

## The Disappearance of Aeryn Gillern

**On the 29th of October 2019, 3 days from now, a Vigil will be held for Aeryn across from the Kaiserbründl in order to remember him. I am hoping that anyone in Vienna that is against Police incompetence and homophobic misconduct as well as anyone that wants answers in the disappearance of a human being who may have met with foul play, as well as anyone wishing to celebrate the life of Aeryn Gillern and offer their support to Katheryn Gillern and her family to bring a candle and join us at the Franziskanerkirche on the 29th of October 2019 starting at around 18:00.**

On the 29th of October 2007 American National Aeryn Gillern disappeared without a trace in Vienna, Austria. The subsequent investigation by the Austrian Police has been botched in many ways and homophobia has been cited as one of the main reasons why this case was not taken seriously, allegations that the Austrian Police has denied. Early investigations show that the Austrian Police also did not take the case seriously because it involved the disappearance of a non-Austrian national, which according to them is not their responsibility. However as an Austrian this statement not only angers, but also worries me. If there is a killer in Vienna, should he not be found based solely on the fact that his victim was not Austrian? This statement in itself is outrageous and gives me a feeling of unease about our local Police forces ability and ambition to solve cases of such serious nature. One of the main reasons I have decided to attempt to write up a comprehensive essay about Aeryn Gillerns disappearance is the fact that within a week of my research I have found that the official theories about what may have happened to him to be almost impossible, as well as the widespread confusion and inaccurate information available in all the articles published by various Austrian news outlets, which has made it a closed case for the Austrian police and sadly for the public as well. The only person that has provided any comprehensive information in this case at all is Katheryn Gillern, a veteran New York police officer and mother of the victim. I am hoping that by including all information available on this case and appealing to the Viennese people, the LGBTQ communitys in Europe and Worldwide as well as the True Crime community, that someone will come forward with information that will help put this case to rest.

*\*\*\*As this is a very lengthy post and I am sure most people will not read it in its entirety, here is a quick too long, didn't read Synopsis of the most Important factors in this case and what you might be able to do to help find Aeryn Gillern. This case involves potential mishandling of an Internal Investigation by the Austrian Interior Ministry as well as homophobic misconduct by the Austrian Police force that hindered any progress in Aeryn Gillerns case. On the 29th of October 2007 we know that*

*sometime shortly after 19:27, Aeryn had an altercation with another Sauna guest in the Kaiserbründl Sauna, a popular gay Sauna in Vienna that is frequented by many members of the gay community in Austria, including some who are influential and powerful. After the altercation Aeryn suddenly ran out of the Kaiserbründl naked and ran towards the Stubenbastei where his last confirmed sighting took place (refer to Map in Primary Research section to get a better picture of his route) and Police claimed he must have continued on towards the Danube canal and committed spontaneous suicide however their story has many holes in it. The most important missing piece of the Puzzle in this case is what exactly hapened during the altercation in the Kaiserbründl on the 29th of October 2007. We know of 2 People who definetly know something in relation to this case. Jenz, a regular at the Kaiserbründl who collapsed crying on the floor while giving Katheryn Gillern a tour of the Kaiserbründl in a room where the altercation likely took place. When asked by Katheryn what had happened here, Evelyn, a Canadian woman who was friends with Jenz and translated between him and Katheryn, told Katheryn that her son was gone and that it doesn't matter what happened to him, indicating she knows what happened here and it likely wasn't pretty. The other Person who may hold some vital information would likely be Günther, the Manager and/or Owner of the Kaiserbründl who has been very uncooperative throughout this entire Investigation, potentially solely because of the discreet nature of the Kaiserbründl but possibly also due to more sinister reasons, but it is unlikely he would be willing to reveal what he knows. However I do not believe either Jenz or Evelyn are truly bad people who wished harm upon Aeryn and that they likely just witnessed something or know of something that is so sensitive that they are scared to report it to the Police or anyone else for fear of the repercussions they might face, so I Implore you please:*

***If you or anyone you know were active in the gay community in Vienna in 2007 and know a Jenz or Evelyn that were also active in the community and were regulars in the Kaiserbründl at the time, or if you were a tourist in Vienna and visited the Kaiserbründl on the 29th of October 2007 and can remember witnessing any altercation or perhaps any other unusual events that happened there please come forward with any Information that you have. You can contact the Cold Case Unit of the Austrian Police, or if you do not want to be involved with the Police, you can also anonymously contact Katheryn Gillern, Aeryns Mother, Joseph Gepp, an investigative Journalist for Profil, or even just inbox me***

***personally if thats what you feel most comfortable with. Any small tip would be an immense help.***

**Katheryn Gilleran:** [findaeryn@gmail.com](mailto:findaeryn@gmail.com)

**Joseph Gepp:** [gepp.joseph@profil.at](mailto:gepp.joseph@profil.at)

**Cold Case Management:** [bundeskriminalamt@bmi.gv.at](mailto:bundeskriminalamt@bmi.gv.at) ; Tel.: +43 1 24836-985302

## Aeryn Gillern – The Person:



Aeryn M.J. Gillern was born on the 28th of April 1973 in Cortland, New York USA. He had a passion for the Roman Catholic Church and wanted to become a Priest for which he even entered a seminar in Graz, Austria. However since he would've had to preach against homosexuality in his career, Aeryn eventually decided against this path. He also had a great interest in the Opera, Movies as well as history and culture. All interests that made Vienna the perfect city for him. A city he has fallen greatly in love with. He received two Master degrees from the University of Webster (American University in Vienna) and went on to work for the UNIDO in Vienna from 2002 until his disappearance in 2007. In 2006 Aeryn was voted as Mr Gay Austria. Aeryn was not what you would call a cat person, but on his last visit to America his mother was fostering two Kittens and Aeryn could not help himself but fall in love with one of the kittens. This is a video that was shot shortly before his disappearance and found by his mother in his apartment in Vienna after she had been informed that her son is missing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zJKchsiuuzo&feature=player>

As there are many places and people involved in this case I have decided it would be easier to create a list of places of Interests and of Persons of Interest to the case that will serve as a reference for anyone reading. RtC is short for *Relation to Case*.

## *Places of Interest*

### **1.) Kaiserbründl Sauna, Weihburggasse 18-20, 1010 Wien**

**RtC:** Last known Location of Aeryn, where a supposed altercation took place and where Aeryn stormed out naked. A very popular Gay Sauna right in the Centre of Vienna.

