

# Popping the Filter Bubble

In alphabetical order:  
Georgina Cronin  
Katie Hughes  
Lucy Welch

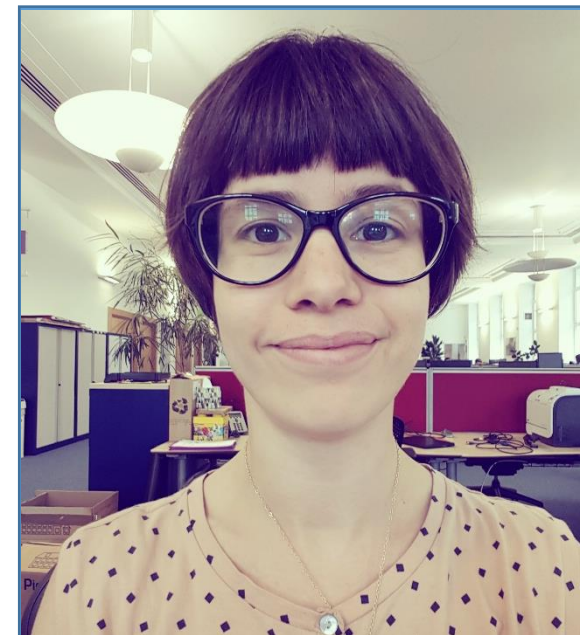




Georgina



Katie



Lucy

**Who is lying?**



**Fake news** has a  
long history...



# So why **now**?





The image shows the European Union flag, which consists of twelve yellow stars arranged in a circle on a blue background. The flag is depicted as if it were a piece of old, weathered paper or fabric, with numerous dark, irregular cracks and creases running across it. The text "Why is this so dangerous?" is written in a clean, white, sans-serif font, centered over the middle of the flag. The overall tone is somber and suggests a theme of decay or crisis.

Why is this so  
dangerous?



# **Fake News vs Propaganda**

# Propaganda

“a degenerate Roman was striving to subvert the liberties of the Roman people to subjugate Italy and the west under the rule of an oriental queen.”\*

