



Discussion on “Catfish” in the Stuttgart project group:

First the students discussed Angela’s motives to adopt a “Facebook”-identity:

- No social life
- She needs to break out of her every-day life
- She couldn’t realize her former dreams and tries to fulfill them in her virtual life
- Can the students relate to Angela’s behaviour?
- The majority of the students could understand her wish to create a virtual identity
- Yet most could not understand how she could
 - create so many different characters
 - keep up with their complex relationships
 - spend so much time on the “project”

True or fake documentary?

- Some students found it improbable that they filmed the beginning of the story before they knew where it would lead to
- Most of the students “wanted” to believe in the authenticity of the documentary and thought that key scenes may have been re-enacted

Why does Angela not mind being filmed? Is filming Angela ethically acceptable?

- Most students didn’t find it surprising that Angela did not mind being filmed because becoming the focus of attention had been the motivating force behind her actions from the beginning
- Angela and Nev have “known” each other for a long time. As he is one of the film crew she doesn’t feel awkward/embarrassed
- Only one student in the group thought that filming Angela was ethically not acceptable

Can you fall in love via Facebook?

- The majority of students thought that it is possible to fall in love with a person you only know from the internet
- Yet it was also clear that a meeting in person would have to follow after a short while
- The students said that today getting to know a person means you see them shortly, feel attracted to each other and then spend time chatting on the internet to really get to know each other

The aim of the film?

- You should become aware of the possible discrepancy between a person’s true identity and their Facebook identity
- Entertainment: Students agreed that it was an interesting and entertaining film