

The logo features a central dark blue circle containing the text 'UIC' in light blue. This circle is surrounded by a thick yellow ring, which is further enclosed by a red ring. From the top of the yellow ring, a yellow line extends upwards and to the right. From the bottom of the yellow ring, a yellow line extends downwards. From the right side of the red ring, a red line extends downwards and to the right. The background is a solid light blue color.

UIC

Alumni Exchange

**COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS
AND
SCIENCES**



news :: social media :: politics :: democracy :: everyday life
THE TRUST DEFICIT

Zizi Papacharissi,

Professor and Head of Communication, Professor of Political Science, University Scholar

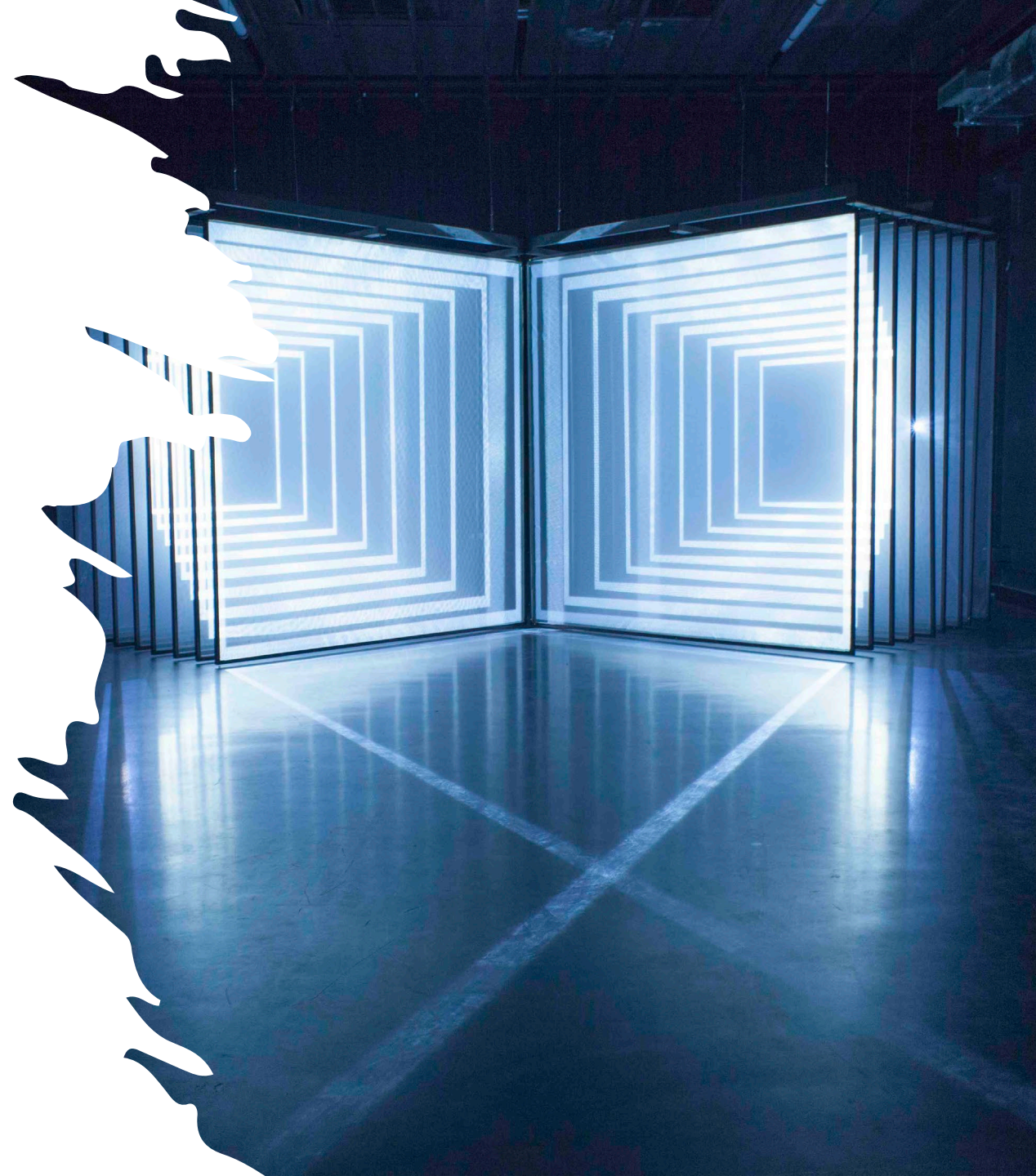
uic.edu/~zizi

[@zizip](https://twitter.com/zizip)

all images courtesy Nonotak Studio from Daydream Installation

THE BASICS

- WHAT THE NEWS DOES AND DOES NOT DO
- WHAT THE INTERNET WILL AND WILL NOT OFFER YOU
- HOW SOCIAL MEDIA CAN AND CANNOT BENEFIT YOU





... in the beginning

Contemporary Democracies

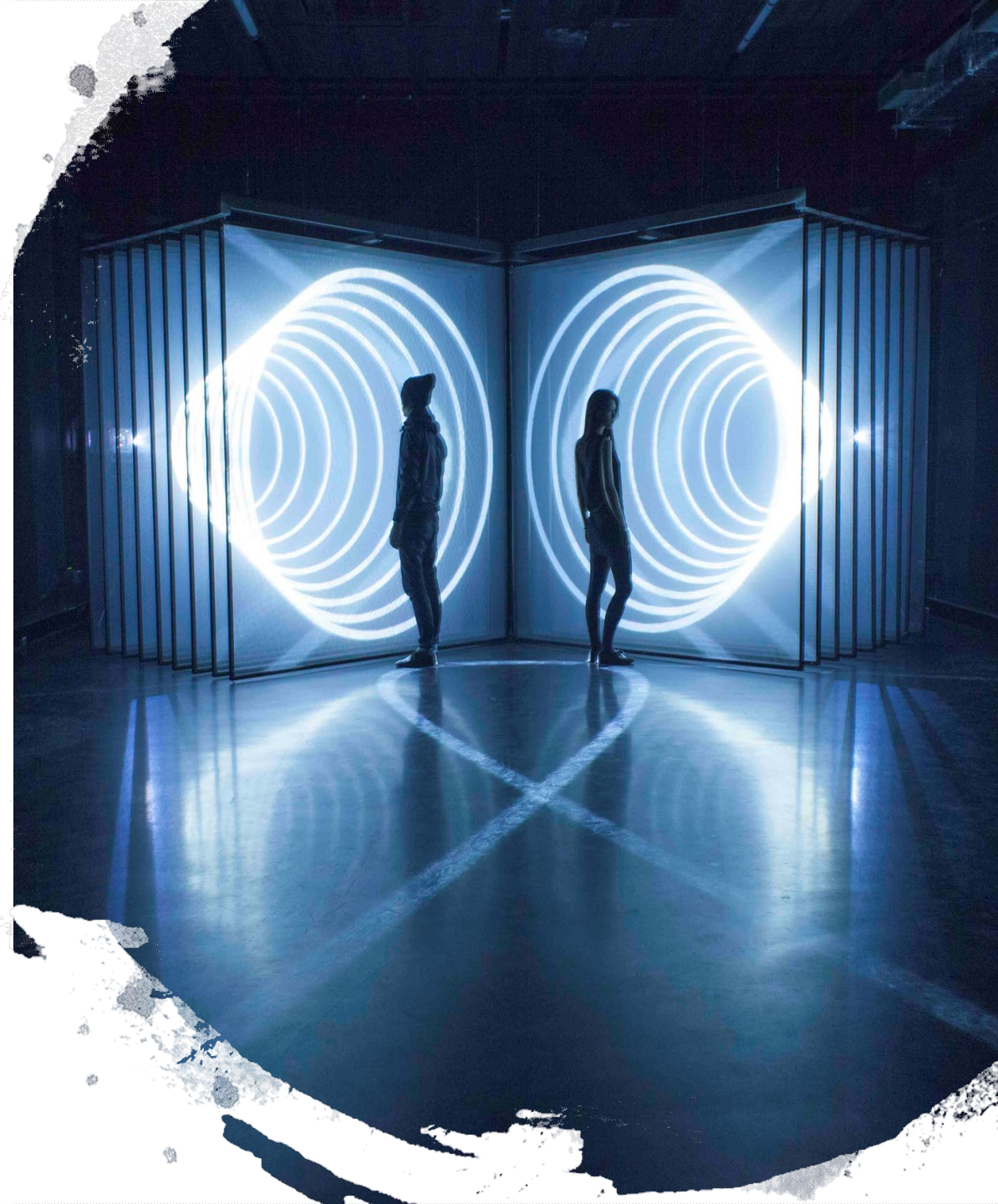
Nostalgia for past forms of civic engagement