## Rome – 44BC

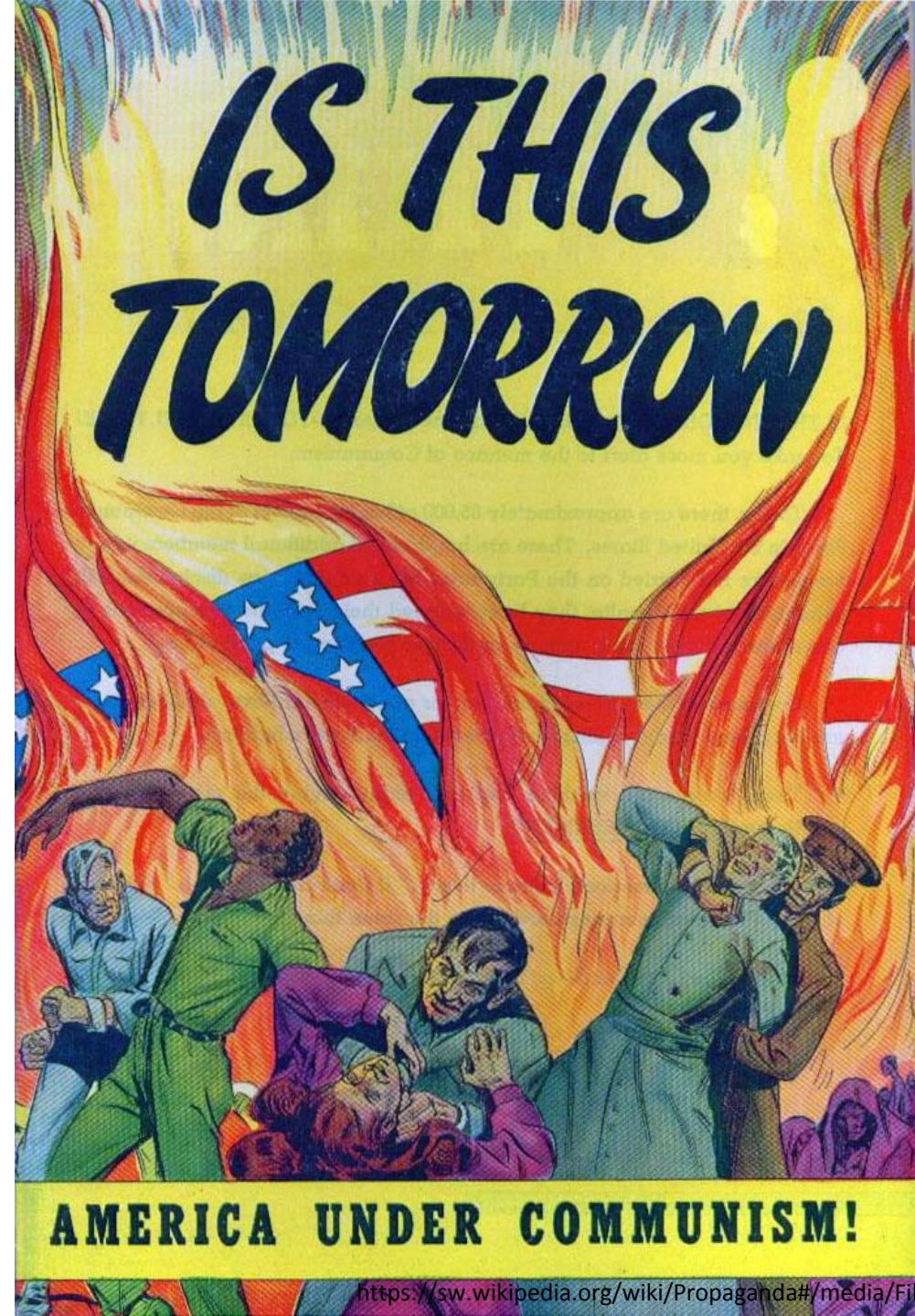


\*Quoted from: <https://www.ft.com/content/aaf2bb08-dca2-11e6-86ac-f253db7791c6>



What is information, often inaccurate information, which a political organization publishes or broadcasts in order to influence people?

(Collins English Dictionary)





# Fake News US – Elections 1828



"How do you spell  
Europe?"

"And, what about  
your wife..."

"... 'lordly, purse-  
proud' aristocrat  
'feeding at the  
public trough.'"\*

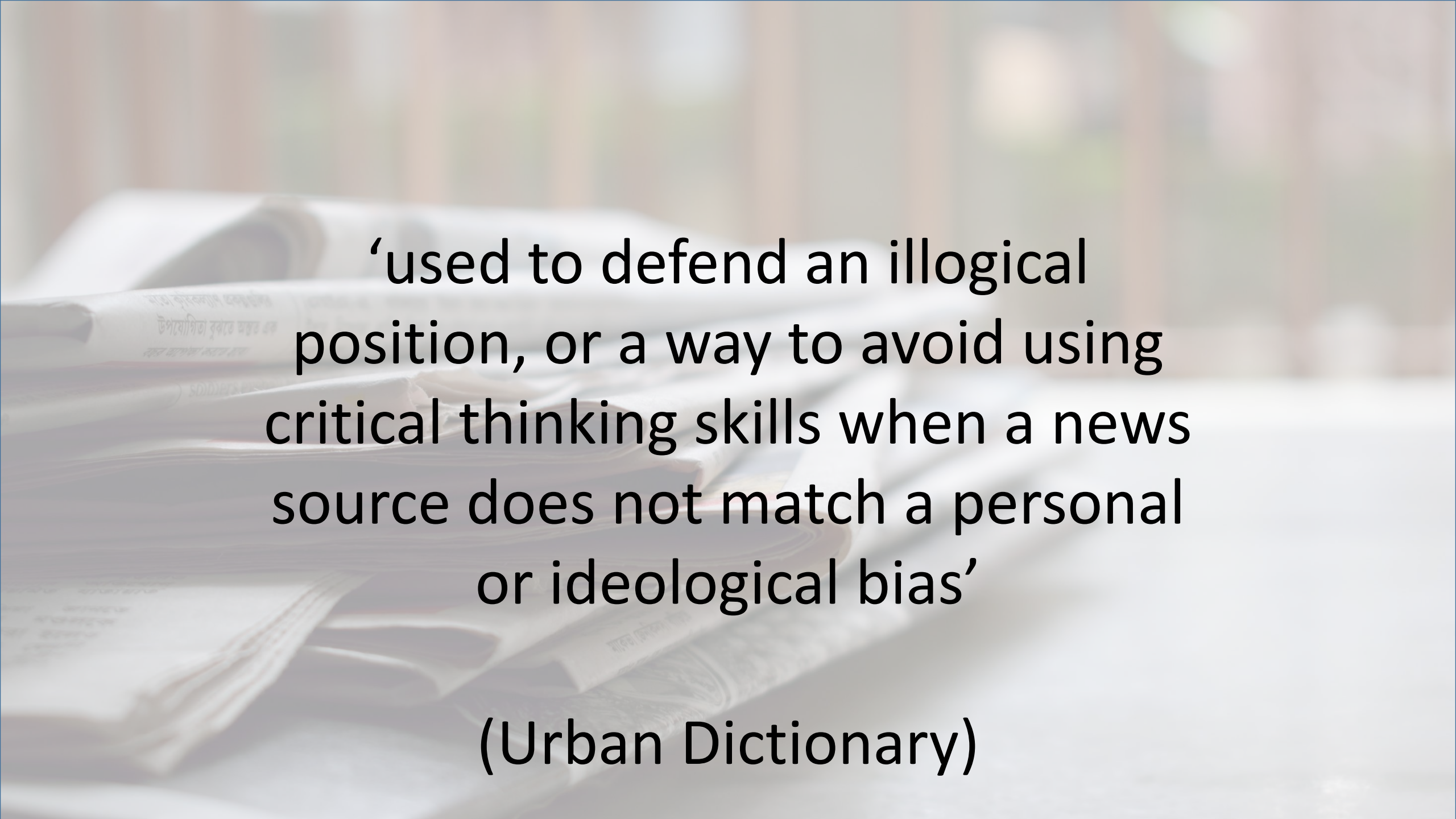




# What is fake news?

‘false, often sensational,  
information disseminated under  
the guise of news reporting.’

