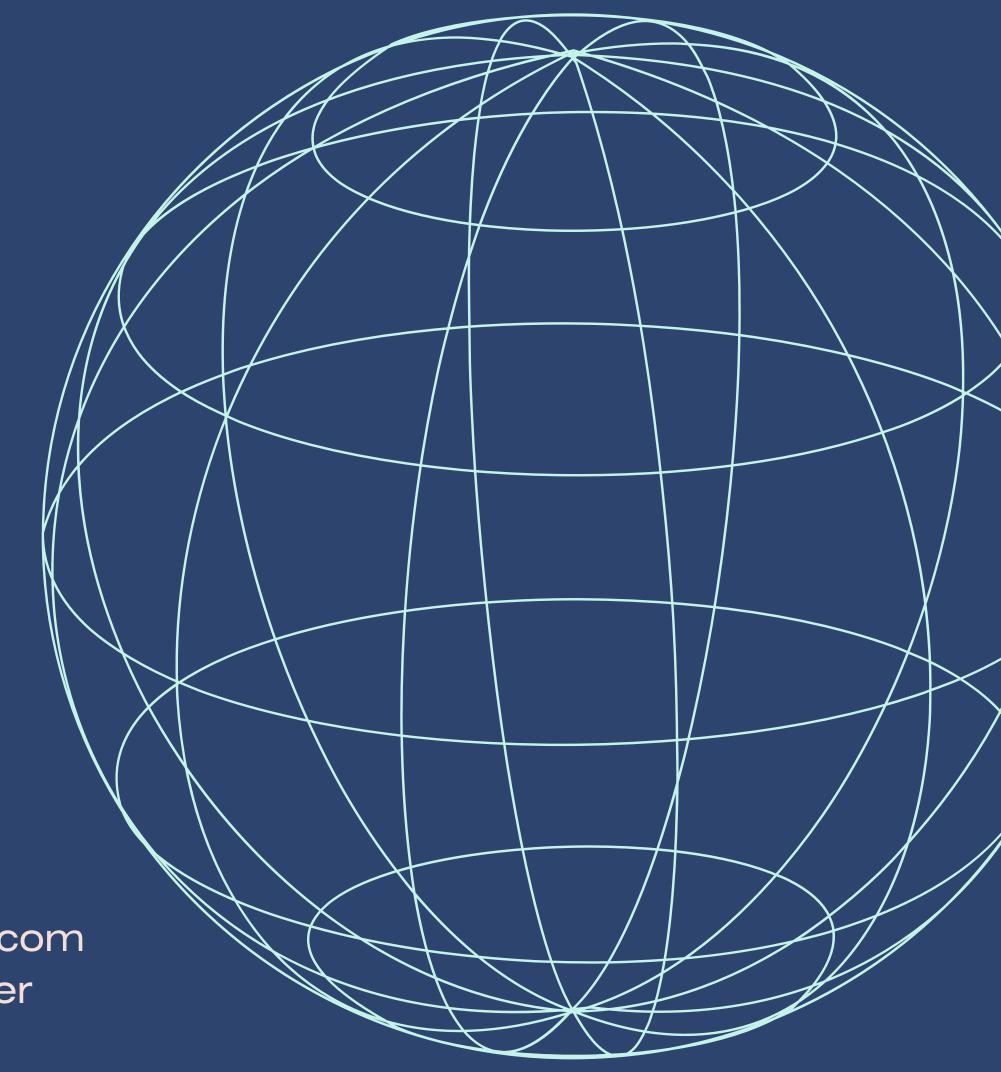
HOW MEDIA LITERACY CAN RESPOND TO GROWING POPULISM

Thomas Sparrow -- thomassparrow@gmail.com Correspondent / Fact Checker / Media Trainer



