

# REGAINING EUROPE

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# Europe today

- Emotions > Rationality
- Fear: Moral Panic
- Fear > values
- Information: Filter / Framing
- Result: Reflection to Politics

# What is it?

- <https://youtu.be/qPM-x9DoPVE>

29/12/2016 RIP Santa Claus



23/12/1951 RIP la Pere Noel



# Why France? *France Soir*

**Santa Claus** was hanged yesterday afternoon from the gates of the cathedral of Dijon and publicly burned on the parvis. That spectacular execution unfolded in the presence of hundreds of children from the church's boys and girls clubs. The decision was made with the agreement of the clergy, who condemned **Santa Claus** as a usurper and a heretic. He was accused of paganizing the Christmas holiday and of installing himself like a cuckoo in another bird's nest, taking up more and more space. He is reproached especially for having introduced himself into all the public schools, from which the nativity scene is scrupulously banned.

# Fear

- Political, Cultural, Social decisions--→ by FEAR  
not RATIONALITY
- IDENTITY NOT by REASON (i.e. Europeanness)
- IDENTITY by FEAR

# Discuss:

- *What are the people in your country afraid of these days?*



# What's going on?

- #Hyggie #Immigrant Sprey #AfD #M5S #Golden Dawn #Petra Lazso #What happened in Sweden last night? # Bowling Green Massacre #Poland #Hungary

# Breaking point (for me)



# Breaking point (for a young person)



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# Why?

- How to explain:
  - #Liquid Modernity - # Liquid FEAR
  - #Zygmunt Bauman
  
  - #Moral Panic
  - #Stanley Cohen

# Moral Panic

Stanley Cohen Moral panic:

moral panic, which refers to a condition, episode, person or group of persons that emerge to become a threat to society

- <https://youtu.be/ Qlv8pqtTss>

# Fear and Right Wing populism

- Dani Rodrik (2018)
- increasing inequalities; constant economic anxiety; decline of perceived status and the chasm between elites and ordinary citizens
- Cas Mudde (2009)
- nativism feeding on us versus them; authoritarianism with special emphasis on law and order and populism as defending the rights of decent ordinary citizens against a corrupt elite





# Reality or who cares?

EVERYTHING!!!

Post-Truth : word of the year, 2016

Postfaktisch: Gesellschaft für Deutsche Sprache

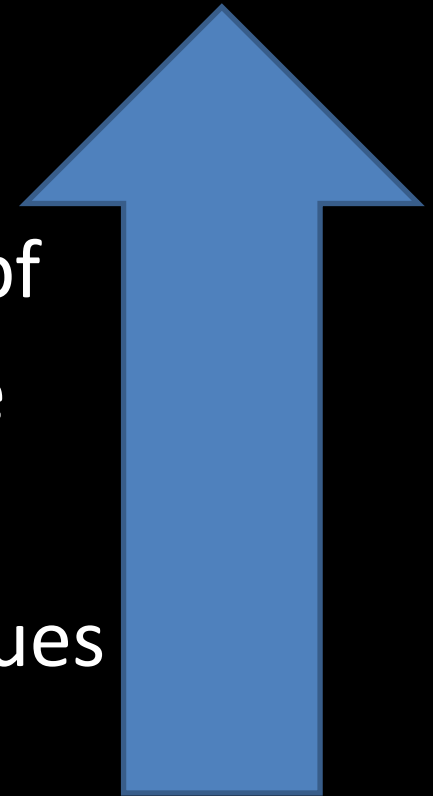
- “Our perfect world is shaken in Baierbrunn”

# Robert Greene, The Concise 33 Strategies of War, 2008

- “People’s perceptions are filtered through their emotions; they tend to interpret the world according to what they want to see. Feed their expectations, manufacture a reality to match their desires, and they will fool themselves.”

# Social and Institutional Degeneration

- Bogardus: Social Distance
- Gibson: Political tolerance
- Political polarization + Kulturkampf
- Noelle-Neumann: Spiral of silence
- Inghelhart: Silent revolution
- Post materialist vs materialist values



# Europe's crisis – SoU 2016, Juncker

- Our European Union is, at least in part, in an existential crisis.
- But never before have I seen such little common ground between our Member States. So few areas where they agree to work together. Never before have I heard so many leaders speak only of their domestic problems, with Europe mentioned only in passing, if at all.

# Youth

- Discuss: *What young people are afraid of? Are they different than rest of the society?*

# Youth

- Has more to be afraid of:
- Unemployment; gig economy; zero hour contracts; employability; adultism.
- No – little representation in decision making, high levels of efficacy; low party membership
- Alternative engagements;

# Can youth talk?

- <https://youtu.be/LQLoyDCghps>

# Youth -2

- HOPE
- Gary Pollock, future trends in youth;
- Beyond world of fear; more open minded; more European and more post-materialist, autonomous
- Erasmus generation; more to show solidarity



# Youth-3



**emilia**

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I honestly don't care if you don't want teenagers involved in politics.

We didn't want a bunch of angry old white men to decide our future and our president, but here we are.

10:12 AM - 16 Apr 2018

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1.2K 21K 88K

- Bene Gesserit Litany Against Fear from the book series *Dune Chronicles*: “I must not fear. Fear is the mind-killer. Fear is the little-death that brings total obliteration.”