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Meeting assets for Jerry Michalski's Zoom Meeting are ready!

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Hi Jerry Michalski

The following assets for the meeting - Jerry Michalski's Zoom Meeting are now available.

Meeting summary

Quick recap

The meeting explored trust in information sources, with participants discussing challenges in discerning truth amid misinformation, sharing personal experiences with fake news, and proposing solutions like improved citation practices and digital identity systems. Participants debated the role of political correctness in limiting discourse, the intentional nature of disinformation campaigns, and the lack of viable business models for information ecosystems that don't rely on addiction. The conversation concluded with reflections on communication styles, the emotional appeal of political messaging over factual accuracy, and personal experiences with dialogue in polarized environments.

Next steps

- OGM community to establish protocols for sharing information sources and verifying credibility
- OGM community to create a trusted channel for sharing information with proper validation
- OGM community to implement a framing system for sharing unverified information as potential misinformation
- OGM community to develop a system for rating credibility of sources
- Mike to connect with suggested contacts at WISTA conference in Taipei

- Mike to explore potential connections in Manila
- Ken to share Stuart Hill's talk details with the group
- Judith to share Alicia Wanlis's book "The Information Animal" with the group
- OGM community to explore creating a Signal group for discussing information sources and credibility
- OGM community to investigate business models for supporting trustworthy information dissemination
- Rick to send Jerry links to his simplified writing examples for Indivisible group
- Jerry to share his meeting notes from this call with the group next week
- Group to continue monitoring and analyzing Trump's media strategy and its impact on public discourse
- Group to explore ways to create content that fosters genuine curiosity rather than polarizing debate
- Group to develop strategies for addressing misinformation while maintaining focus on underlying emotional drivers
- Group to investigate methods for making it easier to question and challenge authority constructively

Summary

Trust in Information Sources

Jerry introduces a discussion about trust in information sources, highlighting how trust can be both fragile and solid, using East Germany as an example where deep trust existed underground despite surveillance. Gil shares his frustration with trying to discern truth from contradictory news sources about Gaza, noting that Israel has blocked foreign journalists and limited information to its own citizens, though some independent voices are emerging. Mike asks the group for contacts in Taiwan and Manila for upcoming trips, emphasizing how personal networks are crucial for finding trustworthy information.

Fake News and Quote Verification

Mike discusses a fake news story about Elon Musk offering a sponsorship deal to the Baltimore Ravens, which was widely shared despite being untrue. He also raises concerns about misattributed quotes on the internet, sharing his own experience of finding quotes attributed to the wrong historical figures, and recommends Quote Investigator as a helpful resource. Mike suggests that instead of focusing on disinformation and misinformation, which emphasizes the source, attention should be directed toward those who amplify false information and on developing "brain defense" to help people identify and reject deceptive content.

Building Trust in Information Sharing

Gil announces he will be hosting Stuart Hill next Wednesday to discuss using lying as a social change strategy. Kevin suggests making the OGM list a trusted channel by not sharing unvalidated sources, and encourages people to listen for truth without getting caught up in fear. Jerry proposes developing protocols for

more trustworthy conversations, including providing both original and archive links to bypass paywalls. Gil emphasizes the importance of citing sources in all communications. Judith suggests implementing a credibility factor for shared information, while Rick argues that trust is overrated compared to discernment and truth-seeking. Several participants discuss ways to evaluate information sources and combat algorithmic addiction, with Judith sharing her practice of searching for both sides of any issue.

Digital Identity and Privacy Protection

Mike discusses the importance of digital identity systems that can establish content provenance while protecting privacy. He explains that during his time at the White House, emails to the President were printed and handled as regular mail to prevent tampering. Mike emphasizes that we need attribute management systems that allow people to share only necessary information (like age verification) without revealing full identities. Jerry adds that self-sovereign ID systems would be valuable as they reveal only required information, citing the example of a young woman proving her age without sharing personal details that could enable stalking. Rick notes that trust is an outcome of systems with integrity, observing that current institutions are under siege.

Political Correctness and Quaker Experiences

Rick discusses how a progressive group he joined, Stand Up for Racial Justice, rejected his writing about derangement and mass psychosis, which he sees as an example of political correctness limiting discourse. He recommends a documentary about sensitivity, which leads to a brief exchange with Stacey about different types of sensitivity and how trauma can affect it. Jerry then shifts the conversation by sharing his experience with Quaker meetings in Connecticut, describing the peaceful rhythm of people quietly entering and sitting together before the children would leave after the first fifteen minutes.

Misinformation Strategies and Quaker Practices

Klaus expresses concern about the intentional nature of misinformation and disinformation, noting that responding to individual false statements doesn't address the strategic intentions behind them. He cites examples from the recent election where targeted messaging influenced various demographic groups to vote against their interests. Gil appreciates Jerry's references to Quaker meetings and encourages him to find a suitable meeting or incorporate those practices into their calls, while also requesting a reference for a book about someone observing their own psychosis that was mentioned earlier.

Business Models for Information Ecosystems

Gil emphasizes that the recurring theme in the conversation is the lack of a viable business model for information ecosystems, noting that current media models are based on selling attention and creating addiction. Jessie appreciates Jerry's use of stories to inspire minds to embrace uncertainty and inquiry rather than rigid order. Judith expresses concern about the reliance on oral communication by people with limited literacy, while Jerry suggests people are

smarter than we assume and will rise to meet positive expectations. Rick shares how he's helping his group use AI as an "emancipatory learning process" and advocates for curiosity about new concepts rather than dismissing them as jargon.

Simplifying Communication for Better Understanding

Jerry tells Rick that he finds Rick's writing difficult to read due to jargon and complex language, though he appreciates Rick's spoken contributions. Rick responds that he has been working on simplifying his writing using AI tools for different reading levels and promises to send Jerry examples. Mike agrees with Jerry's feedback and emphasizes the importance of simple, memorable communication, noting that Trump's success comes from emotional "bumper sticker" messaging rather than traditional indoctrination. Rick acknowledges these points but argues that simplification can be reductionist and doesn't fully address complexity, emphasizing the need for helping people learn to discern truth collaboratively without divisiveness.

Trump-Bannon Media Strategy Analysis

Gil discusses how the Trump-Bannon strategy aims to reduce opposition to "sputtering apoplexy" and shares insights about media analytics, noting that Bannon had a strategy in place before finding Trump as their spokesperson. Jose argues that people follow Trump because he validates their feelings rather than because his facts are accurate, suggesting that focusing on correcting Trump's inaccuracies misses the point of addressing the underlying emotions. Jerry agrees that getting caught up in fact-checking plays into the right's strategy, describing the situation as a debate over power where Trump has created unprecedented "elbow room" to lie and reverse positions while maintaining support.

Anger, Truth, and Paternal Reflections

Stacey shares a personal revelation about learning through observing her mother educating her father, which shaped her approach to dialogue on social media. She discusses a recent experience where she received a personal attack after posting about America's anger management problem, highlighting how anger is an outlet for many Trump supporters. Stacey also addresses the challenges of speaking truth to authority and questioning information, noting that some media errors may be deliberately planted to distract from larger issues. The call concludes with Ken reading a moving poem about fathers in honor of his own father's would-be 110th birthday.

AI can make mistakes. Review for accuracy.

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