Limitations to civic involvement presented by the representative democracy model

Aggregation of public opinion

Declining civic participation through formal channels of political involvement

A cynical public



WHAT THE NEWS DOES AND DOES NOT DO

[news values]

News values prioritize stories about events that are recent, sudden, unambiguous, predictable, relevant and close (to the relevant culture/class/location).

Priority is given to stories about the economy, government politics, industry and business, foreign affairs and domestic affairs-either of conflict or human interest- disasters and sport.

Priority is given to elite nations (the US, the UK, Europe, etc.) and elite people.

News values often involve appeals to dominant ideologies and discourses. What is cultural and/or historical will be presented as natural and consensual.

News stories need to appeal to readers/viewers so they must be commonsensical, entertaining and dramatic (like fiction), and visual (Hartley, 2002, p. 166).

News values turn events into stories



HOW NEWS WORKS



FRAMES

SETS AGENDAS

FORMS NARRATIVES – TELLS STORIES – CASTS CHARACTERS –
CREATE DRAMA

EVERYONE DOES THIS. RATINGS. ECONOMICS OF ATTENTION.

WHAT THE INTERNET WILL AND WILL NOT OFFER YOU



Internet not a magical space. Cannot create something out of nothing.

Internet will pluralize, not democratize.

Internet will amplify, but not equalize.

Does the internet make people more or less social?

Neither. People use the internet to get more of, what they do not have enough of, in (real) life

Internet not some exotic place, people use it for connection, expression, mundane everyday things.

Education, parenting, peer groups important

@zizip





Do social/news media make or break elections?

No, (social/news) media do not tell us what to do, but:

- They tell us what to think about
- And how to think about it

Do social/news media make or break revolutions?

No, but:

