

# **Propositions (Stellingen)**

To accompany the thesis entitled,

**“Under Construction:  
Reviewing and Producing Information Reliability on the web”**

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## **Propositions**

### **(Stellingen)**

1. The debate about the reliability of medical information on the web must be understood within the context of media history, debates about evidence-based medicine and fundamental social struggles regarding the right to profess knowledge. (This thesis)
2. Although the term reliability is often used in a manner that implies shared understanding of a unified concept, there are actually multiple, different “reliabilities” that co-exist on the web. (This thesis)
3. Reliability comprises not only the individual properties of information or a website, but also a diversity of actions in which various actors must engage. (This thesis)
4. Protecting oneself and others from the risks associated with misinformation is translated into a civic responsibility that is shared between government bodies, professionals and lay information seekers, on both the individual and community levels. (This thesis)
5. The act of making trust marks clickable to combat fraudulent use has resulted in the consequence that site providers are overlooked as primary users of these tools. (This thesis)
6. The popular assertion that US residents speak “American,” rather than “English,” disregards the influence of a shared history on the evolution of language; the syntax

and spellings currently employed in the US demonstrate the lasting influence of Tudor England upon her infant colonies, despite the passage of more than 400 years since the reign of the last Tudor monarch and more than 200 years since the colonial revolution.

7. Given the immensity of the harm caused by even suspected cases of genocide, the burden of proof should be placed upon the skeptics, rather than the victims, while semantic debates should follow, rather than precede, intervention – a bias toward belief and action would do less harm than current and past biases toward disbelief and inaction.
8. A standardized, multiple-choice test is an insufficient measure of the level of integration of foreign residents in a given society.
9. The qualitative researcher must be prepared to collect data anywhere, at anytime, because informal discussions in elevators, taxi cabs and cafés often provide more interesting and useful data than formal interviews, observations or documents.
10. “The historian of thought cannot afford to content himself with the work of formal thinkers, great or small. He must try and pursue ideas to their ultimate refuge in the mind of the common man.” – Crane Brinton
11. The most comfortable “bed” for a cat on any given day is whichever stack of papers the cat’s owner is planning to work on that day.