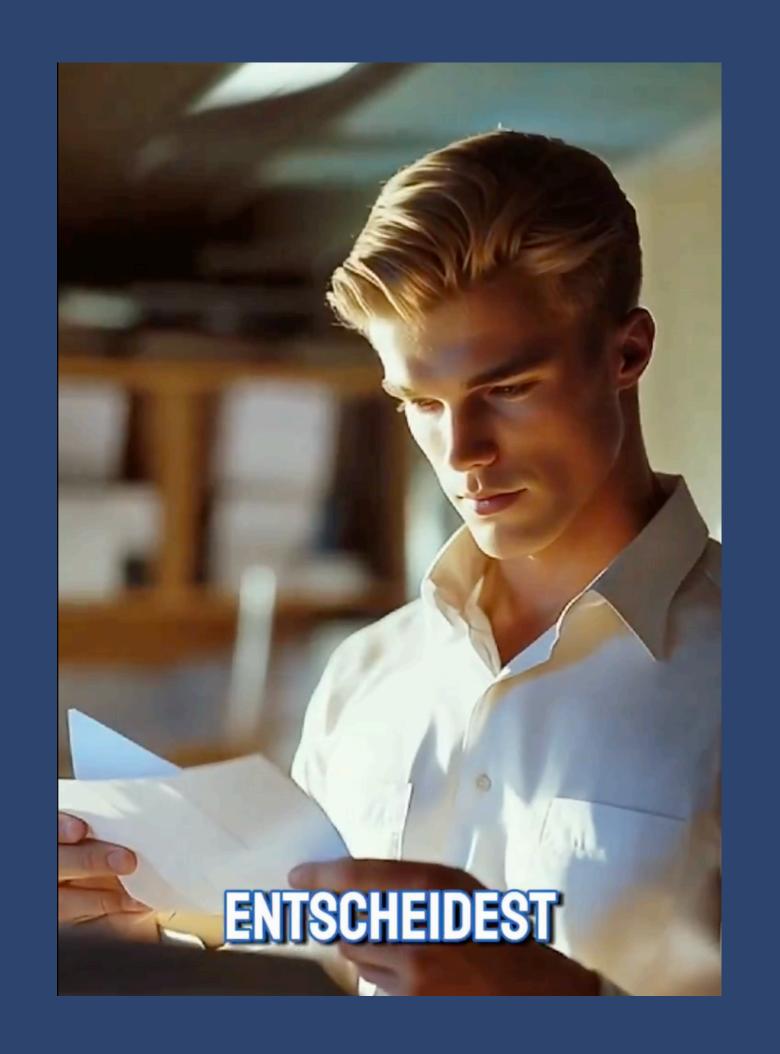
Outline

- 1 Populism and artificial intelligence
- 2 Populism and social media
- The role of media education



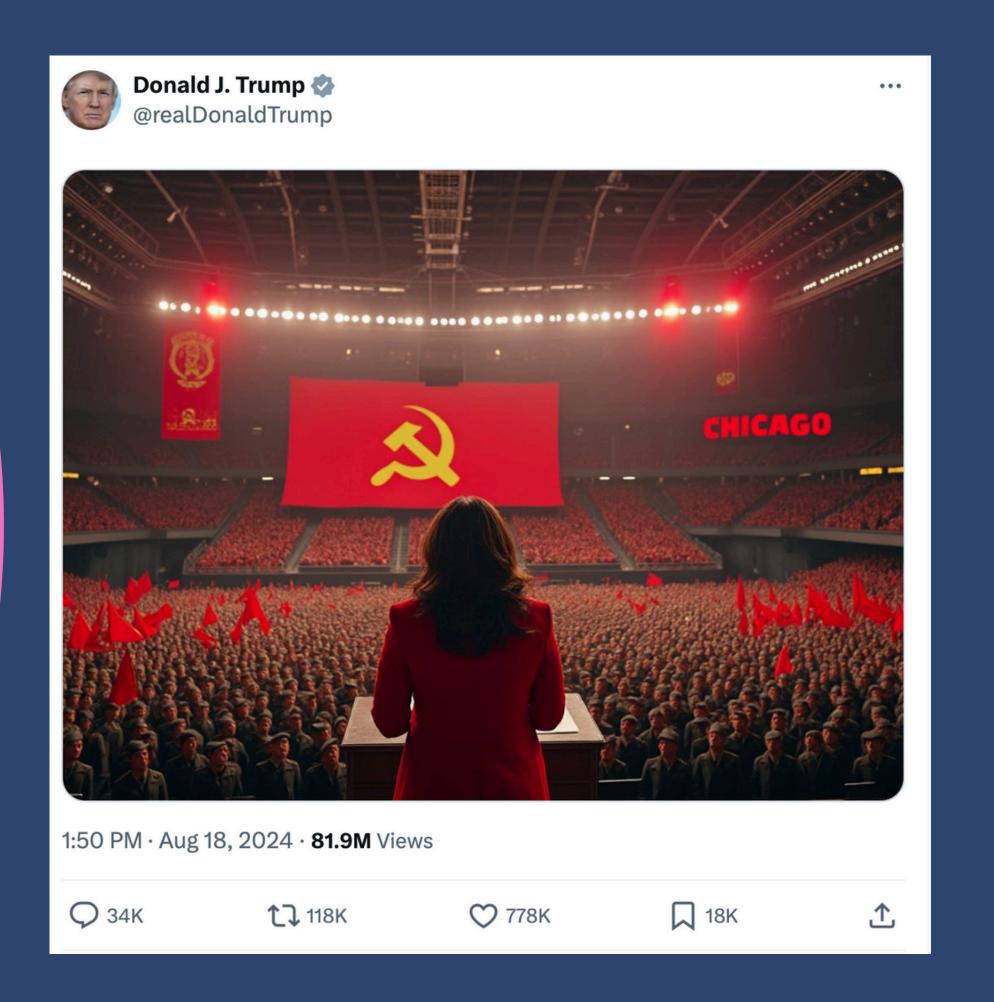
When two worlds collide:

Al and populism



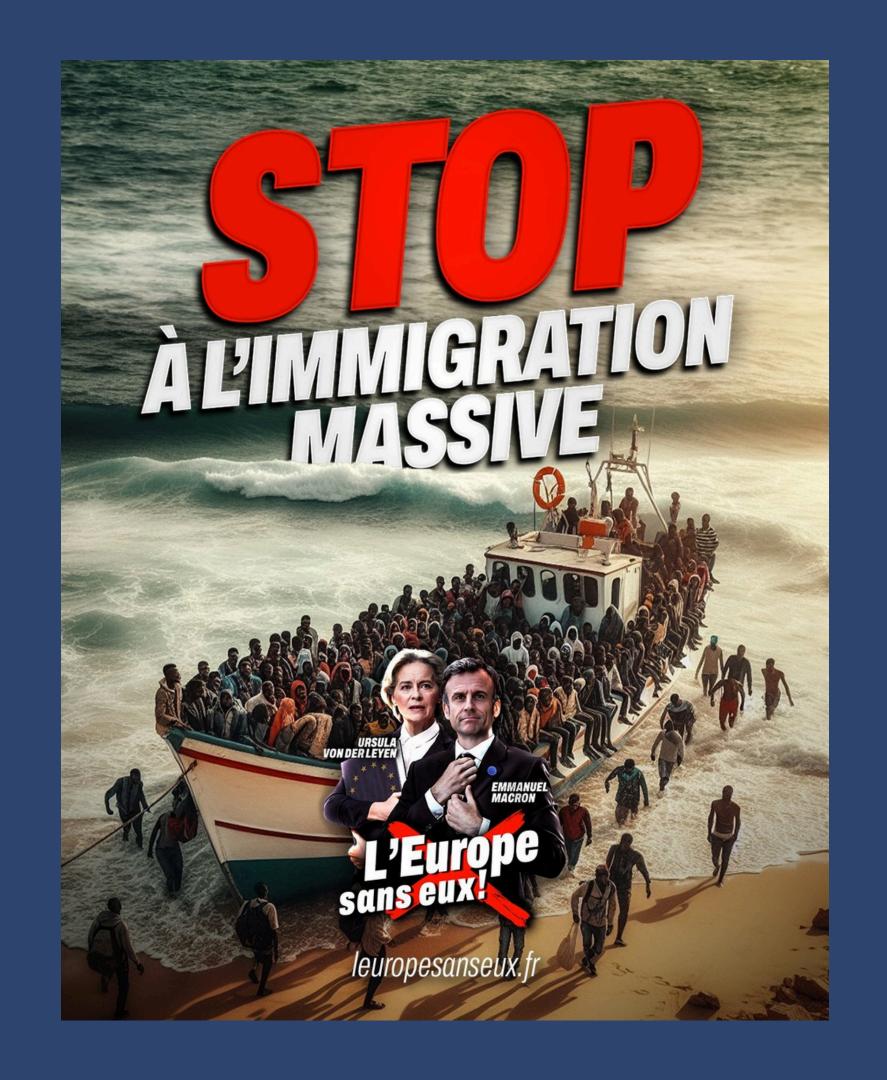
When two worlds collide:

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When two worlds collide:

