

“A research assistant with a technical orientation, who wants to listen to presentations to gather new perspectives.”

We plan a powerpoint karaoke regarding media technology themes. Powerpoint karaoke is an event, where participants volunteer to give a presentation on a random subject. They are confronted with a finished presentation to a subject, that they aren't told beforehand. Then they have the task to make sense of the elements on the slides and convince the audience that they know what they're talking about. Usually powerpoint karaoke is rather funny. We still think a research assistant could gather new perspectives for their research, if people, who don't work with media technology daily, try to connect the given bullet points and images.

In general, we want to have some “easier” and more general themes, that almost everyone knows a bit about, like “The power of memes” or “What can I still believe? Artificial Intelligence in current times”. But we also want to have some more specific subjects, because we think it would be interesting to see, how people who might not be familiar with media studies would interpret their cues on the slides. Something like: “The medium is the message”.

Important for the organisation is, that the presentation can be shown. For that there needs to be a working laptop (or other device), a beamer and a screen to show it on, adaptors, charging cables, and optionally a laser pointer and a remote to control the slides. Ideally, this takes place in a lecture hall or a seminar room, because the needed equipment is most likely already available and working.

Furthermore, the presentations need to be prepared. Because they are all supposed to be related to media technology, we would ask lecturers and students, if they already have some presentations prepared from past lectures or presentations and are willing to provide them. Someone would have to shorten them to about 10 slides of content per PowerPoint karaoke participant.

The slides themselves should have relatively clear titles, but no full sentences for the content. Instead, there need to be a few bullet points and many pictures. We think it'd be interesting for the audience, if some slides are designed neat and pretty, and some are very badly designed (Comic Sans, neon colours, bad transitions etc.). Also, it'd be interesting, if there were one bulletin point or image per presentation that has nothing to do with the topic at all, to see how the speakers find a connection.

PowerPoint karaoke as an event on one of the days or even both should be communicated in advance, so people know it's happening and maybe can plan to participate or come to watch as

audience. On the day(s) of the festival, there needs to be posters showing the direction to the event and the time it takes place.

We think it's important, that people can decide to join spontaneously. There shouldn't be a list that you have to register in advance. At least one person needs to moderate the event and introduce the rules of the evening. Another person or maybe even two should be on "standby" to volunteer to give the first presentation(s), in case the audience is shy and nobody wants to go first.

As for the time aspect, the talkers should try to speak between 5 and 10 minutes. A timer on the slides and another one that makes noise once the time is up are recommended. There should be 5 to 8 speakers in one speaking block (if the PowerPoint karaoke happens more than once during the festival), so it doesn't get too long, but also isn't too short. The actual time depends on how much participation there is.