



# qualitalk

*Information on Technology and Society*

February 2021  
Internet Version  
ISSN 1615-9667  
22. Volume  
72. Edition

Printed Version  
ISSN 1435-1641  
27. Volume  
88. Edition

What will entice the **Lockdown** – yes, the German equivalent to shelter-in-place – to loosen? More and more anglicisms, maybe? How about rather clamoring for a **Shutdown** instead of “Stilllegung”? And it’s so much more contemporary to use the English words Home-office instead of “Heimarbeit”, or to use an abbreviation FFP2, (filtering face piece in FFP2 mask), instead of “Mund- und Nasenmaske” to filter noxious agents in the air.

And as they tell you over and over, always keep a minimum distance of two meters (6 feet), as I do recommend to you, too

*Oliver Schuster*

Page 2

**Pop-up in the Park**  
This time a different  
Christmas

Page 3

**Bad Memories**  
1945, 2001  
and 2021

Page 6

Impressum



**Where there are two or three assembled in  
my name I will be among them.**

Gospel of St. Mark, Chapter 18, verse 20

**What a Celebration on Christmas Eve:** an improvised pop-up Christmas service with social distance and face masks drew together to the park a few people from the neighborhood.

# Pop-up in the Park

---

## This time a different Christmas

In a small park in the city surrounded by buildings erected in the “Gründerzeit”, according to some sources the period up to the beginning of World War One, Christmas lights in the windows and balconies were fewer than in the years before the corona-virus. The only thing showing an increase was the number of dogs being taken out for a walk. The animals pulled on their leash while their owners, mainly of the female kind, rather obliviously were occupied talking on their cell phones. Could it be that they ordered Christmas presents or take-away dinners?

Somewhat absentmindedly they collected the dogs’ droppings in little black plastic bags – if they noticed it at all. In a number of city streets but foremost in many city parks are installed dispensers of such plastic bags marked “baggies for the poop”. Those are used liberally: more than 100,000 of those are collected daily. Sadly a same mechanism doesn’t work for the dogs’ pervasive piss.\*) Unsurprisingly, this evening before Christmas Day a fair number of dogs could be seen relieving themselves before they were locked in again in the residences of their owners who then will be busy to unwrap their Christmas presents.

In addition to the dogs and their owners in the park a dozen or so parents with their kids also had made it to the park. With little candles in their hands they had assembled for a Christmas Eve service in the open. Only a small group had got together following a notification on the board in one corner of the park which had been pasted over other announcements on short notice. Often those

announcements refer to events long past but this time there was some urgency.

The parishes wanted to put on the brakes on parishioners who would only attend Christmas services, to avoid a crowd in the church. Regulations in these corona-virus times limited church service attendance to just



**The Birth of Jesus:** manger in front of the altar of baroque-classic church of St. Peter and Paul in Vienna’s third district.

fifty percent of the seats in a church. Latecomers who during normal times would crowd the church’s aisles would not have been permitted anyhow. To compensate, short impromptu services in parks and open places “popped up”.

The intention was to remind people rushing by, as well as the dog owners, that all this season’s hype really should one remind of the original occasion: the birth of Christ which according to tradition happened 2020 years ago — “post Christum natum”, as the Latins say.

Strangely enough, not even the police knew about this Christmas ser-

vice in the park: Instead of an unobtrusive patrol on foot a patrol car came driving down one of the walkways in the park crossing the crowd of worshippers.

The number of worshippers at Christmas was way below the usual one, said Father Thomas Lambrichs from St. Peter and Paul church in Erdberg district of Vienna, even in St. Stephan's cathedral, the main church in Vienna. I also experienced that: attending services in the Protestant Christ Church near Vienna's main station on 26th December I counted only six other attendees; according to strict corona-virus regulations, 44 would have been allowed. Pessimists maintain that the decrease of importance of churches ultimately led to a feeling of unimportance. Numbers of church disaffiliations show that the church as an institution has lost their impor-



tance. Cologne's archbishop Rainer Maria Woelki's attitude in matters of local sexual abuse enraged so many believers that multitude left the Catholic church; the rush of applications to leave resulted in the crash of the server of Cologne's magistrate. ☹

**Father Thomas Johannes Lambrichs** Lambrichs leads the parish St. Peter and Paul in Vienna's Erdberg quarter. In 2010 it still counted 3,500 members.

