

## **Memory of superlatives? On potentials and their virtual realities**

### Theses on the presentation

1. Media-based remembrance cultures can be comprehensively described not through analysis of memory media alone, but only via consideration of the entire communication process. Only when production and appropriation processes are included will the realities of media-based potentials become apparent.
2. Online offerings on National Socialism and Holocaust act as a complement to other remembrance media and are rooted in society. They do not generate any detached methods in the teaching of the National Socialist past.
3. The technical and media-related potentials of the Net are not being realised, or are being realised only in a limited way. Websites on National Socialism and Holocaust are primarily text-based and, generally, are used less for communicative exchange than for targeted information retrieval.
4. Young users are bucking the trend of general utilisation: For 14 to 19-year-olds the Internet is the most important source of information on the National Socialist past. Additionally, exchange with other users plays a major part for “hyperactive youths.”
5. In order to be able to identify more closely with young people’s lifeworld, their media usage behaviour should be included. The promotion of media competence in the context of media-based teaching on the Holocaust means, for example, conveying insights into the *constructedness* of Hollywood movies as well as providing reference points for evaluating certain online offerings.
6. Websites on National Socialism and Holocaust are underestimated as mere public relations tools. They will gain in significance as information and communication platforms in the future.