

## GROUP INFORMATION

The Holocaust Education and Genocide Prevention Foundation (formerly as Kleinmann Family Foundation) was founded in 1993 by Holocaust survivor Peter Kleinmann and Naomi Kramer, who remains President to this day. She has devoted her life to researching and teaching the history of the Holocaust. In 1994 she was invited by Dr. Kurt Scholz, President of the Viennese School Board, to create a week-long symposium educating teachers from former communist countries including Romania, Hungary, Czechoslovakia on the topic of Holocaust education. Naomi is an active member of the Jewish Community of Montreal and has brought many other members in for consultation on this project, including numerous Holocaust survivors, school boards, academics, and members of diverse communities from around Canada. In 2019 Naomi received the Gold Medal of Honour for Services to the Republic of Austria, in 2022 the Decoration of Merit in Gold from the Austrian Canadian Council, and in 2023 the Austrian Holocaust Memorial Award.

Recently, the HEGP Foundation has begun working with representatives of Canada's Indigenous communities to adapt this project and bring it to more rural areas in the North.

The Jewish Community Foundation of Montreal and the Bissell Family Foundation have each contributed financially for both the initial implementation of *Misinformation and Disinformation: Down the Rabbit Hole* and for the second phase the Canadian Government is currently reviewing a request for funding.

The HEGP Foundation has also been a partner of the Gedenkdienst program since its inception in 1995. Gedenkdieners, with their youthful perspectives and invaluable input, encourage participation with students.

## FEEDBACK

Good Morning,

I recently attended the educational programme "Mis and Disinformation: Down the Rabbit Hole", aimed at high school students, and I cannot recommend it highly enough. The facilitators were knowledgeable and engaging, making complex topics accessible and relevant.

Through real-world examples and a helpful video, we learned how easily false information can spread, especially on social media. The activities were not only informative but also fun, encouraging critical thinking.

The workshop also emphasized the importance of media literacy, equipping us with tools to navigate the digital landscape responsibly. By the end of the session, I felt the students were more confident in their ability to spot false information and engage in informed discussions.

Overall, this workshop was an eye-opening experience that every high school student should have. It's crucial for us to understand the impact of disinformation in today's world, and this workshop provided the skills and knowledge we need to combat it. Thank you to the organizers for such a valuable experience!

Dan Fitzpatrick  
Senior School Teacher  
**The Study School**



"The most valuable part of the experience was that our students got the chance to witness an act of reconciliation by peers not much older than themselves. The Holocaust education service component and sense of responsibility for atrocities in the past and duty to educate to prevent the repetition of such atrocities really impressed our students. They walked away with a clear understanding of misinformation and disinformation, as well as its potential risks. Concrete, real-life examples that were familiar to our students exemplified these risks and their devastating consequences. I'm confident that they will now think more critically about the information they consume and share."

Marie-Eve Thériault  
**Selwyn House School**

Good afternoon,

We really enjoyed Gabriel and Leo's workshop, which helped raise awareness among my students (secondary 5) of the issue of misinformation and the link between misinformation and genocide. We appreciated the links between past and present.

In the process, we also learned about present-day Austria and its civilian service abroad, which young people can do instead of military service. (My students had lots of questions about this).

Thank you so much!

Sophie Doucet, Ph.D. (History)  
History, politics and vision teacher  
**Villa Ste-Marcelline**

"As for a report, I would say that you did a very nice job of covering some difficult topics, and also topics that are difficult to cover in a short amount of time. So, you presented a good summary of the issues at play in the relatively short time that you had for the presentation. These are also topics covered in our Social Science courses, so it's good for students to hear about them from someone in your position. I also found it quite useful for you to explain the differences between misinformation and disinformation. I hope that students will now be more critical of the information they consume, so that they question what they see, hear and read, to ultimately act more responsibly."

Johanne Rabbat (She/Her)  
Coordinator, Women's/Gender Studies, Chairperson, Dept. of Religion  
**Dawson College**

I am a student of Dawson college, and I attended your talk during social science week about misinformation and disinformation. I want to let you know, what you are doing is very admirable!! Learning about the past and making sure history does not repeat itself is essential for reconciliation progress. Nobody is responsible for the crimes of their ancestors, however how can you make sure no such thing happens again, unless you are informed about what happened? When I look at the current attitude of Japan, I see the sad truth about what transpires when a country forgets about its past crimes. How the majority of its population remain ignorant and openly denying what happened during the 1930s-1940s. How the war criminals are still being honored despite their participation in genocides... Thank you again, for doing such admirable work!

Louisa Lin  
Student  
**Dawson College**

It was a real privilege to welcome Daniel in my class yesterday. He was very well prepared, clear, personable and all around a pleasure to listen to. I was a little worried that my students, although sweet and well behaved, might be distracted and not pay full attention, as can happen at the end of a long day. But Daniel's excellent ppt and his clear and engaging presentation style really touched the students. Many questions were asked at the end, and it was clear that his message had touched them deeply Thank you so much for your continued commitment to bringing enlightenment to the classroom. It literally changes the world.

With gratitude,

Sophie Jacmin  
Teacher  
**Vanier College**

***Fact Fiction Propaganda: A Multimedia Program Combating Hate on the Internet\**** is a wonderfully produced and illustrated pedagogical program from Naomi Kramer and the Kleinmann Family Foundation [HEGP]. As a teaching text it is a well-organized and easily accessible discussion of issues related to prejudice and discrimination set both in historical and contemporary societal perspectives. The focus on the Internet and its destructive potential for fomenting and proliferating hatred is especially pertinent to anyone who is concerned with human welfare in this digital age. I recommend this pedagogical program to those interested in fair-mindedness and in understanding the nature and magnitude of its counter-instances.

Robert M. Bernard, Ph.D.  
Retired Chair of Education Department  
**Concordia University**

\* Fact Fiction Propaganda: A Multimedia Program Combating Hate on the Internet was the predecessor of Mis and Disinformation: Down the Rabbit Hole