(Collins English Dictionary)



‘used to defend an illogical position, or a way to avoid using critical thinking skills when a news source does not match a personal or ideological bias’

(Urban Dictionary)



# How do you approach news?

1. How interested are you in news?

- ☐ Very
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ A little

2. Generally, do you trust information sources?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ Not at all

3. How confident are you with your digital skills?

- ☐ Very
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ Not at all

# How do you approach **news**?

## **The Eager and Willing**

- ✓ High interest in news
- ✓ High levels of trust
- ✓ Shaky digital skills

## **The Confident**

- ✓ High interest in news
- ✓ High levels of trust
- ✓ Confident digital skills

## **The Cautious and Curious**

- ✓ High interest in news
- ✓ Low levels of trust
- ✓ Want to improve digital skills

## **The Doubtful**

- ✓ Low interest in news – very busy
- ✓ Low levels of trust
- ✓ No interest in digital skills

## **The Wary**

- ✓ Low interest in news
- ✓ Low levels of trust – no tech
- ✓ No interest in digital skills





Navigating the world of news

# What do you use to get your news?

- **Social media** – e.g. Twitter & Facebook
- **Online media channels** – e.g. YouTube channels
- **Print media** – physical newspapers and magazines
- **Online media** – newspaper websites and blogs
- **Television** – news channels, factual (e.g. Horizon), chat shows





# But have you considered the biases?

- Having a preference towards a certain viewpoint, whether political, social or something else.
- This preference inevitably affects the way in which anyone consumes and interprets facts
- We all do this.



The following tweets appeared on March 11, 2015.



A →



**The Subject** @handsupunited\_ · 5h  
#Ferguson Police Chief Resigns! #ShutItDown



[View photo](#)



**Lisa Bloom** @LisaBloom · 5h  
#Ferguson police chief steps down, to be replaced by an interim chief from the same police department DOJ found is riddled with racial bias.

← B

C →



**NPR News** @nprnews · 6h  
#Ferguson police chief's resignation is effective March 19 via @MilesParks  
[@nprnews: n.pr/1E6zF4j](#)

D →



**Bassem Masri** @bassem\_masri · 7h  
Supposedly Chief Jackson is resigning today but we will have more info later  
#Ferguson

Image: Stanford History Education Group

Examine the document below and answer the question that follows.

---

PRESENTED BY BANK OF AMERICA




**Andrew Plepler**

Global Corporate Social Responsibility and Consumer Policy  
Executive, Bank of America ®

## **Do Millennials Have Good Money Habits?**

---

This article argues that many millennials (people in their mid-20s to mid-30s) need help with financial planning. What is one reason you might **not** trust this article?

 **News** **Video** **TV** **Opinions** **More...**

U.S. Edition v Search CNN

U.S. World Politics Tech Health Entertainment Living Travel Sports

year-round school

Q Search

Displaying results for **year-round school**

## We need year-round schools

🕒 4:42 PM, Aug 31, 2012 | **OPINIONS**

Melissa Davis says students lose the gains they made in school during summer vacation and do much better with year-round schools.

## Despite push, year-round schools get mixed grades

🕒 12:00 AM, Sep 04, 2012 | **NEWS**

As students head back to class across the United States, educators are weighing the benefits of a longer school year, which has been tried in several districts with mixed results.

Image: Stanford History Education Group



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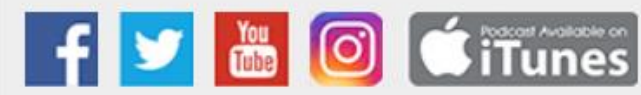


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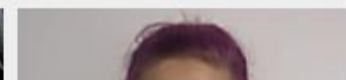
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🕒 12 October 2017 | [US & Canada](#)[Share](#)

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🕒 13 October 2017

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🕒 5 hours ago

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B?

# Davis draws up plans for no deal on Brexit talks

Minister urges drastic approach as May faces EU

# Oxbridge still failing black British pupils

One in three Oxford colleges took no black A-level students in 2015

# Millions charged too much for mobiles

# VIOLENT CRIME IS UP 19%

# CLINIC 'PAID ITS STAFF BONUSES FOR ABORTIONS'

Cops slammed over make-up 'gimmick' to highlight slavery

# THE BOYS IN BLUE NAIL VARNISH



# PENNY: MY SEX ATTACK HELL

BY ASHLEIGH RAINBIRD

PENNY Lancaster broke down in tears yesterday as she revealed she had been drugged and sexually assaulted as a teenage model.

Bad Stewart's wife said a designer spiked her drink after inviting her to his flat on the way to a fashion event.

The brave 40-year-old told ITV's Loose Women: "My drink was drugged. Next thing I knew, I woke up face down on a bed with him on top of me. I was too afraid to tell anyone."

FULL STORY: PAGES 6&7

# Smacking ban comes to Britain

Headlines from Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October



Davis draws  
up plans for  
deal on  
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**THE BOYS  
IN POLICE  
NAIL VARNISH**

**PENNY:  
MY SEX  
ATTACK  
HELL**

ASHLEIGH RAINBIRD  
PENNY Lancaster broke down in  
tears yesterday as she revealed  
she had been drugged and sexually  
assaulted as a teenage model.  
The 25-year-old said she was  
drugged with a cocktail of  
drugs and then sexually  
assaulted by a man who  
she described as a "pervert".  
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FULL STORY PAGES 6&7

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# What can you do?



