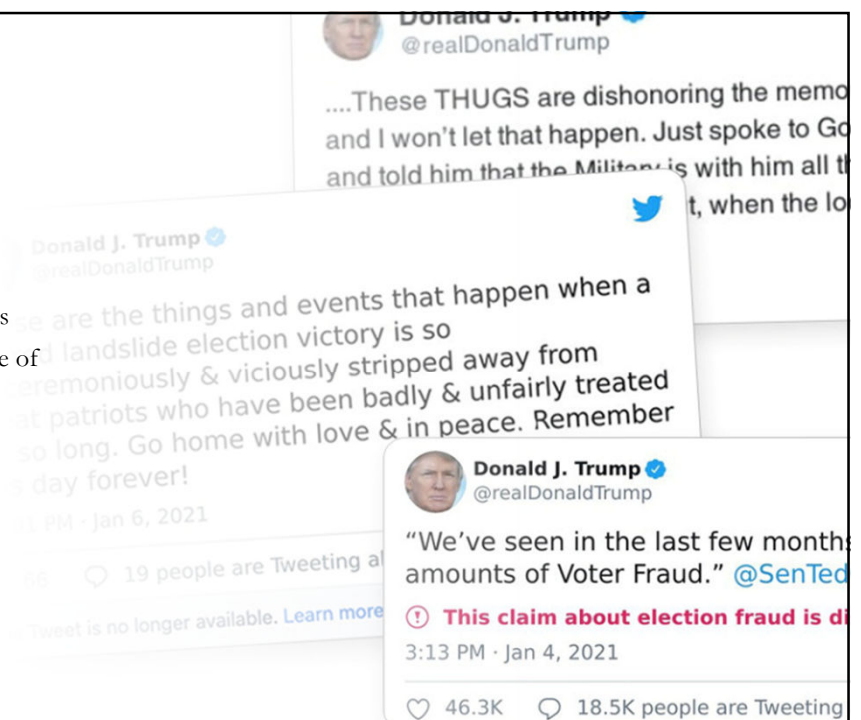


An illusion

- Illusion of freedom, pluralism and power
- without real changes on the ground

Populistic rhetoric

- Direct social media access to voters
- Lack of mediating-interpreting role of journalists



Populistic political communication

Direct access to voters

without journalistic interpretation and prioritisation



Disinformation - misinformation

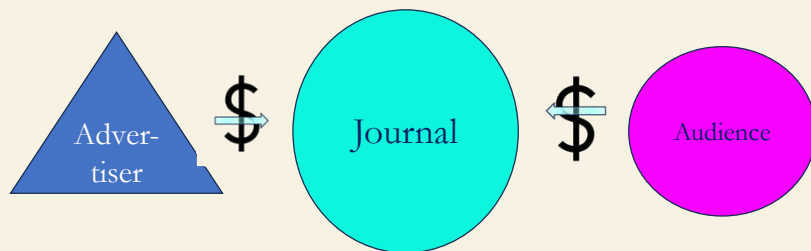
Foreign – domestic
Qanon – Santa Claus



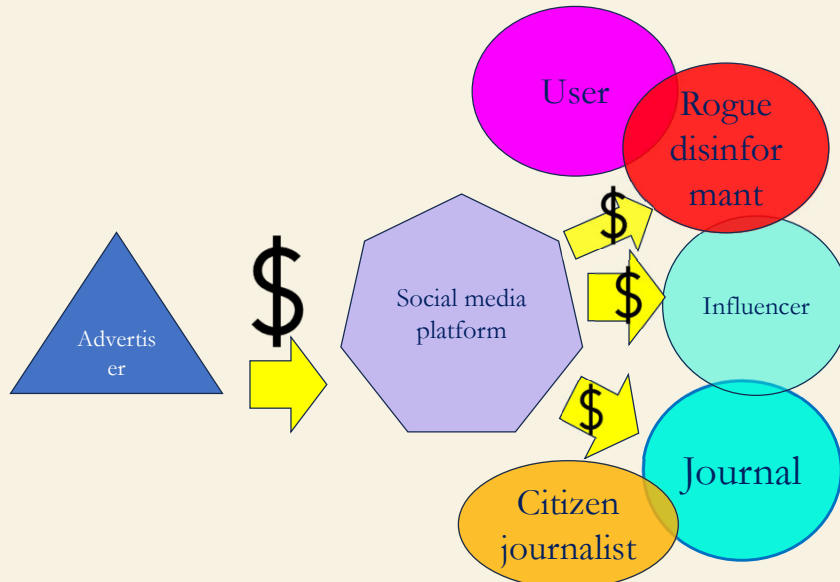
Polluted pool of information



Good ol' days



New business model



Distinctive factors of “pro media”

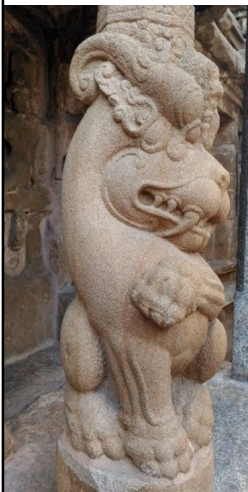
- ~~Institutional setting~~
- ~~Registration as a journalist~~
- ~~Genre~~
- ~~Profit or non-profit~~
- De facto compliance with journalistic standards.
- EMFA Article 17?



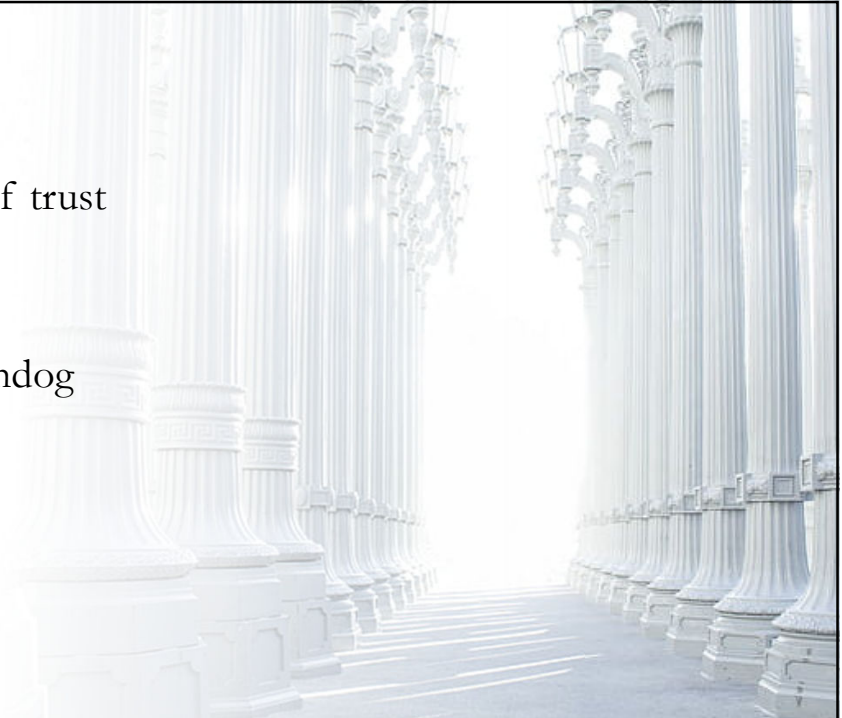
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Ethical media = pillars of trust



and a watchdog





Thank you for your attention!
Judith Bayer