### **2.) UNIDO 1220 Wien**

**RtC:** Aeryn's workplace

### **3.) Apartment two stops away from V.I.C.**

**RtC:** Aeryn's Residence

### **4.) Donaukanal (in particular by Hermanns Bar)**

**RtC:** Supposed sighting of a floating body

### **5.) Leopoldgasse 18, Vienna Police Department 1020**

**RtC:** Police Department where Katheryn went after arriving in Vienna

### **6.) Buchhandlung Löwenherz Berggasse 8, 1090**

**RtC:** Gay Bookstore visited by Katheryn

### **7.) Franziskanerkirche**

**RtC:** Church across from the Kaiserbründl, where Aeryn's slippers were found

### **8.) Stadtpark**

**RtC:** Possible alternate location that Aeryn could have ran too after leaving the Kaiserbründl

## *Persons of Interest*

**1.) Name:** Pasi

**RtC:** Aeryn Gillern's Partner

**2.) Name:** Joseph Gepp

**RtC:** Investigative Journalist for "The Falter" who wrote several articles about the case

**3.) Name:** Kurt Linzer

**RtC:** Cold Case Squad Investigator

**4.) Name:** Umberto

**RtC:** Aeryn's upstairs neighbour

**5.) Name:** Georg

**RtC:** Friend of Aeryn's who called around and found out Aeryn was last seen at the Kaiserbründl

**6.) Name:** Günther

**RtC:** Kaiserbründl manager who stated he did not see Aeryn but was aware of a fight among Tourists; **PERSON OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO CASE**

**7.) Name:** Weiss; Hessenberger

**RtC:** Investigator/s (unsure whether this is one person or two people) at Aeryn's apartment

**8.) Name:** Mrs. Antilupo

**RtC:** Head (?) at UNO that contacted Police

**9.) Name:** Leutnant Urnstein

**RtC:** Security Liason between the UN and Austrian Police

**10.) Name:** Sandra

**RtC:** UNIDO HR Representative

**11.) Name:** Arnisa

**RtC:** Friend of Aeryn's

**12.) Name:** (?)

**RtC:** Fisherman who supposedly spotted the body in the Canal; **PERSON OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO CASE**

**13.) Name:** Viet/Veet/Vit (unsure of spelling)

**RtC:** Owner of Gay Bookstore *Löwenherz* who Katheryn went to see when she was in Vienna

**14.) Name:** Officer Ewald Widi

**RtC:** President of Gay Cops Austria

**15.) Name:** Angela

**RtC:** Psychologist who accompanied Katheryn to the Police

**16.) Name:** Jenz

**RtC:** Guest at Kaiserbründl who recognized Aeryn's picture outside of the Kaiserbründl where Katheryn was standing holding a picture of Aeryn asking for any Information; collapsed on the ground crying inside the Kaiserbründl on the spot where he supposedly last saw Aeryn; **PERSON OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE TO CASE!!!**

**17.) Name:** Evelyn

**RtC:** Friend of Jenz who translated between Katheryn and Jenz; **PERSON OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO CASE**

**18.) Name:** Wolf Deucker

**RtC:** Witness who was the last person to see Aeryn at Stubentor

**19.) Name:** Florian

**RtC:** Friend of Aeryns who has friends in high places and manages to set up a meeting between Katheryn and two Green Party Members

**20.) Name:** Maria Fekter

**RtC:** Interior Minister who responded to the Inquest by the Green Party

**21.) Name:** Mario Hejl

**RtC:** Press speaker for the Austrian Police Force

**22.) Name:** Johan Golob

**RtC:** Police Headquarters

**23.) Name:** Elisabeth Holzer

**RtC:** Cold-Case-Unit

**24.) Name:** Müller (Police officer)

**RtC:** Police officer that treated Aeryn harshly and potentially homophobic prompting Aeryn to write a Police complaint in 2003

**25.) Name:** Bryan

**RtC:** Friend of Aeryns that witnessed the Police harassment that took place on the 13th of January 2003

**26.) Name:** Ulrike Lunacek

**RtC:** Green Party Member that requested the Inquest

**27.) Name:** Peter Pilz

**RtC:** Green Party Member that requested the Inquest

It is very important to preface at this point that this particular missing persons case is of a very sensitive nature and potentially involves wrongdoing on the part of the Austrian Police as well as the certain Government officials, facts that are immensely hindering any progress in this case. Homophobia seems to have played a big part in the initial Investigations by the Police officers who were in charge of handling the case, subsequent Investigations into any wrongdoing of Austrian Police were half-assed by the Interior Ministry, a fact which Maria Fekter, the Interior Minister at the time who responded to the Inquest brought forward by two Green Party Members, proves with her half hearted responses and lack of Research into a case where she should have access to all resources available. I am going to attempt to prove that a lot of the Information in the Inquest can be debunked as false and that some answers are the bare minimum of Information she could have provided. In order to do so however there is a lot to go through and because there are so many conflicting statements I will take a look at the 4 biggest secondary sources I have used for my research, after which I will be providing some of my own primary research that I have been able to conduct as I live in Vienna and sharing some of my own theories as to what happened to Aeryn Gillern on the 29th of October 2007.

## *Source 1: GONE: The Dissapearance of Aeryn Gillern*

Released in 2011, GONE: The Dissapearance of Aeryn Gillern follows Katheryn Gillerns journey in Vienna as she tries to find out what happened to her son who she had just been informed was missing. I have created a timeline of the events chronicled in the Documentary that I believe are most important. I will also provide several different links to this Documentary at the end of this post.

- October 29th, 2007: Aeryn Gillern runs out of the Kaiserbründl naked and subsequently dissapears
- November 2nd, 2007: Katheryn arrives in Vienna and makes her way to Aeryns appartment with Pasi. Two Investigators (Weiss and Hessenberger) were already waiting at the door to Aeryn's Appartment but Aeryn's upstairs neighbour Umberto only opened the door once Katheryn and Pasi arrived. Investigators were cold and distant and immediately went on their knees and looked under the bed although it was clear there was nothing there and pulled the sofa forward, as if to appear to be conducting some sort of Investigating while really not doing anything at all.

When Weiss was asked what he thinks happened to Aeryn, he said they searched the Donaukanal because a Fisherman called at 20:20 saying he saw a man floating by on the river (a story that the police will still change many times). According to Weiss Police then immediately sent a Scuba team, a K-9 unit and the Fire Department to search for the man in and around the Donaukanal and at 20:50 they cleared the scene (aside from the fact that 30 minutes to start and conclude a search seems like it couldn't possibly produce any results, this supposed search is later confirmed to never have taken place). When asked why they didn't search the Sauna, Weiss said several times that the Sauna doesn't matter although they knew his belongings were there. Within one hour of this statement, the story about the

about the Fisherman had already changed for the first time. Now he just saw a body float by and not a bald-headed man.

- November 3, 2007: Leutnant Urnstein, the security Liaison between the UN and the Austrian Police, calls Katheryn to tell her she needs to call the US Embassy immediately as there is something wrong and the Police keep changing their story. He calls back later saying she need to call NOW as the Police have changed their story once again. Katheryn went to the Leopoldgasse 18 Police Department with Sandra and Pasi. Three plain police officers meet them and two of them were smoking in the room while another seemed to try to intimidate her. They then go on to state what they think happened.