- Report fake news on social media
- Don't just rely on social media and search engines
- Use reverse image searches to verify facts
- Check older versions of the page/story/post
- Cross-reference everything
- Use tools



# Tools to factcheck your news

**SciCheck** – focuses on misleading scientific claims, often being used for political gain

**WayBackMachine** – archives the Internet and old versions of pages

**Google Reverse Image search** – does what it says on the tin!

**FotoForensics** – upload images to see if they've been changed

**Snopes** – factchecking site that will tell you what's fake or not

**Wikipedia** – rigorous original sources editing policy



# Dylann Roof example





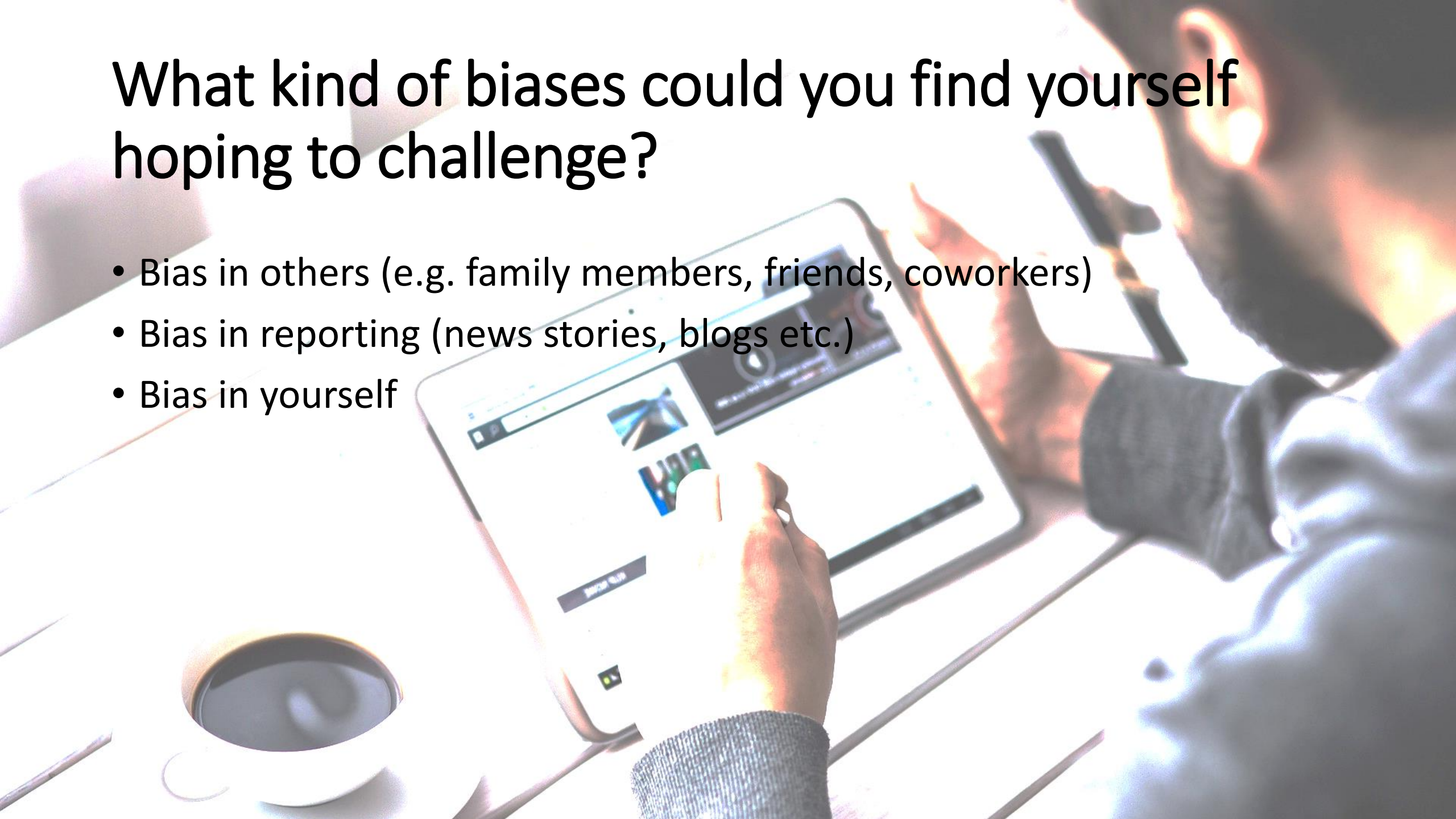


How do you challenge bias?