The pictures of the storming of the Capitol on 6 January 2021 left an indelible impression of this terrible happening on me. It will rest forever together with my memories of 1945 and 2001 — all three of those dates have to do with the United States.

The first one is the date of the dropping of atomic bombs in Japan though I really can't recall precisely the events; I was just four years old when the bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

By the time of this nuclear catastrophe the war in Europe was already over with the unconditional capitulation of Germany on 8 May 1945. My

father, just 32 years old and without injuries from the war, came back home in American-occupied Heidelberg two days later. He was supposed to defend the home country against American troops with no more than a handful of soldiers but decided to get rid of his uniform somewhere in Swabia, put on civilian clothes and used back roads to make it home.

He was lucky to get his job back at his previous employer, the Swiss company of Brown, Boveri & Cie (BBC) in Mannheim right away. The electro-technical company in the Käfertal area of the city had escaped destructions during the war. As a Swiss company BBC was not subject to the war re-compensation process imposed by

## Bad Memories

1945, 2001  
and 2021



*Souvenirs on display near a Japanese Shinto Shrine.*

the victors on German-owned companies. The best thing was that because of its Swiss affiliation the cafeteria at work could offer their employees decent and plentiful food.

“Do you like to have some more, girl?” my mother said often after dinner during those times marked by hunger. I always replied: “If there is something left somewhere, yes”, with a look to my father’s briefcase who sometimes brought things from the company’s cafeteria, an apple maybe or a sandwich, or a piece of plum cake.

In those times, in the Rhine-Neckar area, a plum cake plus a hearty bean soup were considered to be a full meal. And if a plum cake was served in the cafeteria my father always brought a piece of it back home. How delicious!

I don’t have any recollection how bad life was after the end of the war. My family was lucky in that they lived in the western part of Germany, and not in the east, or farther east, or even Japan. So, at that time I really never asked my parents if they were aware of the dropping of the atomic bombs in Japan.

But at the time the Russians tested their first atomic bomb at Semipalatinsk on 29 August 1949 I was already able to read, and I got those news out of the “Heidelberger Tageblatt” newspaper. But it only was much later that I could fathom the real meaning of an atomic device, during my visit to Japan in 1978.

**Hiroshima:** In the so-called Peace Memorial Park, very close to the center of detonation, I could see the molten glass bottles and the shades of evaporated human bodies on the walls.

Thinking back, the bombs exploding over Hiroshima and Nagasaki happened at a time when I was playing in a kindergarten in “peaceful” Germany.

It could be that the Japanese I asked for information in English couldn’t or pretended not to understand me. Maybe they took me for an American because in 1978 there weren’t too many solitary “gaijin” (foreigners) traveling in Japan. I quickly learned to say: “doitsu-jin des” — I am a German — which most of the times changed their attitude right away. Despite Auschwitz I didn’t feel my German provenience weighing down on me. In the U.S.A. I am not sure whether many people really knew about the atomic bomb and its devastating effects; in Germany, for many years the American occupying forces forbade any report about their drops.

In that regard, Germans recognized their guilt, they were aware of the chicanery they put their Jewish compatriots through since 1933. The Aryan so-called “Volksgenossen” (fellow compatriots) profited from getting hold of their Jewish citizens’ properties. Something similar to a collective guilt for war crimes and the Shoa, like I and many in my age group still feel, is absent in U.S. Americans — I doubt if the thought of the utter destruction of Hiroshima or Nagasaki would cross their mind at all. It is no consolation that the nuclear physicist Lise Meitner who fled Nazi Germany together with most of her colleagues at the Kaiser-Wilhelm Institute in Berlin who were involved with the research in nuclear fission was in no way connected to the development of nuclear weapons. Those were developed by other scientists also driven out of Europe to the U.S.A.

## 1945

### 6./9. August Hiroshima Nagasaki

**New York City:** The second incident occurred in 2001: the airborne attack on the two towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, on 11 September.

Thinking back I can relive the impression when I was taken by my American cousin (standing on the right side of the picture besides) for the first time at the visitors' terrace on top of the southern building (WTC 2), in 1979. One could walk right to the edge of it and look down on the streets from a height of 400 m (1,300 ft). My second time there was in 1998; the access on the terrace was now much more restricted. It was only from the center of the terrace one could have an overview of the city.