*\*Polices first theory\**

Aeryn was in the Sauna and there was some form of disturbance/ altercation after which he ran out naked and committed spontaneous suicide, his homosexuality clearly made him emotionally unstable and potentially HIV positive and apparently gays who are emotionally unstable and HIV positive commit spontaneous suicide all the time in Austria.

(This controversial theory was refuted by Interior Minister Maria Fekter yet she failed to provide any attempt at even interviewing the Austrian Police officers in the room at the time, nor did she interview Sandra, Pasi or Katheryn about this incident. The suicide angle of this theory however persevered throughout the rest of the Investigation and seems to still somehow be the official theory as to what happened to Aeryn)

Pasi knew Aeryn was not HIV positive and got tested regularly even after receiving his HIV negative results on October 29th, 2007, the day of his disappearance. (This piece of evidence was in the possession of Austrian Police amongst Aeryn's things when they made their statements, meaning they did not even bother to investigate anything at all before making their theories as to what happened). Police now also state that Aeryn ran out of the sauna at 18:50, which Pasi says is impossible as he received a text from Aeryn at 19:27 that Aeryn just got of a 10 minute phone call with his friend Arnissa with whom he was going to a gathering after the Sauna. Police tell Pasi the time on his phone must be wrong after he tells them 18:50 is an impossible time for Aeryn to have left. Police then go on to ask Pasi if he knew about Aeryn being Mr. Gay Austria and ask Katheryn if she's proud that her son was Mr. Gay Austria.

- November 4, 2007: Katheryn walks along the Danube canal looking for any clues that might help her. She is denied the Police report that no one has seen until now (This is in part because of Austrian Data Protection Laws; because Aeryn Gillern is MISSING, he is assumed alive and because he is an adult his data must be protected even from close family members since he could potentially just have ran away and doesn't want to be found). Police state there was no witness other than the Fisherman (whos story has by now changed from seeing a bald man floating, to seeing a body floating, to a scream and a splash, to just a scream, to just a splash and eventually to just a scream in the distance).
- November 6, 2007: Leutnant Urnstein calls Katheryn asking her to meet at the UN and to pick up Aeryn's belongings from the police station. Weiss pointed to a garbage bag on the floor telling Katheryn that's her son's stuff. As Katheryn and Urnstein walk down the street, Urnstein tells her he can't help her anymore as he's busy with work and his personal life. Amongst Aeryn's belongings Katheryn finds the printed Lab- Report that proves he was HIV



negative, his phone and the phone calls and text messages he made/received (confirming the police's initial time of Aeryn's disappearance having taken place at 18:50 being impossible).

Katheryn goes to meet with the owner of the Gay Bookstore *Löwenherz* Viet (?) and tells him the story so far. He said he knew Aeryn and that two weeks before he disappeared the Austrian Police started a Lesbian & Gay support group for officers because of the heavy internal discrimination against Homosexual police officers. He gets in contact with Officer Edward Widi, the President of the Lesbian & Gay support group. Edward calls a friend working for the Emergency Response Call center and this friend says there had been no emergency calls placed from the specified Area on the 29.10.2007 and that no Scuba Divers, K-9 Unit nor the Fire Department were sent out and that no emergency call was placed from the Sauna either.

(While I cannot confirm this Information beyond Katheryn's word for it, it is an important clue as to the existence of the Fishermen, the one witness that the Police have to give their theory any credence at all; in my personal opinion, the Fisherman does not exist and is a witness fabricated by the Police)

- November 13, 2007: Edward arranges a meeting with the Police where Investigators refuse to give Katheryn adequate translation time and the Officer proceeds to start talking for 10 minutes. After Katheryn says that is unacceptable, the Officer stands up and says she does not know how an Investigation works nor how spontaneous suicide works.
- November 20, 2007: First Press release about Aeryn comes out, Headline reads "*UN-Diplomat läuft nackt durch Wien!*" (*UN-Diplomat runs through Vienna naked!*)
- December 4, 2007: Katheryn waits outside Kaiserbründl with a candle and a picture of Aeryn when a man comes out and recognizes Aeryn. He introduces himself as Jenz and asks Katheryn to come inside the Kaiserbründl with him. There he asks his friend Evelyn, a Canadian woman, to translate for him. Jen gives Katheryn a Tour of the Kaiserbründl during which he kept stopping and crying. When Katheryn tries to comfort him Evelyn stops her and says "Don't touch him, this is very hard on him." In a Room full of mirrors Jenz kept looking down at the tiles and crying. This is supposedly where he last saw Aeryn. When Katheryn asks what happened to her son Evelyn says "He doesn't wanna talk about it. Your son is gone and it doesn't matter what happened here. Your son is gone.". Evelyn then gave Katheryn two Kaiserbründl polo shirts and ushered her out. Katheryn saw several cameras inside but none were looked at by Police or anyone else.

(This is the most important piece of Information in this case; it is clear that Jenz, Evelyn and most likely several other Guests inside the Kaiserbründl know what happened inside the Kaiserbründl on the 29th of October 2007 and this event most likely directly resulted in the disappearance of Aeryn Gillern)

- December 9, 2007: Katheryn packs up all of Aeryn's belongings and ships back what she can.
- October 2008: Katheryn returns to Vienna to hold a Vigil for her son on the 1 Year Anniversary of his disappearance across from the Kaiserbründl. Katheryn contacts Joseph Gepp who just wrote an article about Aeryn's case and said there had been no witnesses. The next day he receives an E-Mail from University student Wolf Deucker who claimed he and his girlfriend had seen Aeryn the night he disappeared. At first Joseph was not sure whether to believe them or not but went to meet with them nonetheless. Wolf Deucker says they saw Aeryn run naked covering his privates. His girlfriend thought it was a prank so she

whistled after him after which Aeryn stopped, turned around and looked at them. They said they had never seen anyone look so scared in their life. He then continued running.

When Joseph gave this Information to the Police, they said there were no witnesses and that these people must be lying. Deucker and his girlfriend said they did not call the Police until the 20.11.2007, when the case was covered in the News, after which two Investigators came to take their statements on the 21.11.2007, something the Police denies ever happened.

Florian, a friend of Aeryns who has friends in high places sets up a meeting between Katheryn and two Green Party Government officials, Ulrike Lunacek and Peter Pilz, one of whom deals specifically with gay & lesbian issues among police while the other deals specifically with police issues. The Inquest was handled internally by Police and not externally as is usual. The Police now state the Head of the Fire Department made the decision not to search the Canal because of weathr conditions so they cleared.

- February 2009: The Austrian Parliament declines to investigate the case any further.