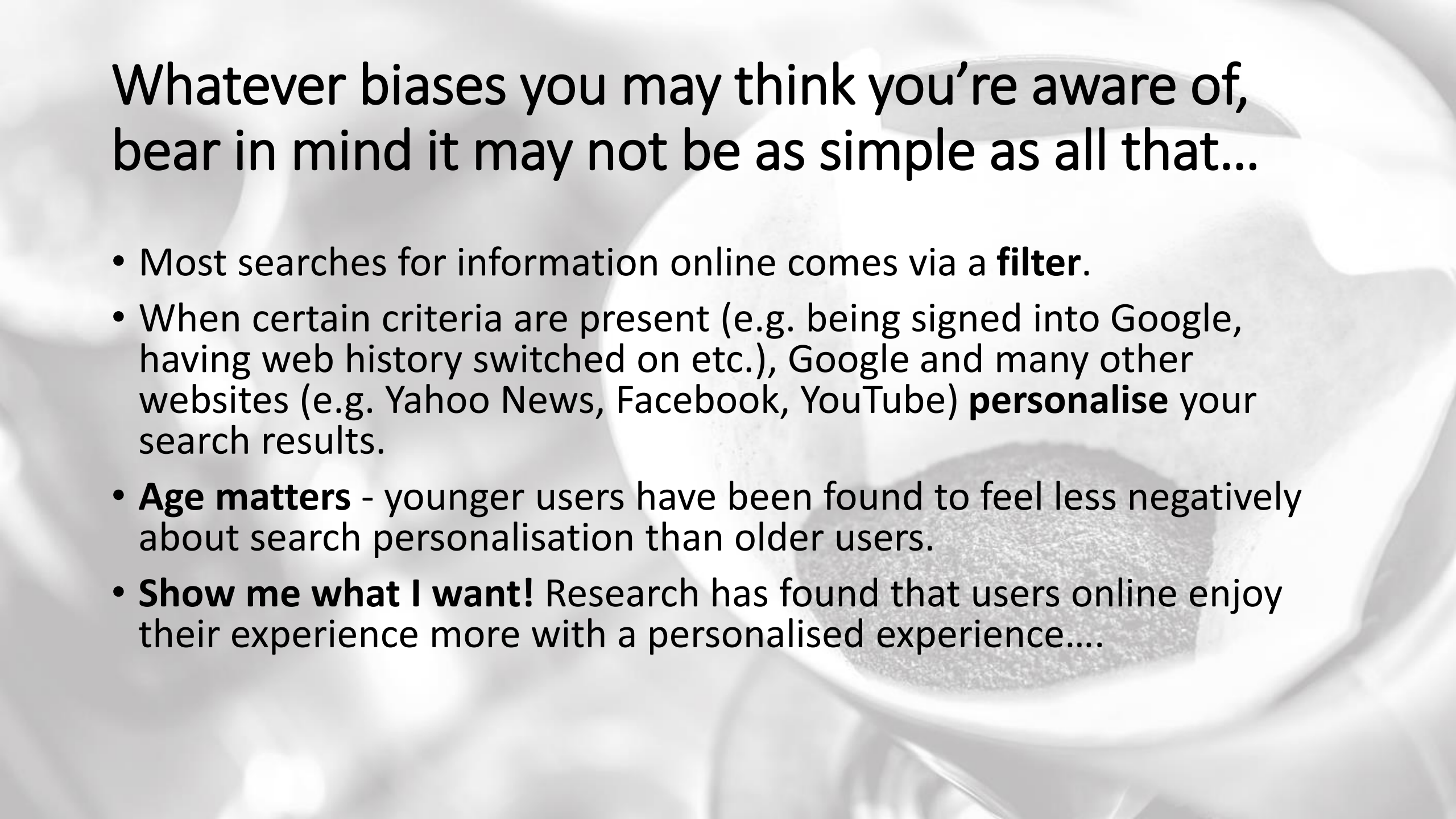


# What kind of biases could you find yourself hoping to challenge?

- Bias in others (e.g. family members, friends, coworkers)
- Bias in reporting (news stories, blogs etc.)
- Bias in yourself







