

## Memes über alles discussion

Made by Justin Mallone in November 2019

From the FI Discord  
<https://discordapp.com/channels/304082867384745994/304082867384745994/645716036175396897>

\*Elliott gives example of a meme being used in a "serious discussions" channel in an Oist forum\*

Justin: memes über alles

Elliott: "über alles" is a meme

Justin: i find that reply ambiguous in multiple ways.

Justin: first, i thought you were implicitly criticizing the use of what i would call "internet memes" (one case of which is low quality captioned reaction pics expressing trite content) in the serious discussions channel of an Oist forum. i do not consider "über alles" to be such an internet meme, but you brought up the meme status of über alles, so the first ambiguity is that perhaps i made a category error in guessing what you were criticizing.

Justin: the second ambiguity is that i'm unclear if you are criticizing my use of "über alles" or just mean to literally state that it is a meme for some reason other reason.

curi: ur memeing instead of being clear

Justin: i thought it'd be clear that i wasn't on the pro-using-reaction-memes-in-serious-Oist-discussion-forum side of the debate

curi: you didn't say anything about that. i could guess it from background knowledge. why are you changing the topic?

Justin: i did not realize i was changing the topic. i was trying to address what you said about "ur memeing instead of being clear" in particular the "being clear" part. i took that as saying that what i said left my substantive position on the meme pic unclear.

curi: you're skipping a million steps and derailing. why don't you just say 1 sentence simple comments to explain yourself? you're jumping into lots of speculation and over-complicating stuff

Justin: i'll just drop it

curi: why?

Justin: too hard. i thought i was going carefully but you're saying i'm skipping a million steps. i didn't realize i was skipping a single step. so my estimate of the situation is off by a lot.

curi: you don't want to do an impasse chain?

Justin: i'm not clear on what the topic is at this point. i'm not sure how to resolve that.

Justin: maybe we can try later. i don't think i'll be productive right now.

Comment:  
this statement by curi does not explicitly say which of the two statements Justin made re: ambiguities it is commenting on. It seems to be in the nature of a criticism of Justin's statement "memes über alles". It does not seem to be an explanation of whether Justin incorrectly guessed what Elliott was criticizing in the initial example Elliott offered re: a meme being used in a "serious discussions" channel. Thus I have placed this Elliott reply under what Justin describes as the "second ambiguity", because of the following language in Justin's statement of the ambiguity: "I'm unclear if you are criticizing my use of "über alles". Elliott's reply seems to indicate that he was indeed criticizing Justin's statement.

Attempt at restatement and elaboration of the meaning curi's statement by Justin:  
I am indeed criticizing your statement "memes über alles", Justin. You are using memes instead of being clear. You are diverting attention that could be used to engage in clearer communication and putting it towards the use of memes.

Comment: Justin focused on the words "being clear" and accidental dropped the context of the discussion. Justin had asked curi if curi was criticizing Justin's statement "memes über alles". curi indicated that he was criticizing Justin's statement. Justin then switched to talking about whether Justin's position on using reaction memes in a serious Oist discussion forum was clear. Justin incorrectly guessed that by "being clear" curi was talking about Justin making a clear statement regarding his view on the example of meme use curi had originally brought up. But curi was perhaps making a broader point about a bad approach to discussions in general and not complaining about Justin's lack of clarity on the specific example that curi brought up.

Comment: Justin felt bad because he consciously tried to approach the discussion in a calm and rational and thorough way and stuff still went super badly. He decided that continuing while feeling bad about the conversation would be unproductive and that it'd be better to try again later.