## Source 2: "The Falter" Articles

*Article from 19.11.2008:*

Timeline of 29.October 2007:

- 19:00: According to Sauna and Police this is when Aeryn runs out of the Sauna
- 19:20: Aeryn talks on the phone with a UNIDO colleague (Arnisa). The conversation was normal and he seemed in a good mood.
- 19:27: Gillerns Swiss friend (Pasi) receives the last SMS: Aeryn will be home soon, he will call.
- 20:23-20:50: The Police searches the canal

*Article from 03.12.208:*

- Wolf Deucker, 26, was walking with his Girlfriend that night between 7 and 8 pm. They were walking between Stubentor and Bäckerstraße. Deucker says "We saw a naked man. He came from Stubenbastei towards Donaukanal. We thought it was a silly joke or a lost bet. We couldn't explain why someone would be running naked during light snowfall. My Girlfriend whistled after him and he turned with a scared impression, but continued running. He was drenching in sweat. He made a perplexed expression like he was being followed. However we saw no pursuers on the street. There were no other Pedestrians in this central area."
- Deucker described the man as tall and muscular and recognized him later in the "Heute" article
- Deucker got in contact with Police and two Officers took his statements. Police still claims there have been no witnesses except those immediately at the Sauna entrance.
- He was unaware his statements were ignored during the Investigations.

Article from 18.02.2009

The following are some of the statements made in response to the Inquest by Maria Fekter:

- According to Maria Fekter: "Mr. Gillern got into an altercation with another Sauna guest. The Reason for the altercation was because the guest asked Mr Gillern how he was doing.
- The altercation in Kaiserbründl led to Gillern running away and shortly after that a Fisherman contacted Police. *"Ein Mann treibt im Wasser des Donaukanals Höhe Urania und Hermann's Strandbar."* ("A man is floating in the Water of the Danube canal by Urania and Hermann's Beach bar.")
- Fekter: *"Der Mann war Glatzköpfig und mit an Sicherheit grenzender Wahrscheinlichkeit sei er Aeryn Gillern gewesen."* ("The man was bald and with probability bordering certainty was Aeryn Gillern.")
- Four Police cars advanced towards the canal and looked for an hour yielding no results. Due to the heavy current sending in a diving team did not seem reasonable.
- A total of 7 People were interviewed in relation to the case
- The Saunas Manager says there was no altercation in the Sauna and that Police couldn't have spoken to any Sauna guests because Management refused to give out their guests Personal Information.

### Source 3: ORF Thema Spezial- Mysteriöse Kriminalfälle (29.09.2017)

Monday 29.10.2007:

- Aeryn goes to work and plans to take homemade cookies with him, which he forgets at home. He leaves work at 18:00 and goes to the Kaiserbründl where he is seen running out naked at 19:30.
- 20:21: Police receive an Emergency call from a Fisherman claiming to have seen a man in the water at the mouth of the Danube canal/ Vienna river. Police walk along the canal but the current is too strong to dive. Police quickly conclude it was suicide.

Johan Golob's translated Statement:

"These allegations came after a year. They didn't come immediately, they came after a year, and these allegations included, as you said, homophobic behaviour and it was individual allegations, that were immediately investigated and these investigations, both civil and disciplinary as well as investigations that were forwarded to the Public prosecution have been determined to not be realistic."

- 2014 the Cold case unit takes on the case; Divers look through the Danube canal for the first time yielding no results.

Joseph Gebb:

“10 years have passed and there is no body. Usually, if he jumped into the Danube canal, in such cases eventually, sooner or later, a body shows up. In this case that simply isn't happening and hasn't happened after 10 years.”

Kurt Linzer of the Cold Case Unit:

“We tried to determine several times what the reason for his sudden departure from the sauna was. We could not determine it. Until today we have found no trace of the missing person.”

“Groynes are artificial obstacles that are meant to guide the water current in a particular direction. This was the reason why in the beginning of May 2015, through the assistance of the Cobra Special Forces we conducted a diving operation from the mouth of the Vienna river into the Danube canal until the barrage Freudenu, which is a total of 16 River kilometers and checked exactly these Groynes of the Danube canal.”

- The night of the disappearance the water had 9 degree Celsius and streamed with a speed of approximately 1m/s

The Police's Theory:

The strong current can quickly pull a body down where it can potentially get stuck and after several days/weeks decay could set in or there could have been some form of contact with a ship's propeller.

### *Source 4: Inquest into the Investigation in the Case Aeryn Gillern and the response by Interior Minister Maria Fekter (10.02.2009)*

This is the Inquest that was launched by the two Green Party representatives Ulrike Lunacek and Peter Pilz on 11.12.2008. I will be including the links to the original documents as well as the translated version provided on the Website dedicated to finding Aeryn created and run by his mother Katheryn Gillern, which I am also using here. These particular responses stand out to me the most and show how even after an Inquest had to be launched, the Investigation was still met with the same lack of enthusiasm that resulted in no trace of Aeryn beyond his last sighting at Stubenbastei

- **Regarding question 1: Are investigations still pending, or is the file closed?**  
Investigation in this case is ongoing.
- **Regarding question 2: How is the probable course of events of the disappearance of Aeryn Gillern to your perception?**  
Based on the case record, the course of events was as follows:  
Mr. Gillern got into an argument with another sauna guest between 7:00 and 7:30 PM on Oct. 29, 2007. The argument started when the other guest asked Mr. Gillern how he was.

Subsequently Mr. Gillern, suddenly and for no apparent reason, ran outdoors naked from the sauna. Later two eyewitnesses were found who saw a naked, bald man (evidently Gillern) running through the 1st District of Vienna toward the Danube Canal. Shortly thereafter a fisherman on the Danube Canal at Hermann Park in 1030 Vienna [3rd District, adjacent to 1st District] noticed a bald man drifting in the water there, who called for help and then sank in the water. It can be assumed with a probability verging on certainty that the man drifting in the water was Gillern.

- **Regarding question 3: Did the investigators tasked with this case check out the rumors according to which there was an argument in the sauna before the disappearance?**

Yes.

- **Regarding question 4: How many persons were interrogated altogether by the responsible Investigators in this connection?**

Based on the case record, written statements were taken from 7 persons regarding the matter; information was obtained by telephone from another 10 persons.

- **Regarding question 5: How does police get the opinion, that a positive HIV-Test can be a motive for suicide, if such an actual test was part of the belongings of the missing person and was conveyed to police afterwards again?**

There is no indication in the record that the investigators considered a positive HIV test, if there was one, as the reason for suicide by Mr. Gillern.

- **Regarding question 6: How do you explain for yourself the fact, that Aeryn Gillern verifiably used his phone after 19:00, which remained in the Sauna, although he is said to had left the Sauna already before 19:00?**

The assumed time of the argument in the sauna as well as of the departure from the sauna is based on the statements made by several witnesses. Since the missing-person report was filed on Nov. 1, 2007, three days after the incident in the sauna, and only at this time could a connection by name be made between the unknown man in the Danube Canal and Mr. Gillern, the time of departure from the sauna could no longer be determined exactly, since the witness statements diverge. For the 7:00 PM time (supposed time of departure from the sauna) it is therefore a matter of the earliest possible time according to the witness statements. One witness gave 7:30 PM as a possible time in answering the investigators' questions. Eyewitnesses report having noticed a naked man running toward the Danube Canal at about 8:00 PM (see also answer to question 36). The telephone call of the witness who noticed a man drifting in the Danube Canal (see also answer to question 8) took place precisely at 8:21 PM.