# Whatever biases you may think you're aware of, bear in mind it may not be as simple as all that...

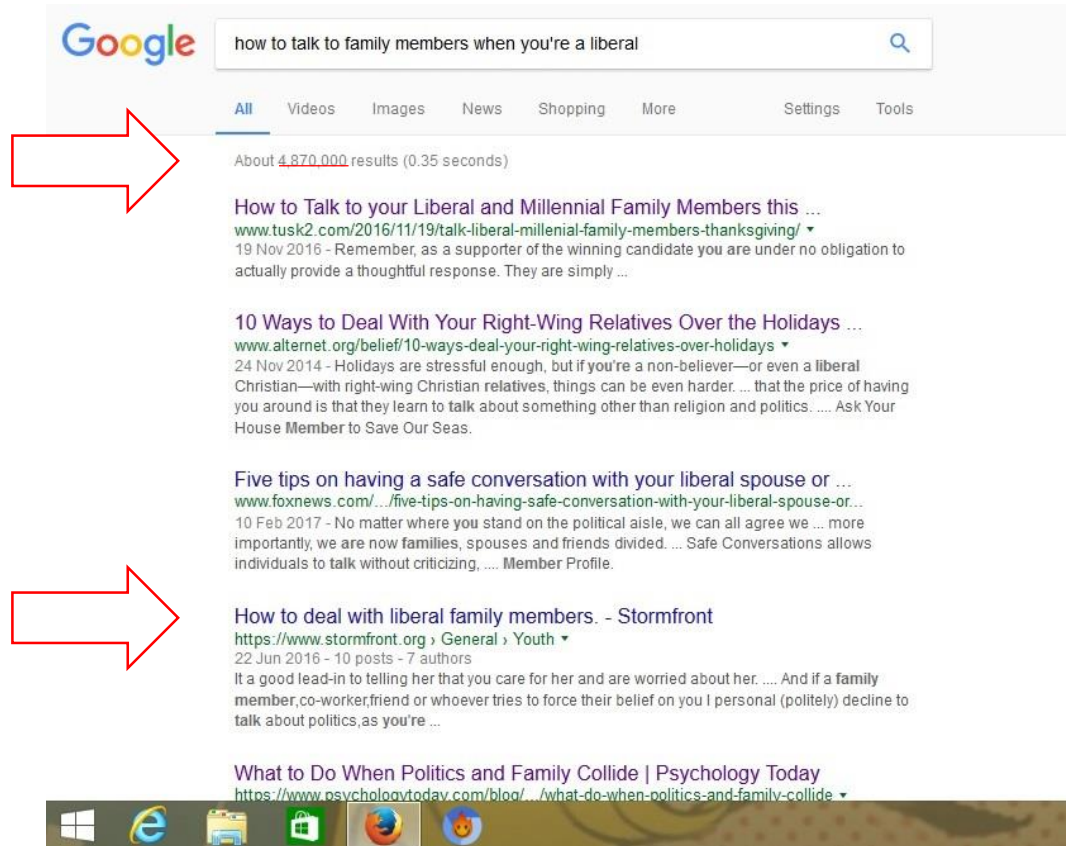
- Most searches for information online comes via a **filter**.
- When certain criteria are present (e.g. being signed into Google, having web history switched on etc.), Google and many other websites (e.g. Yahoo News, Facebook, YouTube) **personalise** your search results.
- **Age matters** - younger users have been found to feel less negatively about search personalisation than older users.
- **Show me what I want!** Research has found that users online enjoy their experience more with a personalised experience....

# Is personalisation such a bad thing?

- **Location** – Google tries to show you results that are geographically more relevant for you. Not so bad sounding!
- **Confirmation bias** - “the propensity to collect proof that verifies pre-existing anticipations, generally by stressing or going after proof that upholds such and at the same time, throwing out or declining to look for proof that contrasts such.” Source: <https://psychologydictionary.org/confirmation-bias/>
- Search personalisation enables **confirmation bias**, often without the searcher’s knowledge.
- **One of these isn’t like the other!** Equating non-traditional news sources with mainstream news sources.



# Here are two searches by the same person on two different machines – a personal laptop vs a University desktop computer.



Google

how to talk to family members when you're a liberal

All Videos Images News Shopping More Settings Tools

About 4,870,000 results (0.35 seconds)

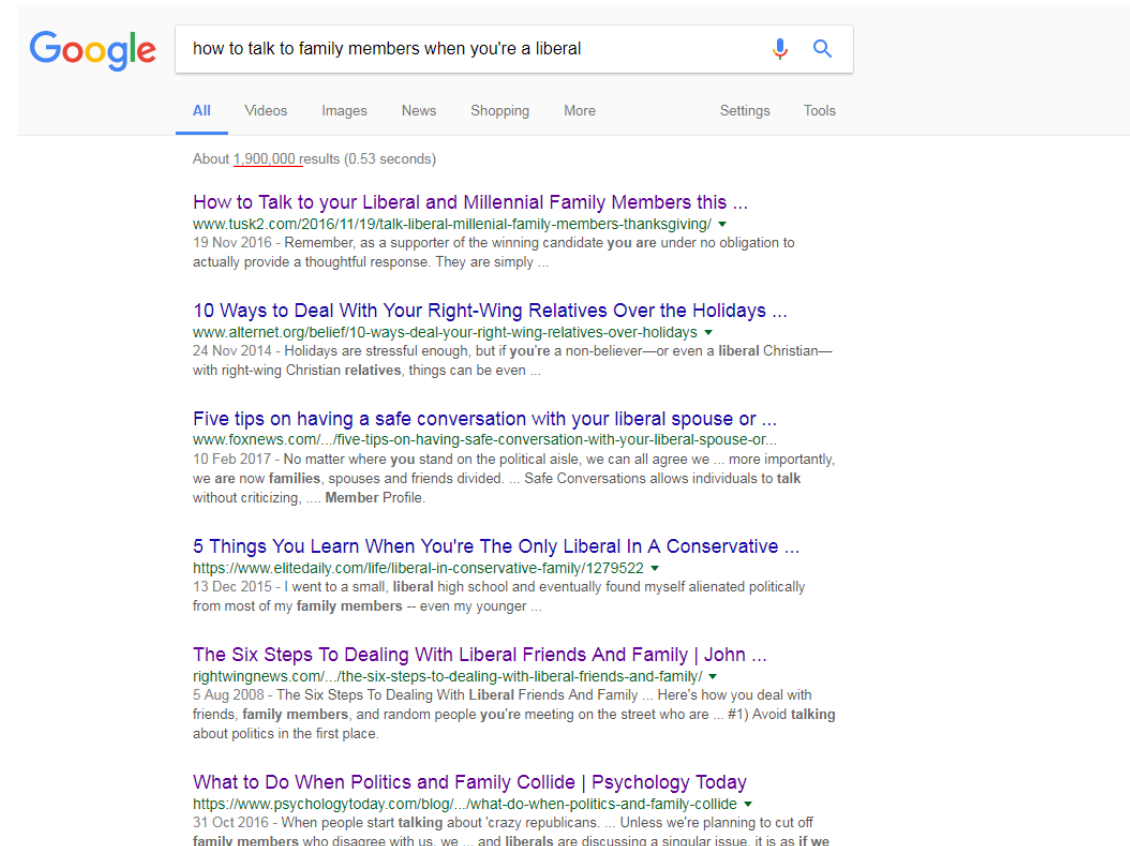
**How to Talk to your Liberal and Millennial Family Members this ...**  
[www.tusk2.com/2016/11/19/talk-liberal-millennial-family-members-thanksgiving/](http://www.tusk2.com/2016/11/19/talk-liberal-millennial-family-members-thanksgiving/) ▼  
19 Nov 2016 - Remember, as a supporter of the winning candidate you are under no obligation to actually provide a thoughtful response. They are simply ...

