

I lose my friend because i'm too radical – a short story by an activist

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There is always a moment when you realize that one thing isn't just a background noise anymore — it's everywhere, for me at least. In conversation with my friend or my family, in social media, in small talk we have over coffee. In my case, that was my political engagement, particularly around the questions of feminism, climatic change, discrimination fighting... It shapes the way I see things, even when I don't really pay attention. And maybe It shapes the way we see things

I noticed it again last week, while having a conversation with my best friend. She told me, « you are so radical, it's not possible to have a conversation with you ». It wasn't dramatic or particularly new to be honest — everybody told me that — but it stayed with me this time. Maybe because it's my best friend or because it said a lot about the moment we're living.

I lost many friends because of political opinions that are too different. And yes, I don't agree with official or institutional speeches about feminism, climatic change etc. So I try to educate with speeches from everyday people. I like more personal stories or analyses, blog posts or the perspectives of young artists or activists. Institutions or dominant discourse seem (often) sometimes too calculating to me, even though I obviously also consume more « official » discourse. I believe that, but I lose many people because I refuse to listen to her.

Lately, I've been reading about extremism, the space between the ideas has become more and more bigger. I saw a documentary in Arte, High school radical, about a man who goes back to the USA to see an old friend who became pro-trump. Does he still love their friends ? At first, I said no, impossible to imagine love or like pro-trump.

What's interesting is how my « radicalism » shows something larger. The way we react, adapt, consume or the way we sometimes pretend not to see, like me. There is always a gap between the image we give or institutions give and the conversation that really happens. This tension appears often in social media. If I said on Instagram how I hate these things, it's a radical idea. My algorithm shows me the content video with topics close to mine. It's like a « bubble of confirmation » and it's so dangerous for critical thinking.

And I have convictions, a lot, but I think I'm staying too long in my bubble of confirmation. It's more comfortable I agree, but not for my critical thinking. The failure is the loss and the anger sometimes. Anger is important in activism, but too much is exhausting. This lesson is like a mirror. he doesn't show what I want to see, but exactly why it matters to speak today