- **Regarding question 7: Were these contradictions recorded in the file and worked on?**

Since the time of departure from the sauna could not be determined exactly, there is no contradiction with the time of Mr. Gillern's telephone calls.

- **Regarding question 8: At which time the emergency call was done, that led to the search on 29th Oct.2007?**

At about 8:21 PM.

- Regarding question 9: Who gave this emergency-call?**  
An eyewitness who saw the man drifting in the Danube Canal.
- Regarding question 10: What was the content of this emergency-call?**  
“A man is drifting in the water of the Danube Canal near Urania [Café Bar and Restaurant] or ‘Hermann’s Strandbar’; he’s shouting for help.”

•
- Regarding question 15: From when to when was the mission executed?**  
Specifically from 8:21 to 9:21 PM; further search measures continued after that.
- Regarding question 16: In which area was the mission executed?**  
Site of operation: Vienna District 1, beginning at Uraniastrasse No. 1; after that, downstream, searching on both banks of the Danube Canal (site of operation: confluence of the Vienna River with the Danube Canal).
- Regarding questions 19 and 20: Where there search-dogs in addition to the divers? , If yes: which traces were searched for?**  
No, since there were no indications calling for deployment of search dogs. A possible connection with the missing person was made only after the missing-person report was filed on Nov. 1, 2007.
- Regarding questions 21 to 24: Did further searches take place in this case since the search of 29th oct.2007? , If yes: of which kind were these searches? , When did they take place? , With which result?**  
Besides the search operation on Oct. 29, 2007, no other targeted or coordinated search operations have taken place. Nonetheless, the office in charge of the case (now the Landeskriminalamt Wien [Vienna State Detective Bureau], East Branch) initiated an alerting of the regular police units (city police squads 1, 3, 11, and 20 and the Division for Special Units). This did not affect the investigative activity of the Landeskriminalamt Wien, East Branch; unfortunately, however that activity did not provide any concrete leads or starting points for a further planned search operation.
- Regarding questions 30 to 32: Are the accusations of the mother concerning the non-cooperative and of presentiments against gays characterized behaviour of the investigating officials appropriate? , If no: which investigation-measures were set to verify these reproaches? , If yes, which disciplinary measures were set until now, or will be in future concerning this non-appropriate behaviour.**  
According to the communication from the State Police Headquarters in Vienna, which is in charge of the case, the investigative officials deny engaging in such behavior. The checking of the accusations in this regard is not yet concluded; up to now, the State Police

Headquarters in Vienna sees no cause for disciplinary or administrative-law measures. In regard to possible relevance of the accusations on file in terms of criminal law, I can report that on Nov. 24, 2008, the Büro für besondere Ermittlungen (BBE) [Office of Special Investigations] of Federal Police Headquarters in Vienna received the Gillern complaint file in question. Based on this file, that Office has begun to undertake inquiries accordingly (consulting the original records, contacting the officials responsible for the investigation of the missing-person case in question, etc.) These inquiries have not been concluded. The Vienna State Prosecutor's Office will receive a final report on this matter in any case.

- **Regarding question 33: Is there a connection of the approach of police to the case with the letter of complaint Aeryn Gillern wrote to AI, in which he complained about inappropriate, brutal treatment by policemen on the occasion of a ticket-control on 11th Jan 2003?**

No.

- **Regarding questions 37 and 38: Do you think the procedure of the police is appropriate in this case? , Do you think the procedure of the police in this case is favourable for the picture of Austria in the world?**

According to the reports received, it can be assumed on the basis of the case record that proper procedures were followed in relation to both the operation on Oct. 29, 2007, and the processing of the file on the disappearance. In other respects, let me refer you to the answer to question 30. Apart from that, opinions and views are not the subject of parliamentary interpellation law, according to Art. 52, B-VG [Federal Constitutional Law]. [Translator's note: The "opinions and views" would be in connection with a question about the effect of procedures in this case on Austria's image in the world.]

- **Regarding question 39: How do you want to assure in the future, that relatives of missing persons, no matter if Austrian or from abroad, come across in forthcoming, compassionate, and comprehensible manner?**

Independent of the case at hand, I may point out that the Bundeskriminalamt has been given a relevant project tasking that concerns dealing with interested parties in connection with cases of disappearance. In connection with that, training content is to be developed accordingly.

Beyond including the Austrian Ministry's official views of the events that took place on and beyond the 29th of October 2009 I also had to include this due to some of the questionable responses. In Question 2 Fekter states a Fisherman states he saw a bald man drifting and then sinking in the water. "It can be assumed with a probability verging on certainty that the man drifting in the water was Gillern." The fact that the Fisherman has had the most questionable and changing stories in this entire case and that beyond him there is not a single other witness that reported any disturbance on the Danube canal in the hours of around 20:00 on a Monday in this extremely central area on a bridge that is constantly busy with traffic it can be assumed with a probability verging on certainty that there was no man floating in the water on the 29th of October 2007 and likely no Fisherman.

Fekter confirms that they were aware of an altercation in the Sauna but fails to provide an answer on whether these were in any way pursued and if so what findings were made. She then also states only 7 people were ever interviewed face to face while only 10 others were interviewed over the phone. Seemingly the bare minimum of people they could have interviewed. Fekter then denies a positive HIV test as being the reason for Mr Gillern's suicide, yet she does believe Mr Gillern did commit suicide based on as much evidence as she gathered during the internal investigation conducted against the police officers accused of misconduct.

The Emergency call supposedly placed by the Fisherman was given by Fekter: "A man is drifting in the water of the Danube Canal near Urania [Café Bar and Restaurant] or 'Hermann's Strandbar'; he's shouting for help." Personally I do not know if this is simply my own personal bias in regards to the theory that the Fisherman does not in fact exist, but this seems like it is once again the bare minimum, potentially even of an attempt by the Ministry or the Police to tie this case together nicely and close it. The call does give all the information that is needed and perhaps the Responder really didn't need to give the Fisherman any further instructions however it does still seem fishy to me that a one sentence emergency call is all that can be provided. The particular spot where this call would've been made from is a very popular fishing spot and it is very likely that on any given day one or more Fishermen will be sitting there fishing, which perhaps could have served as the inspiration for this potentially fabricated story in the first place.

