

GCA resolutions on Matt's video case

The 15th November 2014

June 2014

Matt makes a video: "How to Know What's True: Assessing Scientific Research"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Tc0_NuIJx0

Peter uploads the video in trust that Matt is a seasoned communications member and would never result to divisive rhetoric and generated 'official' stands on issues which are not only, in some cases, unsolved in the scientific sphere, they are irrelevant to what TZM has been doing for 6 years.

Matt publishes the transcription (including the video) in the official Blog bypassing the Blog Team proofreading as the procedure requires.

<http://blog.thezeitgeistmovement.com/blog/matt-berkowitz/how-know-whats-true-assessing-scientific-research>

Over the following months, many complaints about the video were sent to Peter Joseph (Lecture Team Coordinator) and also Giovanna Marino (part of the GCA) has been contacted by some Canadian, French and Italian coordinators/members and asked to make clear on that video within the GCA members. Also Steve Cross (part of the GCA and TZM Montreal coord. at the time) was concerned about this issue 'cause some of his friends from the Sri Lanka Chapter were shocked, being researches and Doctors who are strictly against vaccinations which have been deplored in the video.

Peter asks Matt to rethink the video; edit or remove it. Matt not only refuses, he makes another video with people endorsing his personal points of view. Peter steps back and asks GCA to go through this issue to avoid the constant assumption that Peter Joseph is the "ruler" of TZM.

The GCA decides that the video could remain on the main channel, but with a disclaimer added to the front to address these concerns indicating that the views expressed were not necessarily those of TZM in the hope to cool down the situation. (The GCA didn't decide about the content of the very same video).

Matt goes on criticizing Peter Joseph also in the public and ends up publishing the open letter: "[Expression of concern about TZM's infrastructure and public image: pseudoscience and grand conspiracy thinking abound](#)" endorsed by some of TZM volunteers/members and some other ex-members, in which he blames Peter Joseph of having pseudoscientific views and conspiratorial thinkings.

Due to the escalation of the complaints, Peter, being the Lecture Team Coordinator (hence lecture team jurisdiction), takes the video down.

November 2014

The GCA (Global Chapters Administration) invites all concerned members to come to the next GCA meeting to discuss solutions to the issues raised by the letter.

11th November 2014 on Team Speak at 21 UTC (GCA room)

The Global Chapter Administration, some of the Lecture Team members plus some TZM volunteers attended a TeamSpeak meeting to discuss the document "[Suggested plan for reconciliation and positive development of TZM](#)" written by Matt Berkowitz (Vancouver CA N. Coord), James Phillips and Ben McLeish (London UK - Coord.s), the three of them being TZM Lecture Team members. ([recording](#))

Final considerations

The GCA is always willing to consider how to fulfill the needs of TZM members, but feels very uncomfortable on accepting any ultimatum.

The GCA recognises the needs for a quality control on any content (videos, pictures, images pdf, ppt, articles, radioshow, lectures, etc.) that goes out to the public. A good example is the actual system in place for articles published on the official Blog.

The GCA is aware that it might be a good idea to have a group of people or a structure dedicated to deal with any of TZM members concerns and take a final decision on whatsoever issues so to avoid any violent disagreement.

Despite the fact that the GCA is not supposed to fulfil this role at the moment, until this structure will not be in place (and this is to be discussed and decided within TZM teams and official National coordinators), the GCA will discuss on how to best manage these events. Therefore the GCA will remove any permissions to those members who, having the power to publish, skip quality controls and in general remove any content that damages the public image of the Zeitgeist Movement.

The GCA does not agree to take any decision using the 'majority' system as suggested in the here above mentioned docs, but instead to reach rational consensus.

The GCA does not agree on the requirement of some sort of science competency/scientific literacy test as a prerequisite for participation in the GCA/Lecture Team/Blog Team/coordination or other TZM bodies.

In fact, many theories are unsolved even in the scientific sphere, therefore even a team of trained professionally accredited individuals dedicated to flag up any concerns with movement materials is not seen as a plus since science is an ongoing process and a group of people will never be able to declare what the truth is and also because such theories are mostly irrelevant to TZM activities.

The movement does not endorse pro nor against GMO studies, Alternative Medicines, Homeopathy, 9/11, cholesterol's role in heart disease, diets, vaccines, etc.. instead the GCA invites everybody to learn and understand the scientific process and to form her/his own culture reading both antagonists studies.

With regard to the content of the video, not having a quality control team yet in place, the GCA finds that Matt's video is insulting and incongruous, it does not meet the requirement of the movement and the non-violent communication wasn't applied. Science does not judge nor blame and it is an on going discovering process so that scientific evidences may be realistic one day and obsolete the day after.

The GCA agrees that any TZM members/volunteers are free to publish whatsoever content in their own respective personal Facebook pages or similar social network (Twitter, Google+, etc.)

The Global Chapters Administration members

(Please sign this doc and add your considerations)

giovanna marino

fred reitz (actifwed)

When a member/volunteer publishes content related to OR mentioning TSM on its own FB or similar social network, AND if this content represents risks to be understood in a polemical way, it must be clearly displayed that TSM is not associated with that content.

Nelson Alvarez

I agree with the doc, but I think need to remain only for the records if its needed and not to share public.

Victor Mora

I agree with the doc as one that portrays the past event on this matter . I suggest to keep it as internal one no public. However, I suggest that the GCA creates a public announcement to clarify , as well to avoid in the near future for this happen again. Stated that TSM does not hold any position regard members requirements of some sort of science competency/scientific literacy test as a prerequisite for participation in the movement. Also, that the members and the public should not take as official of the movement any personal opinions/position about any thing that might been seen in the social media or somewhere else. Those belong to them not to the movement.

Gilbert Ismail

Seems in order, also recommended to keep for the archive or whenever needed.

Steve croos

I agree with the document and also with Victor and Nelson in keeping it as an internal document. I changed a few lines about me that was not accurate.

Oleksii Siryi

I studied the case history. I also agree with this document.