Al and populism



Al-generated political content

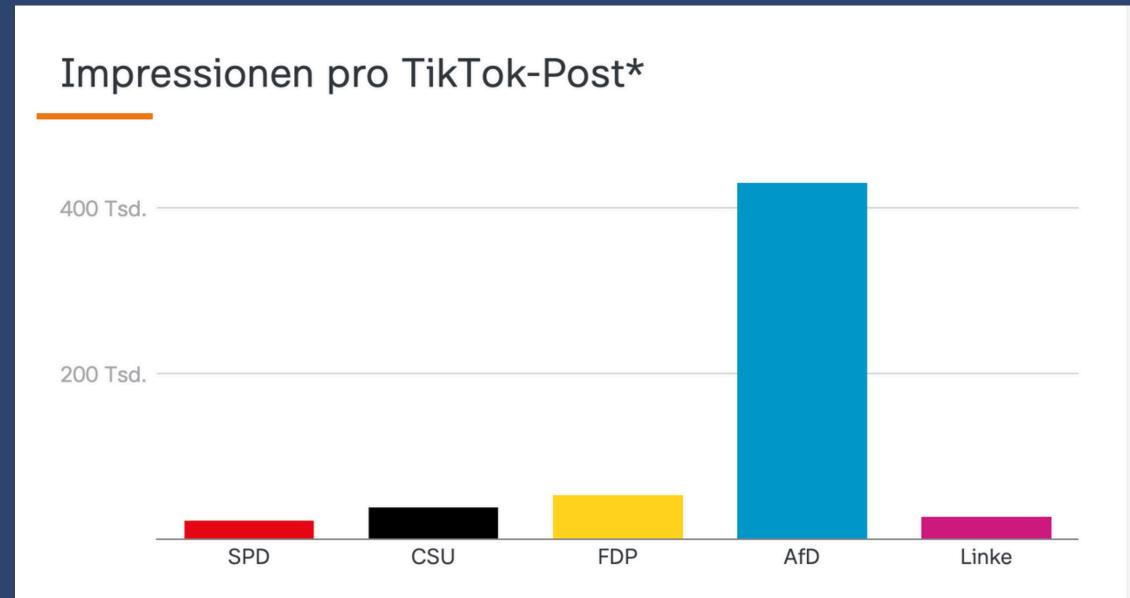
"Softfakes"
are increasingly
used in
(populist)
political
campaigns

Populist parties particularly successful on social media

Al-generated
content
especially
targetting
young
audiences



Populism and social media



*TikTok-Kanäle der damaligen Bundestagsfraktionen, Unionsfraktion erst seit Dezember 2023 auf Tiktok, darum Daten des CSU-Kanals ausgewertet, Erhebungszeitraum Januar 2022 bis Dezember 2023

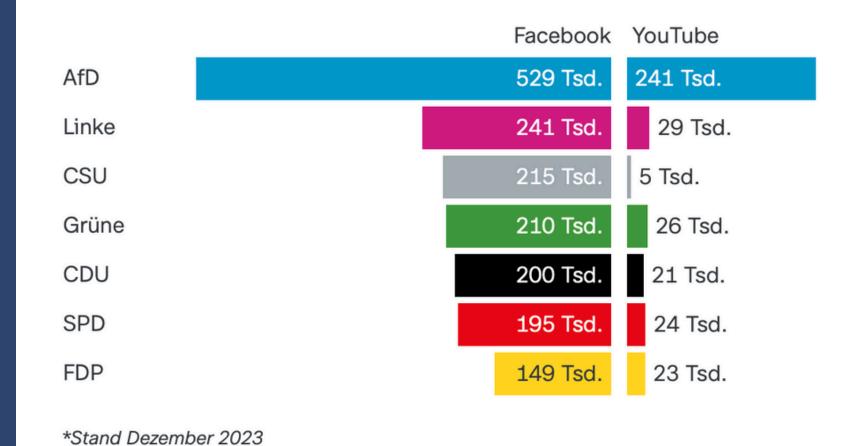
Grafik: ZDFheute • Quelle: Erhebung Johannes Hillje



