

Homework Assignment 7

A reflection on 5G-Gekkie (5G-Sillies)

In the Netherlands, you have, in my opinion, this fantastic word for people who have conspiracies about the 'harmful' effects of 5G. These people are named 5G-Gekkie meaning '5G Sillies', and even though I did not think most well-educated people would believe in these theories, I have been quite amazed finding out that some friends close by do actually in some way believe in it. But first of all, what is 5G? 5G is the fifth generation of the mobile network and promises higher internet speeds, less latency and more reliability (Reijmerink, 2020). Experts say it is needed to keep up with the technological advance. However, 5G uses shorter frequency waves to provide this speed, but this brings some concerns about these frequencies harmfulness (Moskowitz, 2019). This is because, in common-sense: frequency waves are radiation, radiation is harmful; thus, 5G is harmful. This is not necessarily untrue but try to debunk that with declarative knowledge, it is more difficult than you think (Moskowitz, 2019). In the Netherlands, you have the STOP5GNL movement that spreads anti – 5G information (www.stop5gnl.nl). The information on this website is somewhat mild of what some people believe. Because some people go further and believe that the technology is made for 'weather control' or 'mind control' (Van Prooijen, 2020). I believe that 5G-Gekkie are often referring to somatic or embodied, knowing that they feel the harmful doing to their bodies, which is less accepted in western culture (Kerka, 2001).

Other conspiracy theories about 5G include the idea that the coronavirus is purposely made to keep people at home while 5g cell towers can be placed anywhere (Ahmed et al., 2021). These different 5G stories are often combined with other conspiracy theories into a massive misinformation bomb. Few of these theories are new and change from existing ideas. New information about the topic will often be interpreted in such a way that it fits in their current theory. Nevertheless, one of the defining traits of conspiracy thinking is that conspiracy theorist tries to make the theory, contextually self-sealing, unfalsifiable and resistant to challenge. The lack of evidence is often taken as proof of a massive worldwide conspiracy (Ahmed et al., 2021).

References

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