

YouOnPart – Youth Online Participation in Switzerland

First thoughts of using matrix for
media diaries research with
young people

Prof. Dr. Olivier Steiner, Institut Kinder- und Jugendhilfe



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Forms, Contexts and influencing factors of online political participation among young Swiss people (14-19y)

How young people deal with the opportunities and challenges of online participation, what experiences they have and to what extent they use digital tools to make their own concerns visible.

Research Plan

- Phase 1: media diaries and problem-centred interviews with 64 young people aged between 14 and 19
- Phase 2: problem-centred interviews will be conducted with experts from formal and non-formal educational contexts
- Phase 3: two cross-regional workshops with experts from the field of formal and non-formal education

Media Diaries

- recording digital practices, subjective perceptions of these practices (Fuhs 2014)
- young people post media artefacts (texts, images, reels, memes, videos, etc.) on social and political issues
- research team supports the young people (cf. interactive-supportive diary collection, Heeg et al. 2018).

Challenge

- Data secure platform, easy to use for young people (close to “Lebenswelt”)
- Political views are highly sensitive data! No commercial platforms – even if encrypted
- FHNW IT not supportive in installing opensource like matrix
- EPFL, Andro and Carine as the good fairies

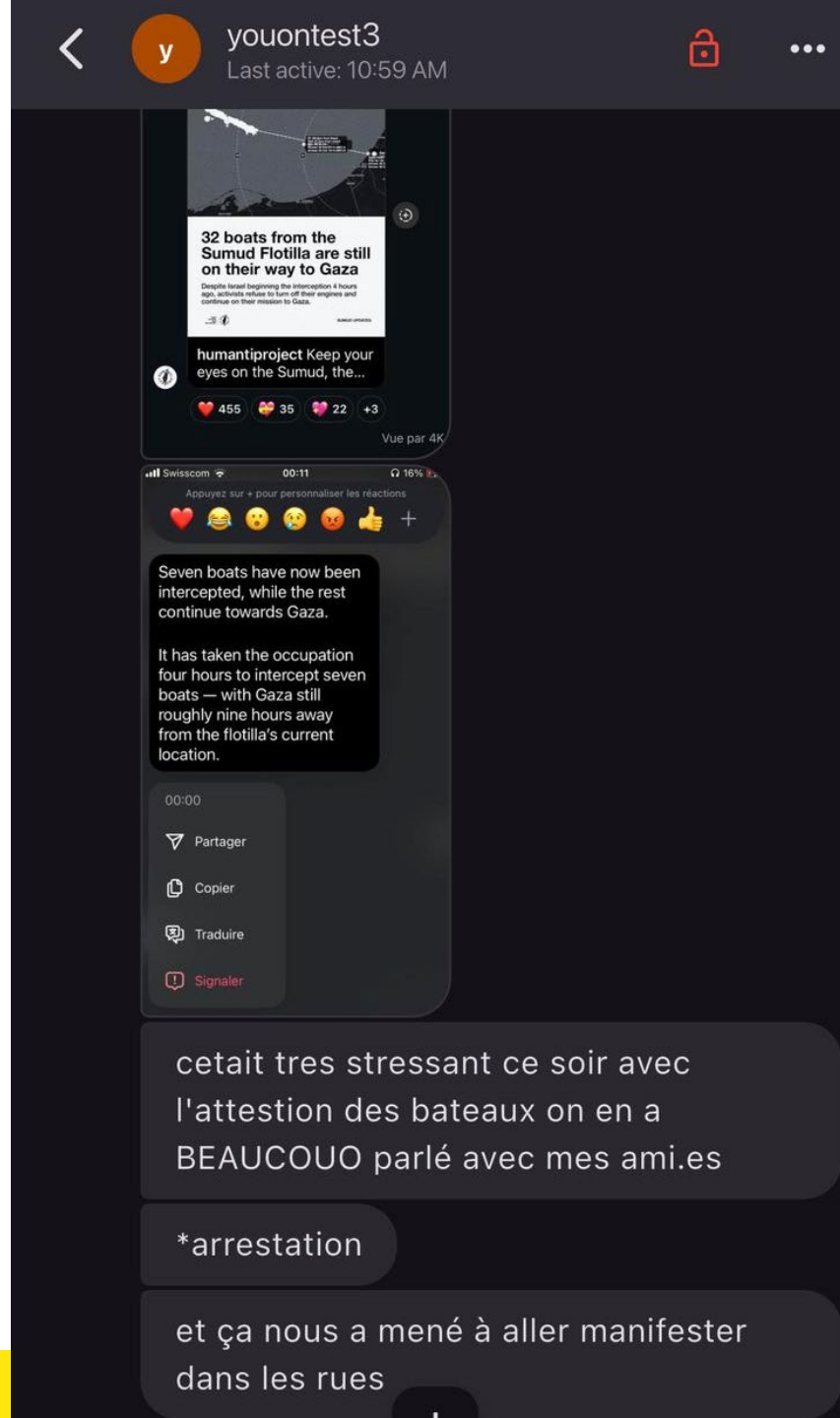


Advantages of Matrix

- local hosting in Switzerland
- open source (no backdoors)
- highly encrypted
- easy to use clients available (fluffy chat)
- chat export options as html (import in maxqda possible with images (but no video?))

First experiences

- We created rooms for staff, with Andro and Carine for support questions.
- Accounts for young people can be created in advance – easy onboarding
- Pilot tests were successful
- Young people are familiar with the UI, messaging is part of Lifeworld (“Lebenswelt”)
- Sometimes short answers – messaging format vs. diary format



Conclusions

- Matrix is very well suited for research with young people
- Messenger very close to their Lifeworld
- Need for methodological analysis (messenger-diaries)
- Research institutions should actively support local open source platforms for research

Literature

- Fuhs, Burkhard (2014). Medientagebuch – chronografische Methode. In: Tillmann, Angela/Fleischer, Sandra/Hugger, Kai-Uwe (Hg.). Handbuch Kinder und Medien. Wiesbaden: Springer Fachmedien. S. 259–271.
- Heeg, Rahel/Genner, Sarah/Steiner, Olivier/Schmid, Magdalene/Suter, Lilian/Süss, Daniel (2018). Generation Smartphone. Ein partizipatives Forschungsprojekt mit Jugendlichen. Basel/Zürich: FHNW Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz und ZHAW Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften.