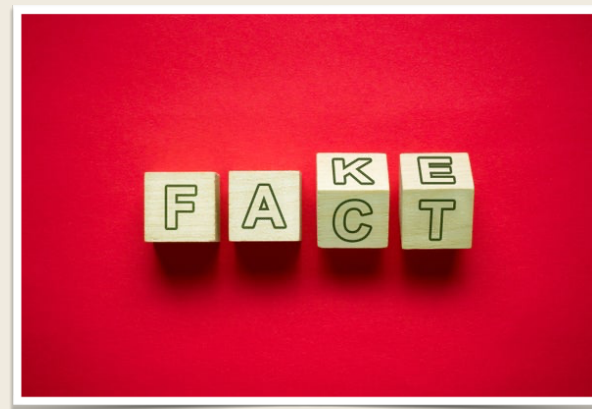


Knowers & Knowing

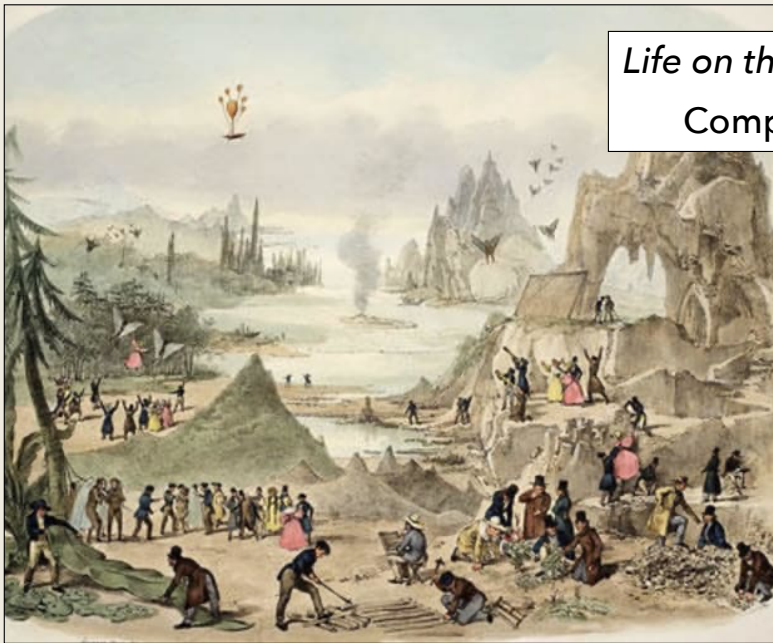
Fake News & the Question of Trust

TOK L7



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- **Misinformation:** incorrect or unintentionally false information
 - **Disinformation:** intentionally false or inaccurate information spread as an act of deception

- **Echo Chamber:** a space in which sound reverberates, so any sounds made are repeated over and over as they bounce from the walls
- *In what way is social media an echo chamber?*



Life on the Moon – Fake News from 1835!
Compliments of the *New York Sun*

FAKE NEWS: false, often sensational stories, spread under the guise of news reporting

How can you spot it?

See the handout: “Twelve Tips”

What's going on with the Fukushima daisies?

Mutated daisies began appearing a few years after a nuclear disaster occurred nearby in 2011.

Would this photo serve as evidence of radioactive mutation in the area? If you were writing an assignment on this, what extra information would you need? What kinds of questions would you ask?

Run an Internet search...was your intuition correct?



Who Should You Trust?

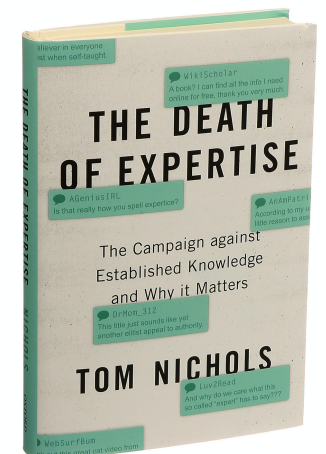
Can we draw a direct line connecting the following?

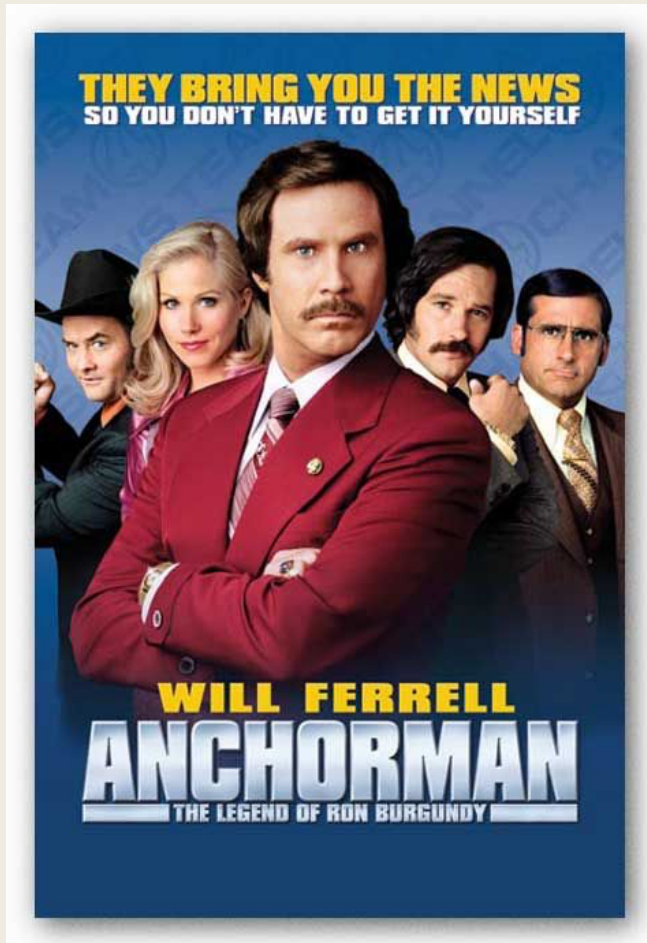
- *Fake News*
- *Algorithms, Bots, Viral spread of disinformation*
- *Confirmation Bias*
- *Extremism*
- *Polarization*
- *Threat of violence*

“Trust, but verify.”
– Ronald Reagan

In the echo chamber of social media, where most people now prefer to get their news, there is a tendency for people to hear what they want to hear, valuing the opinions of like-minded peers over those of experts.

This idea is explored in depth in Tom Nichols’ book, *The Death of Expertise* (2017).





HW:

For one of your six IBDP subjects, write down three key websites that you might use as starting points for research.

Then write down three websites you might turn to for reliable and up-to-date news.

What features do you look for before deciding whether a source is trustworthy? Are there any problems with any of the websites you have identified? (Use the “Twelve Tips” as a guide.)

We’ll share these and discuss in our next class.