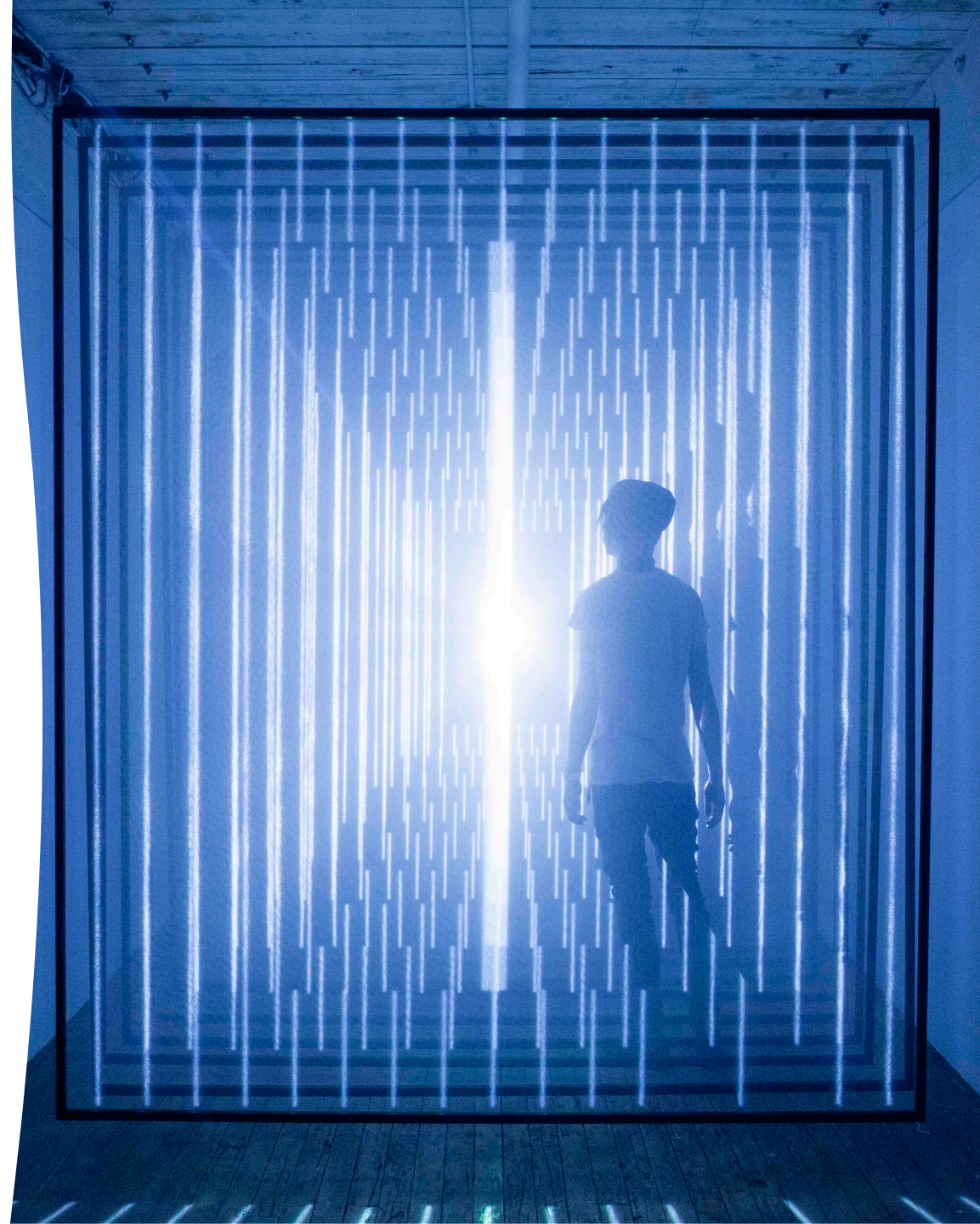
- They intensify movements (populism)
- They connect and divide
- They enable acts of symbolic impact