**10 Ways to Deal With Your Right-Wing Relatives Over the Holidays ...**  
[www.alternet.org/belief/10-ways-deal-your-right-wing-relatives-over-holidays](http://www.alternet.org/belief/10-ways-deal-your-right-wing-relatives-over-holidays) ▼  
24 Nov 2014 - Holidays are stressful enough, but if you're a non-believer—or even a liberal Christian—with right-wing Christian relatives, things can be even harder. ... that the price of having you around is that they learn to talk about something other than religion and politics. .... Ask Your House Member to Save Our Seas.

**Five tips on having a safe conversation with your liberal spouse or ...**  
[www.foxnews.com/.../five-tips-on-having-safe-conversation-with-your-liberal-spouse-or-...](http://www.foxnews.com/.../five-tips-on-having-safe-conversation-with-your-liberal-spouse-or-...)  
10 Feb 2017 - No matter where you stand on the political aisle, we can all agree we ... more importantly, we are now families, spouses and friends divided. ... Safe Conversations allows individuals to talk without criticizing, .... Member Profile.

**How to deal with liberal family members. - Stormfront**  
<https://www.stormfront.org> › General › Youth ▼  
22 Jun 2016 - 10 posts - 7 authors  
It a good lead-in to telling her that you care for her and are worried about her. .... And if a family member, co-worker, friend or whoever tries to force their belief on you I personal (politely) decline to talk about politics, as you're ...

**What to Do When Politics and Family Collide | Psychology Today**  
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/.../what-do-when-politics-and-family-collide> ▼



Google

how to talk to family members when you're a liberal

All Videos Images News Shopping More Settings Tools

About 1,900,000 results (0.53 seconds)

**How to Talk to your Liberal and Millennial Family Members this ...**  
[www.tusk2.com/2016/11/19/talk-liberal-millennial-family-members-thanksgiving/](http://www.tusk2.com/2016/11/19/talk-liberal-millennial-family-members-thanksgiving/) ▼  
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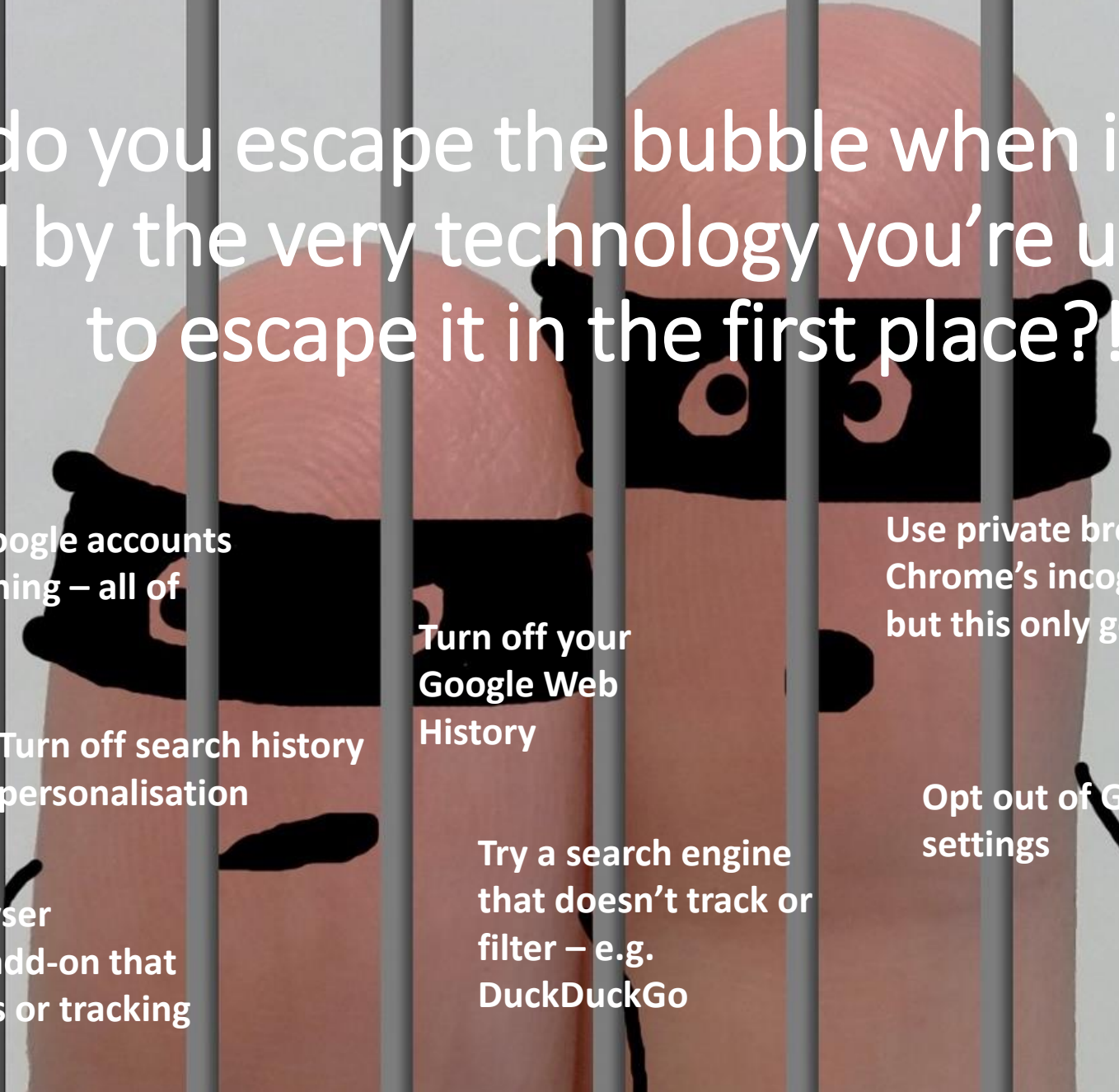
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10 Feb 2017 - No matter where you stand on the political aisle, we can all agree we ... more importantly, we are now families, spouses and friends divided. ... Safe Conversations allows individuals to talk without criticizing, .... Member Profile.