Back home in Mainz, on 11 September 2001, my neighbor urgently called me across the fence: something terrible has happened. The TV showed that around 09:30 local time one aircraft crashed into the upper part of the southern tower that collapsed barely an hour later, another plane struck the northern tower that also collapsed.

All in all, four passenger aircraft were hijacked by Arab terrorists who carried out suicide attacks.

It took me a couple of hours to get hold of my American cousins, to find out that they and the people in their neighborhood were O.K.

**Washington, D.C.:** My third bad memory is much more recent; it's not as remote as Hiroshima or the attack on the World Trade Center, but its effects are still reverberating today: the storming of the Capitol building in Washington, D.C. on 6 January 2021, close to one P.M. local time. I switched on the TV at a time when



**Mineola, NY:** *My American Family – the descendants of my mother's sister who emigrated to the United States in 1930.*

the first rioters had already breached security and entered National Statutory Hall. It probably was the first time ever that lawbreakers themselves provided such extensive incriminating material by recording the assault on their own electronic devices disseminated on the Internet for the whole world to see.

Those unrestrictedly available data will be used professionally as "Visual Investigation" to reconstruct the chronological sequence of events. That will be supported by research teams at newspapers such as The New York Times, The Washington Post, as well as private sleuths, and further by use of satellite pictures, weather reports

**2001 9/11  
New York**

---

**6. Januar 2021  
Washington  
D.C.**

### **Blame yourself!**

*A dangerous confession:  
Trump's violent supporters  
face punishment – convicted  
by their own video material.*



*The online-Publication  
PROPUBLICA shows the videos  
of the Capitol intruders on a  
timeline.*

*<https://projects.propublica.org/parler-capitol-videos/>*

and solar position analysis. The pictorial evidence is of compelling poignancy. To just rely on traditional methods of criminal prosecution, without picture evaluation proving the storming of the Capitol would have been difficult.

What surprised me most was the near helplessness with which security forces tried to stem the mob. They most obviously were unprepared to encounter such well equipped, overwhelming masses instigated by then-president Donald Trump. With the mob entering and exiting the building at will over its main stairs to the portals, at the bottom of it was parked a pick-up truck with a huge poster behind its windshield: “Pelosi Is Satan”. Following CNN’s live transmission till past midnight I noticed that this car with the poster insulting the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) was

still parked there for everyone to see. None of the TV commentators mentioned this disturbing picture. Thinking about how instantly car license plates appearing on TV news are pixelated by a computer program for privacy reasons it boggled my mind that something like that did not happen to hide the offensive message.

The mayor of Washington, D.C., Muriel Bowser, imposed an immediate curfew starting at six P.M. But even thereafter the lack of dispatching additional security personnel, such as police or National Guard was glaring. A few police officers were seen to gently lead some of the mob down the stairs. In the slowly emptying space in front of the Capitol police officers were using waist-high crowd-control barriers to nudge the remaining mob away from the Capitol building. ☹

---

## Impressum



**Chris Schuth**  
by Maurice de Chlourigon

**qualitalk** edited by  
Chris Schuth | Max-Planck-Straße 46  
55124 Mainz | Germany  
Phone (+49) 175 5 58 63 61

[www.chris-schuth.de](http://www.chris-schuth.de)  
mail (schnabel-a) [chris-schuth.de](mailto:chris-schuth.de)  
Edition: February 2021  
Published four times a year.

Pictures:  
by the author, if not stated otherwise.  
ISSN 1615-9667 [Internet]  
ISSN 1435-1641 [printed version]

The German edition of **qualitalk**  
[www.chris-schuth.de/qtalk\\_88.pdf](http://www.chris-schuth.de/qtalk_88.pdf)  
herunter geladen werden.

The German-English translation by Dr.  
Dieter von Jettmar, Vienna (Austria)  
[www.chris-schuth.de/qtalk\\_88\\_en.pdf](http://www.chris-schuth.de/qtalk_88_en.pdf)

*Buchhinweis / Reference*  
*Eliot Higgins: Digitale Jäger – Insiderbericht  
aus dem Recherchenetzwerk Bellingcat, ©  
2021 Quadriga Verlag, Berlin / We are Bel-  
lingcat: An Intelligence Agency for the People,  
© 2021 Bloomsbury Publishing.*

© Chris Schuth