Populism and social media

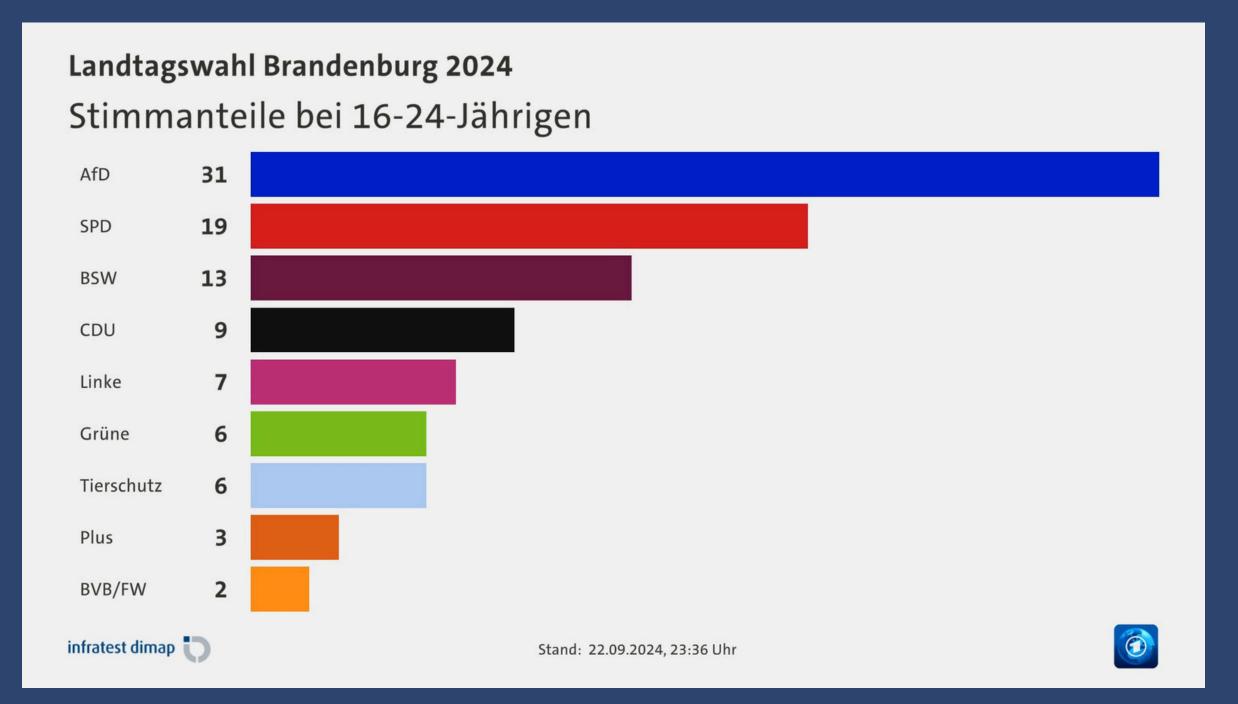
Zahl der Fans und Abonnenten*

Grafik: ZDFheute • Quelle: Erhebung Johannes Hillje





Populism and social media

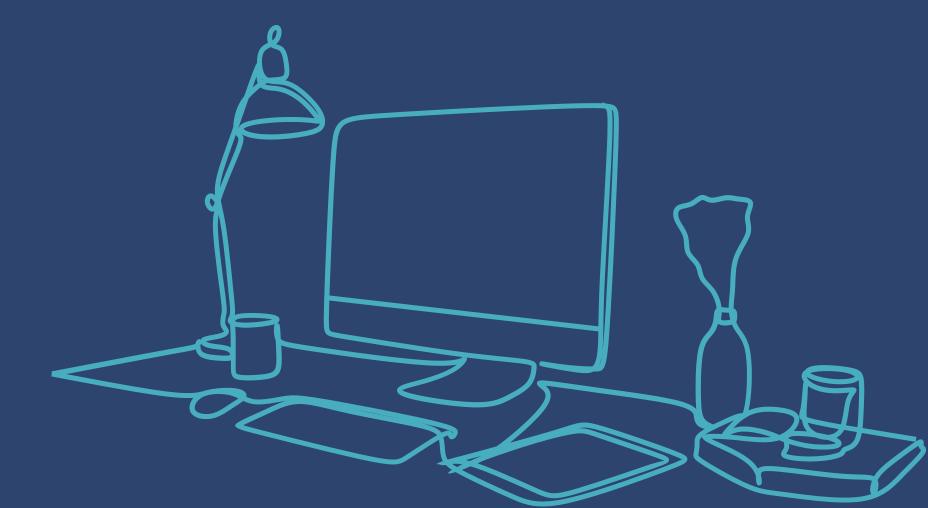




What role media education plays



An increased, more <u>active</u> focus on media literacy in schools and universities can help students make more informed political decisions





A more active focus

- (1) Media education beyond "project days" at school
- (2) Media education as integral part of school curricula
- (3) Greater focus on Al bias and disinformation
- (4) Frequent update on platforms and technologies
- **5** Don't forget the basics!