**5 Things You Learn When You're The Only Liberal In A Conservative ...**  
<https://www.elitedaily.com/life/liberal-in-conservative-family/1279522> ▼  
13 Dec 2015 - I went to a small, liberal high school and eventually found myself alienated politically from most of my family members -- even my younger ...

**The Six Steps To Dealing With Liberal Friends And Family | John ...**  
[rightwingnews.com/.../the-six-steps-to-dealing-with-liberal-friends-and-family/](http://rightwingnews.com/.../the-six-steps-to-dealing-with-liberal-friends-and-family/) ▼  
5 Aug 2008 - The Six Steps To Dealing With Liberal Friends And Family ... Here's how you deal with friends, family members, and random people you're meeting on the street who are ... #1) Avoid talking about politics in the first place.

**What to Do When Politics and Family Collide | Psychology Today**  
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/.../what-do-when-politics-and-family-collide> ▼  
31 Oct 2016 - When people start talking about 'crazy republicans. ... Unless we're planning to cut off family members who disagree with us, we ... and liberals are discussing a singular issue, it is as if we



How do you escape the bubble when it's being created by the very technology you're using to try to escape it in the first place?!

Log out of Google accounts before searching – all of them!

Turn off search history personalisation

Find a browser extension/add-on that disables ads or tracking

Turn off your Google Web History

Try a search engine that doesn't track or filter – e.g. DuckDuckGo

Use private browsing (e.g. Chrome's incognito mode) – but this only goes so far!

Opt out of Google's ad settings

# When it comes to challenging people – online and in person – it's more of a minefield

Active Listening Activity:  
Pair people up  
One person is the speaker. One person is the listener.  
Speaker has a topic.  
Listener has an instruction.  
1 minute.



## Ineffective

## Effective

### Non-Verbal Behavior

Listener looks bored, uninterested, or judgmental; avoids eye contact; displays distracting mannerisms (doodles, plays with a paper clip, etc.)

Listener maintains positive posture; avoids distracting mannerisms; keeps attention focused on speaker; maintains eye contact; nods and smiles when appropriate

### Focus of Attention

Listener shifts focus of attention to himself: "When something like that happened to me, I . . ."

Listener keeps focus of her comments on the speaker: "When that happened what did you do?"

### Acceptance

Listener fails to accept speaker's ideas and feelings: "I think it would have been better to . . ."

Listener accepts ideas and feelings: "That's an interesting idea; can you say more about it?"

### Empathy

Listener fails to empathize: "I don't see why you felt that . . ."

Listener empathizes: "So when that happened, you felt angry."

### Probing

Listener fails to probe into an area, to follow up on an idea or feeling

Listener probes in a helpful way (but does not cross examine): "Could you tell me more about that? Why did you feel that way? Listener follows up: "A few minutes ago you said that . . ."

### Paraphrasing

Listener fails to check the accuracy of communication by restating in his own words important statements made by the speaker

Listener paraphrases to guarantee that she has understood correctly and to assure speaker that this is so

### Summarizing

Listener fails to summarize

Listener summarizes the progress of the conversation from time to time

### Advice

Listener narrows the range of alternatives by suggesting one "correct" course of action

Listener broadens the range of ideas by suggesting (or asking the speaker for) a number of alternatives

# How to talk about politics constructively

1. Don't try to educate anyone.
2. Don't pre-judge.
3. Show respect.
4. Stick it out.





