

# TELEVIZION

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Internationales Zentralinstitut für das  
Jugend- und Bildungsf Fernsehen (IZI)



**Prejudices, racism, extremism**



**Dr Maya Götz**  
Head of the International  
Central Institute for Youth and  
Educational Television (IZI),  
Munich, Germany

Prejudices – the deliberate denigration of other people because they belong to a particular group – are extremely powerful. They give certainty in uncertain times, boost self-esteem, substantiate claims to a higher status, and suggest that others are inherently less entitled to a good, fulfilling life (vom Orde). Prejudices quickly become racism, which is always associated with discrimination and harm to others. Prejudices stir up strong emotions such as hate, the emotion that can override behavioural norms, turning people into perpetrators of violence and allowing democratic principles to be forgotten (Zick). Racism can be further promoted by media, constantly re-enacting the same old stereotypes (Eckhardt Rodriguez, Dill-Shackelford). Children and adolescents in particular learn through media and the stories media tell, encountering other everyday cultures and getting to know different perspectives and the diversity of the world through media. Media products designed with this in mind can counter prejudices, denigration and racism, and increase tolerance (Fisch).

To counter prejudices and racism, however, it is not enough to be aware of and to value the diversity of our society. One of the aims of prevention must always be to provide age-appropriate teaching on the basic principles of denigration and the consequences of discrimination, racism and extremism, e. g., through children's news (Mörchen). Particularly for children and adolescents growing up in Germany, this cannot happen without an examination of the Nazi period and the Holocaust (Neckel, Götz/Holler).

Educating young people about racism and extremism and their consequences is a topic that has to start at primary school. The challenge here is to place children's existing fragments of knowledge in a context that makes sense, and to preserve their inherent openness towards the diversity of the world. Young people need knowledge and media literacy in order to resist the stealthy and increasingly prevalent recruitment strategies of extremist organizations (Reinemann/Riesmeyer, Holler).

What quality media can offer them is background knowledge and arguments which will enable them to oppose the racist and extremist statements circulating in the public discourse.

**“We underestimate the power and force of prejudices”**

A conversation with Andreas Zick.

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**Prejudices: development, influencing factors and prevention**

This article provides an overview of selected findings from social-psychological prejudice research and the implications for prevention work with children.

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*1001 Nights: Promoting inclusion and tolerance through a children’s TV show?*

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**TELEVISION**

**PREJUDICES, RACISM, EXTREMISM**

Screenshot of Kids of Courage! Der Krieg und ich © SWR



*Kids of Courage: A drama series on the Second World War and the Holocaust for 8- to 12-year-olds.*

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**How adolescents come into contact with extremism**

A conversation with Carsten Reinemann and Claudia Riesmeyer.

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**The Black gangster and the Latino cleaning lady**

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