Another thing that stands out to me is that according to Fekter there was never any reason to assume search dogs would be needed in the search efforts, which is a preposterous claim even if we consider the fact that the connection between the man that was supposedly falling into the Danube and the missing Aeryn Gillern was only made days later, as this inquest was answered 2 years after those events and since then, until now, the deployment of cadaver dogs could still reveal potential results. Cadaver dogs can still detect the scent of a corpse even within a body of water yet no cadaver dogs were ever considered in the area around the Danube canal or around the Kaiserbründl.

Fekter goes on to repeatedly deny any wrongdoing on part of the Austrian police nor of any evidence of any individual officers wrongdoing and making no effort to give any further information on the state of homophobia within the Austrian police force. She also displays the Austrian Ministry's lack of interest in the "opinions" and "views" that the world holds of how crime is handled in Austria and how those views have no effects on any investigations conducted by the Ministry of Interior, a fact made apparent by the completely mishandled investigation of the disappearance of Aeryn Gillern.

### *Further Interesting Facts from various secondary Sources*

- The Kaiserbründl is the most famous Gay Sauna in Vienna and is frequented by many influential people, including Ministers and older men some of which hold a great deal of power. Due to this there are many measurements taken to assure discretion at the Kaiserbründl, there is a discreet parking spot as well as guaranteed anonymity for all its guests.
- Aeryn's slippers were found 15m away from the Kaiserbründl at the entrance to the Franziskanerkirche
- Kaiserbründl was the sponsor of Mr. Gay Austria and it was no secret that there was jealousy and contempt among its patrons

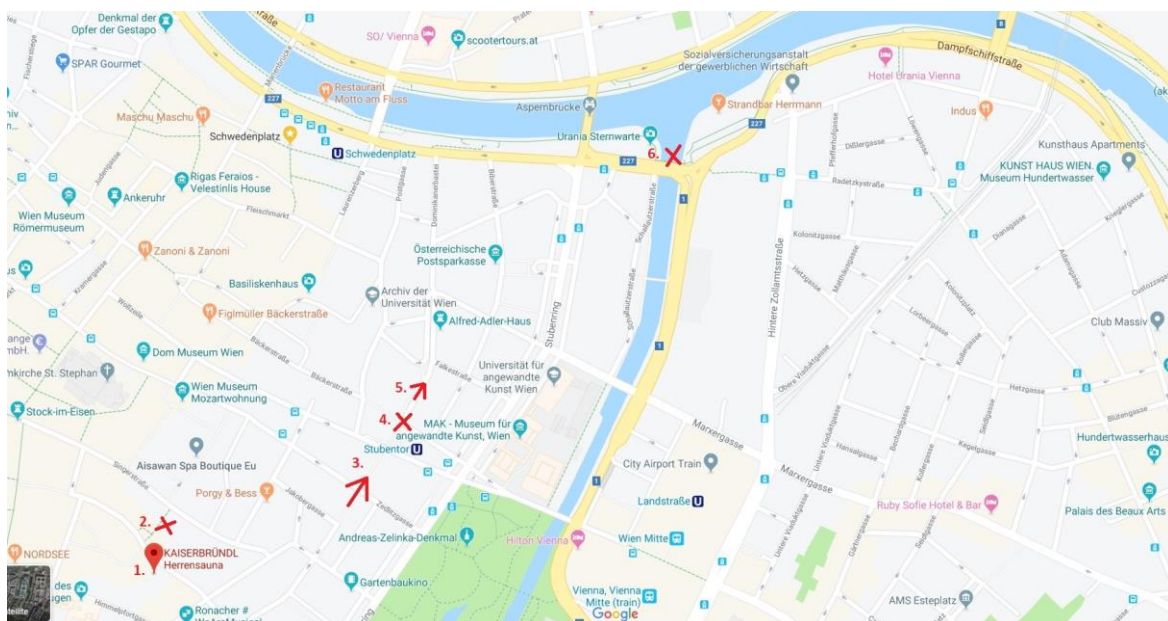


- On October 29, 2016 Katheryn Gillern was holding another vigil in front of the Kaiserbründl when she was approached by the owner of the Kaiserbründl. Initially he pretended as if he wanted to pay respects but as the evening progressed it became clear he just wanted to speak bad about Aeryn and to others attending the Vigil.

## Primary Research Findings

- After having walked around the area around the Kaiserbründl and towards the Stubenbastei and further to the Danube canal on several occasions in the past Month, on several Mondays at around 19:00, I have come to the following conclusion: It would be possible to reach Stubenbastei from Kaiserbründl at the given time of day with barely to no witnesses, however it would be virtually impossible for a bald, muscular, 185cm tall naked man to go any further towards the Donaukanal especially if going along or even crossing the Ringstraße without being seen by a significant amount of Pedestrians and drivers between the hours of 19:20 and 20:20 even with the slight snowfall that night. Assuming the emptiest route through the emptiest side streets with the least amount of people, the amount of witnesses beyond the Dominikanerbastei should still be at least in the double digits and of those at least some would've likely come forward by now.
- Coincidentally on one of the days that I was conducting some research on the bridge that Aeryn would most likely have jumped from considering it was the only place close enough to the supposed sighting by the Fisherman, 2 people were conducting a Vehicle statistic (counting all the cars that are driving by and recording them in Intervals) on the very same bridge on Tuesday 17 September, 2019 and they said that at 19:00 there would be an average of 500 cars passing on the small bridge every 15 minutes. These numbers would not likely have been very different in 2007 as this area was equally busy back then.

This is a map of the area of the Kaiserbründl Sauna and the place from which the supposed Emergency call was placed:



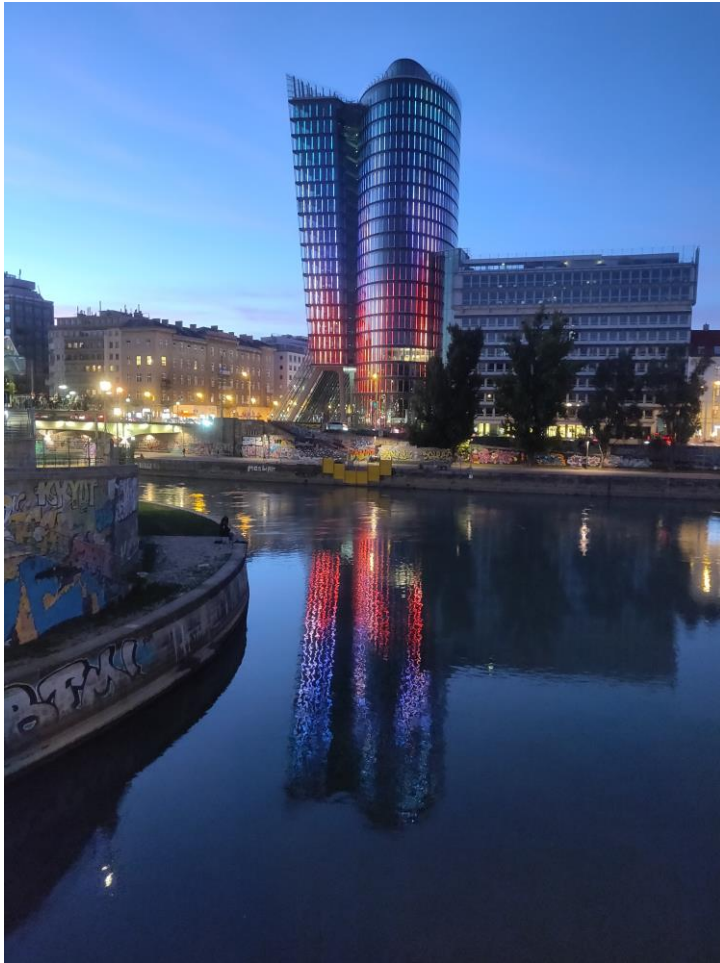
- 1.) Kaiserbründl Sauna where an altercation took place that resulted in Aeryn Gillern storming out of the Sauna naked in a panic;
- 2.) Franziskanerkirche where Aeryn lost his slippers and continued running;
- 3.) Stubenbastei, the street Aeryn came running from;
- 4.) Wollzeile, the street where Wolf Deucker and his girlfriend were coming from and where they saw Aeryn run naked up the stairs towards Dominikanerbastei, LAST CONFIRMED SIGHTING OF AERYN;
- 5.) Dominikanerbastei, the street which Aeryn is confirmed to have run up but beyond this point we cannot say which path Aeryn took. As this street is elevated from where Wolf Deucker and his girlfriend were standing we cannot say whether Aeryn ran straight, left or right at the immediate junction that can be seen on the map after that;
- 6.) The point where a man was reported as floating in the water, the spot to the immediate left of it is likely where the Fisherman would have sat;



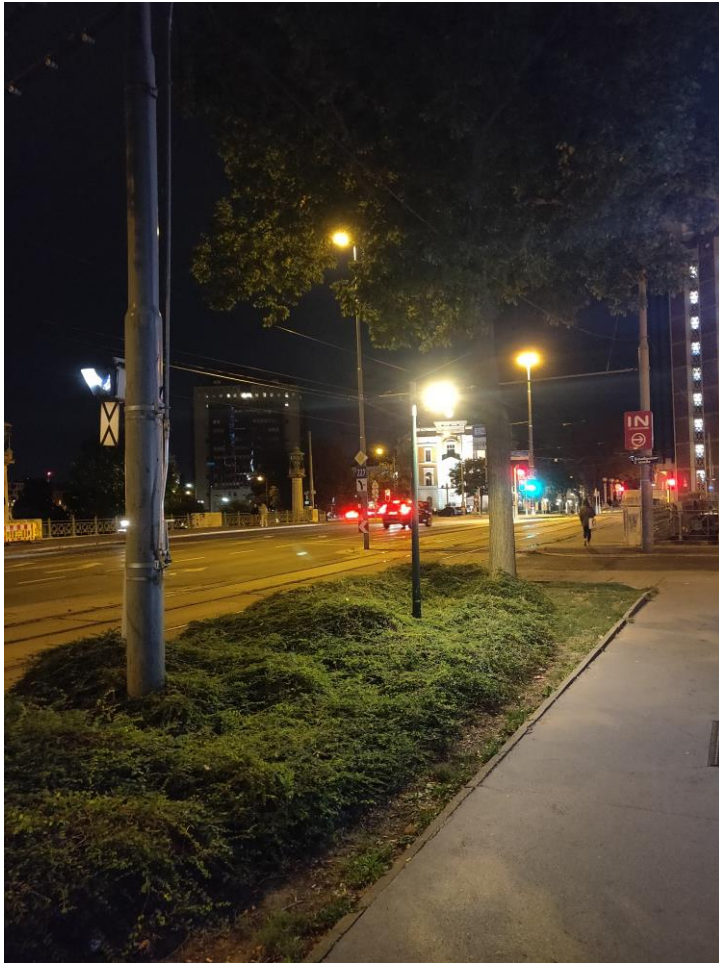
The Entrance to the Kaiserbründl



Last location Aeryn can be definitively placed in



A picture taken from the bridge Aeryn supposedly jumped from, on the left a lone Fisherman can be seen, if a Fisherman did see Aeryn from here 12 years earlier, this would likely have been the same spot he would have sat in;



The same bridge, on the spot on the right was where 2 people were making a Vehicle Statistic the day after this one;

### *My Personal Conclusion*

The case of Aeryn Gillern is a case that has been extraordinarily mishandled by the Austrian Police and subsequent Investigations into any misconduct were not taken seriously. As an Austrian I am appalled by this, but not surprised. I have to preface my following statement by saying that I thoroughly believe the Austrian Government and Police to conduct the vast majority of their operations in good conduct and for the most part neither of these bodies are filled with corrupted officials and officers who will only follow the trail of money, however any Organisation on Earth is susceptible to bad individuals within it who will behave in ways that do not represent the values of said organisations, be it through homophobic views interfering with how an Investigation is handled, or fabrication of facts to put a case to rest, the real danger comes from when these Organisations stay silent about these actions and dont take significant action to avoid allowing these individuals to represent their values as those of the Organisations. We must only remember the Incompetence of the Austrian justice system in the case of Jack Unterweger, his release and subsequent killing spree that the Austrian police was unable to solve until the American Police got involved, the lack of a thorough search of Priklopils residence in relation to the Natasha Kampusch kidnapping or any further follow up in the following years after he was taken at his word for a dodgy statement as to

why he had a white pickup truck that day, as well as the recent corruption scandals involving our most recent Minister and likely many other Government officials. These incidences all prove corruption and incompetence is no foreign concept to the Austrian police or the Government and as long as the perpetrators are not brought to justice it poses a great risk for both incompetence and corruption to grow further within these bodies.

These two factors prove to be catastrophic in cases such as these, because what has not been said by anyone involved in Investigating this case is that there is a potential that a murderer has been escaping justice for 12 years. Of course this is as much conjecture as the Police's official theory that Aeryn Gillern committed suicide is, but as long as a case is unsolved, all realistic potential theories must be considered and pursued, most especially in cases that lead to a disappearance or death.

From the Information in this case that we can confirm to be true, I believe Aeryn likely met with foul play. The most integral piece of Information is the altercation that took place in the Kaiserbründl. Which we know must have taken place after 19:27 which is when Aeryn sent the last text message on his phone before putting it into his bag. The only Information we have on the altercation is that according to the police a guest put his hand on Aeryn's shoulder and asked about his well being after which Aeryn suddenly lashed out and ran out the Sauna in a panic. A bar keeper at the Sauna supposedly saw Aeryn on CCTV footage but this footage has never been reviewed by anyone, Police or otherwise, none of the footage at the Kaiserbründl has. Whether or not this person was Jenz or whether Jenz was only watching this cannot be said for certain, however this very moment is most likely the one Jenz thinks of as he breaks down crying while giving Katheryn the tour of the Kaiserbründl. This moment is most likely the moment that resulted directly in Aeryn's disappearance. There are some claims that there was an altercation between tourists and locals in the Sauna which would likely have been this very same altercation and someone possibly confusing Aeryn as a tourist due to his accent. Either way I can only guess what happened here as there is not much factual Information to go on here, but there are some clues that may lead into the right direction.

