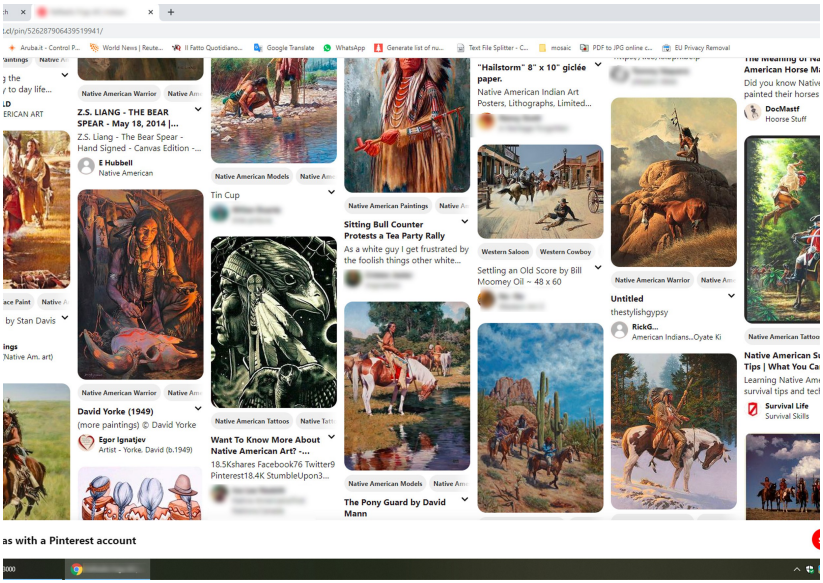

Fig.044 Screenshot of an example of my father activism. While being like me very engaged with the lives of native people he thinks that authoritarian regimes are needed in order to ensure that migration of people does not cause further damage. His view saddens me as I believe that it is because of these regimes that we can no longer live an indigenous life.

Since I was 6 I was no longer allowed or encouraged to see my father; he became taboo. Twenty years later he got in touch with me and we began a regular correspondence. The event was significant for me but also quite traumatic; it turned out that my father held extreme political views and had quite a rough life in Canada where he moved. I saw very good sides of him but his darker sides had a big impact on me. In the long run I was able to cope with all of my father's issues finding a more stable emotional balance. I am sure that one of the reasons I have started my project is due to the trauma of being left without a father and I am sure that my father's attitude to life is due to the trauma of having been left without his family and children. While I was able to deal with the situation, the relationship with my father became too arduous; he just had his strong convictions. Having been always flexible in my life and always open to new places and people I just couldn't live with the his many prejudices. This experience however gave me a lot of room for thoughts. I became less and less naive on certain issues and with time I began to endorse and appreciate the life of indigenous people my father and my father's family in general are so fond of. I read about them and I keep my brain open to what they have to teach me.