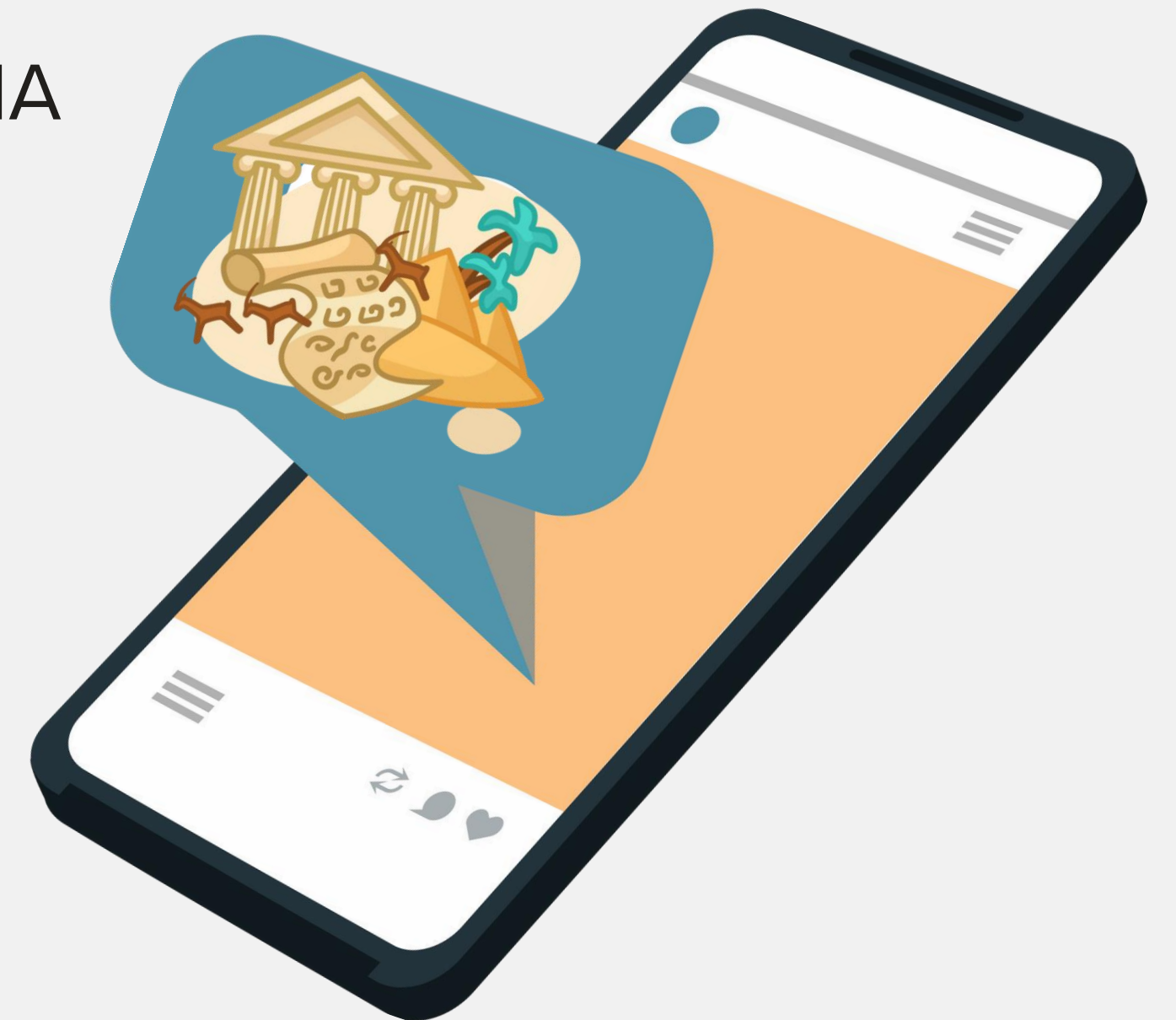




# SHARING MEMORIES, TALKING TO ANNE FRANK, EXPERIENCING THE PLAGUE ?



RESEARCHING HISTORY ON SOCIAL MEDIA



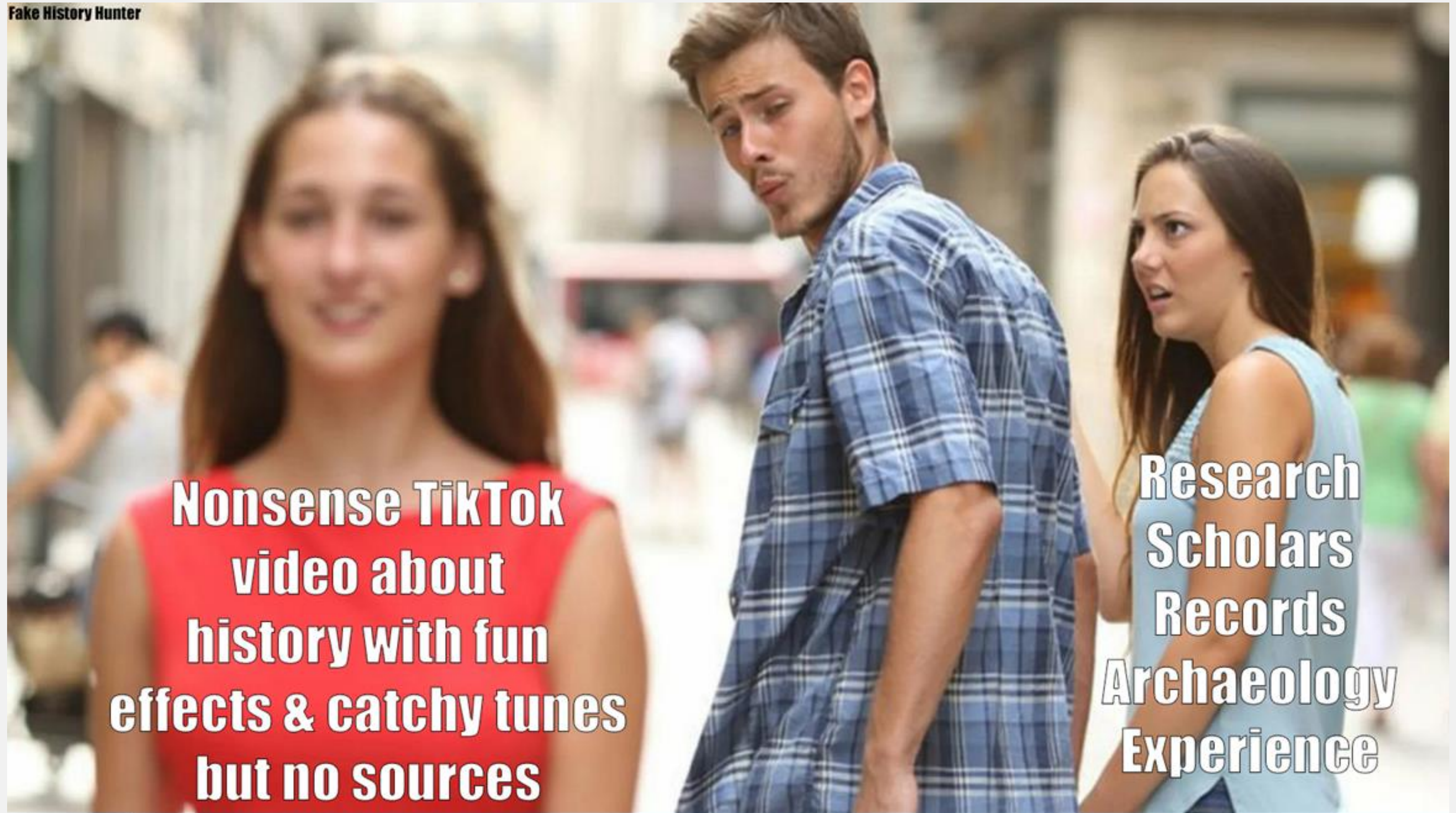
SICSS-Saarbrücken

09.09.2025, Saarland University



Mia Berg, Saarland University/University of Hamburg





**Nonsense TikTok  
video about  
history with fun  
effects & catchy tunes  
but no sources**

**Research  
Scholars  
Records  
Archaeology  
Experience**



# #history



50,5 million posts



161 billion views



New target groups

More content, offers and actors

More voices being heard

Diversification and pluralisation



History distortion

Fake News

Hate Speech

# EXAMPLES

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## Institutional Projects

Sophie Scholl - @ichbinsophiescholl

<https://www.instagram.com/ichbinsophiescholl/>

## Privat Individual

Family History - @tadschu

<https://www.instagram.com/tadschu/>

Holocaust survivors - @lilyebert

<https://www.tiktok.com/@lilyebert>

## Contemporary History

f.ex. documentation of war and everyday life (Ukraine, Israel, Palestine, Iran, ...)

<https://www.marcus-boesch.de/wartok/>

Past-related hate speech,  
antisemitism, fake history, distortion,

...

# RESEARCH TOPICS

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- Individual and collective memory
- Parasocial interaction
- Historical learning
- Instrumentalisation
- ...

# CHALLENGES

Technical  
Dimension

Legal  
Dimension

Ethical  
Dimension

Empirical  
Dimension



# INTERIM CONCLUSION

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„If the past is to have an abundant future, if the story of Bert Is Evil and hundreds of other stories are to be fully told, then historians need to act in the present.” \*

Roy Rosenzweig: Scarcity or Abundance? Preserving the Past in a Digital Era, in: American Historical Review 108, 3 (June 2003): S. 735-762.

\* And other disciplines need to take the historical dimension into account

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**