Aeryn Gillern was Mr Gay Austria 2006. A Mr Gay vote, similarly to a Mrs World vote, is a form of beauty pageant where gay men compete on a stage with looks and a small talent show, which Aeryn won after displaying his whistling talents. There was apparently contempt and jealousy going around and as the Kaiserbründl was the one that sponsored the event and many of its patrons would have been a part of it. The man Aeryn had an altercation with could have been one of those jealous patrons, perhaps rather than him having asked for Aeryn's well being he gave him a threatening message. Perhaps because he was jealous of Aeryn winning or perhaps for another reason entirely. What I believe to be very likely however is that said patron is either a person of high influence or power or friends with other gay men of influence or power that also frequent the Kaiserbründl. It is no conspiracy that there are powerful guests amongst the Kaiserbründl's regulars and there always have been. If people such as these were involved in the disappearance it would be of no surprise why Jenz and Evelyn knew what took place here and stayed quiet about it as these very well are people with the ability to make someone disappear. The Kaiserbründl's discretion is what makes the place so appealing to many powerful people who are active in the gay community but may not want their sexual orientation revealed due to fear of reprobation in their social circles and their professional life. Its discreet nature also gives us another clue as to what may have happened to Aeryn. As stated by Wolf Deucker, the witness who last saw Aeryn, Aeryn looked as though he was being pursued but there were no other pedestrians around. I believe Aeryn's pursuers were likely not on their feet but in a Car. The discreet parking space of the Kaiserbründl meant that the people who saw the altercation in the Sauna and the people immediately outside of the Sauna's entrance who saw Aeryn run out naked would not have seen a car leaving from the Kaiserbründl even if it left immediately

after Aeryn. The side streets in this area would have allowed the car to easily catch up to wherever Aeryn was running to without being seen or seeming suspicious to the witness Wolf Deucker or any other Pedestrians that may have seen it. The side streets also allow for many spots where they could have cut Aeryn off, potentially knocking him out and putting him in the car before disposing of him somewhere else (possibly even in the Kaiserbründls own unusually deep well where they could've simply driven back into the discreet parking space, waited until all the Patrons left and dropped his body into the Well where it would likely never be found nor noticed). The chances that Aeryn was knocked out and put into a car without being seen are much likelier than him ever reaching the Danube canal and jumping off without being seen. While this theory might seem a little far fetched, the fact that we cannot confirm any sighting of Aeryn beyond the Dominikanerbastei, I cannot subscribe to any theory where Aeryn got much further than that let alone all the way to and into the Danube Canal with only one very dodgy witness that continuously changed his story or had his story changed by police.

## Sources

<http://www.aeryngillern.com/> Aeryn Gillern Homepage

<https://www.facebook.com/GONE.FILM/> Facebook page for the Gone documentary on which Katheryn is sometimes still active

<http://gone-film.com/> Official Gone Documentary Website

<https://www.amazon.com/Gone-Aaeryn-Gillern/dp/B00I6C2SP4> Gone documentary Amazon prime

<https://www.popcornflix.com/watch/channel/documentaryshorts/movie/18-fa35ddb0-59f3-4e1a-ac52-06e527289e7c-gone-the-disappearance-of-aeryn-gillern?t=0> Gone documentary Popcornflix

[http://www.aeryngillern.com/Aeryn\\_Gillern/Inquest\\_Results.html](http://www.aeryngillern.com/Aeryn_Gillern/Inquest_Results.html) Translated Results of the Inquest

[https://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/VHG/XXIV/J/J\\_00422/index.shtml](https://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/VHG/XXIV/J/J_00422/index.shtml) Original Inquest request

[https://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/VHG/XXIV/AB/AB\\_00456/index.shtml](https://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/VHG/XXIV/AB/AB_00456/index.shtml) Original Inquest response

<https://geppbloggt.com/2008/11/19/der-tag-an-dem-aeryn-verschwand/> Joseph Gepp article (19.11.2008)

<https://geppbloggt.com/2008/12/03/einen-total-perplexen-verfolgten-eindruck/> Joseph Gepp article (03.12.2008)

<https://geppbloggt.com/2009/02/12/der-fall-aeryn-gillern-die-grnen-bringen-eine-parlamentarische-anfrage-ein/> Joseph Gepp article 12.02.2009

<https://geppbloggt.com/2009/02/18/ein-kleiner-streit-mit-grosen-folgen/> Joseph Gepp article (18.02.2009)

<https://geppbloggt.com/2011/10/20/gone-der-film-zum-fall/> Joseph Gepp article (20.10.2011)

<https://geppbloggt.com/2011/11/02/vier-jahre-ohne-jede-spur/> Joseph Gepp article (02.11.2011)

<https://geppbloggt.com/2012/11/07/abgangig-mitten-im-ersten-bezirk/> Joseph Gepp article (07.11.2012)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kb-6LRWUZOE> ORF Thema Spezial-Mysteriöse Kriminalfälle (29.09.2017); Aeryns case starts at 16:53

[https://www.bmi.gv.at/fahndung/start.aspx?fndgb=ABG\\_UEBER\\_20&fndgm=1&fndgid=097A19391EC54BC5952C623C481C8FB7&fndgo=2&fndgsw=1](https://www.bmi.gv.at/fahndung/start.aspx?fndgb=ABG_UEBER_20&fndgm=1&fndgid=097A19391EC54BC5952C623C481C8FB7&fndgo=2&fndgsw=1) Aeryn's Missing Person case page on Homepage of the Austrian Interior Ministry

[https://www.reddit.com/r/Documentaries/comments/b7vvn0/gone\\_the\\_disappearance\\_of\\_aeryn\\_gillern\\_2011\\_a/](https://www.reddit.com/r/Documentaries/comments/b7vvn0/gone_the_disappearance_of_aeryn_gillern_2011_a/) Reddit post about the Gone documentary from 2011

## *Contact*

If you have any Information at all in the case of Aeryn Gillern, in particular Information that may lead to Jenz or Evelyn coming forward with what they know, I urge you to come forward and help give Aeryn's family closure and to help find Aeryn and grant him a final resting place.

Katheryn Gilleran: [findaeryn@gmail.com](mailto:findaeryn@gmail.com)

Joseph Gepp: [gepp.joseph@profil.at](mailto:gepp.joseph@profil.at)

Cold Case Management: [bundeskriminalamt@bmi.gv.at](mailto:bundeskriminalamt@bmi.gv.at) ; Tel.: +43 1 24836-985302