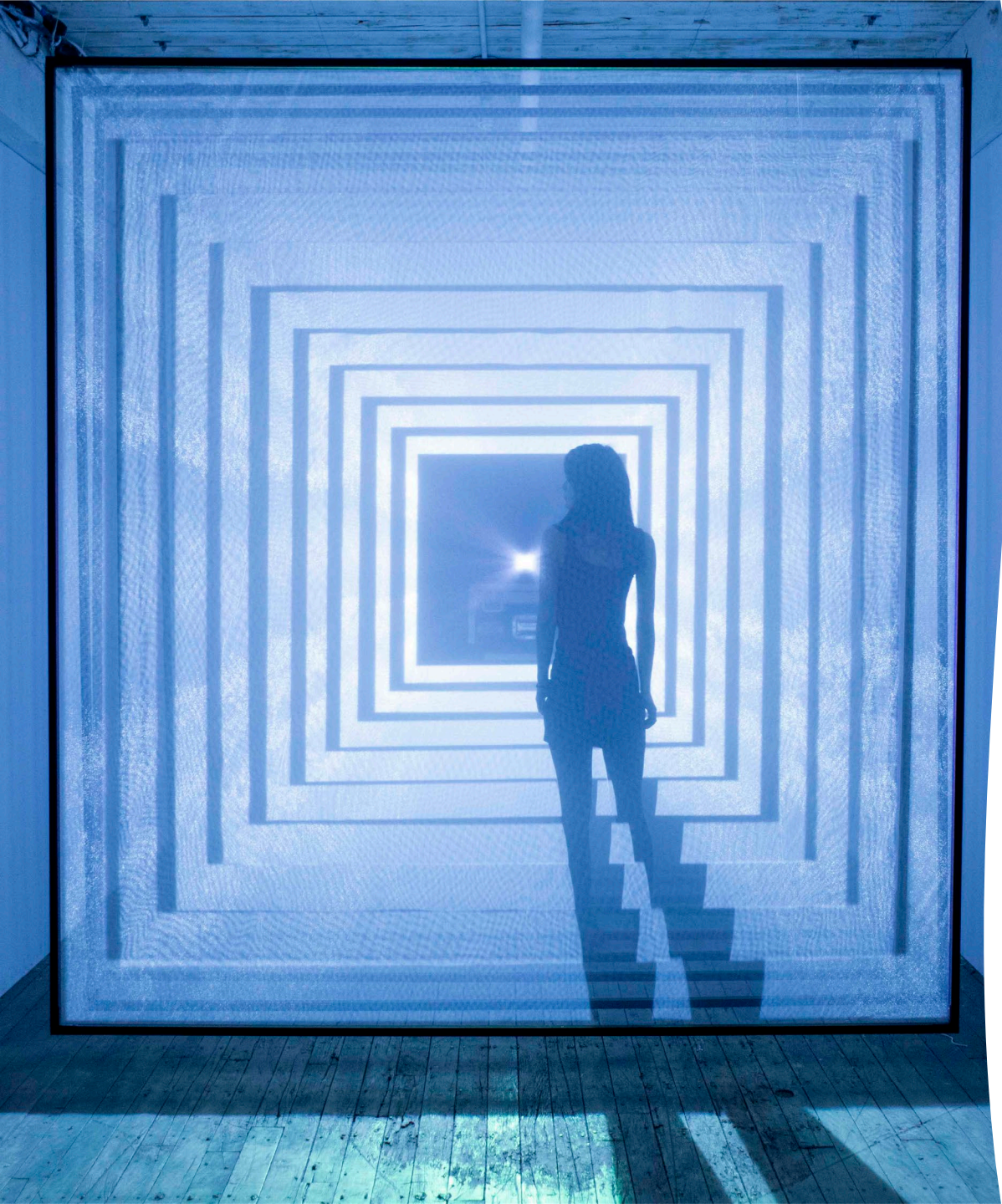
A FEW TIPS

- Clickbait
- Listicles
- What-you-need-to-knows
- Uncredited material circulating on social media
- Partisan vs. non-partisan
 - *spoiler: there is no non-partisan*
- Curate your feeds – a little goes a long way
- Click wisely – a little goes a long way, again
- Read, process, interpret, listen, wait –
- we don't need to have opinions about everything

OF COURSE YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO AN OPINION.

THINK:
HAVE I EARNED THAT RIGHT?





What does a healthy news media diet look like?

- READ ACROSS THE BOARD AND SPECTRUM
- READ FUN AND SERIOUS – DIVERSIFY
- READ FAST, THINK SLOW
- GAME THE SYSTEM
- CHANGE BEGINS WITH YOU - YOUR GAZE IS POWERFUL – YOUR CLICKS MATTER – USE THEM TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

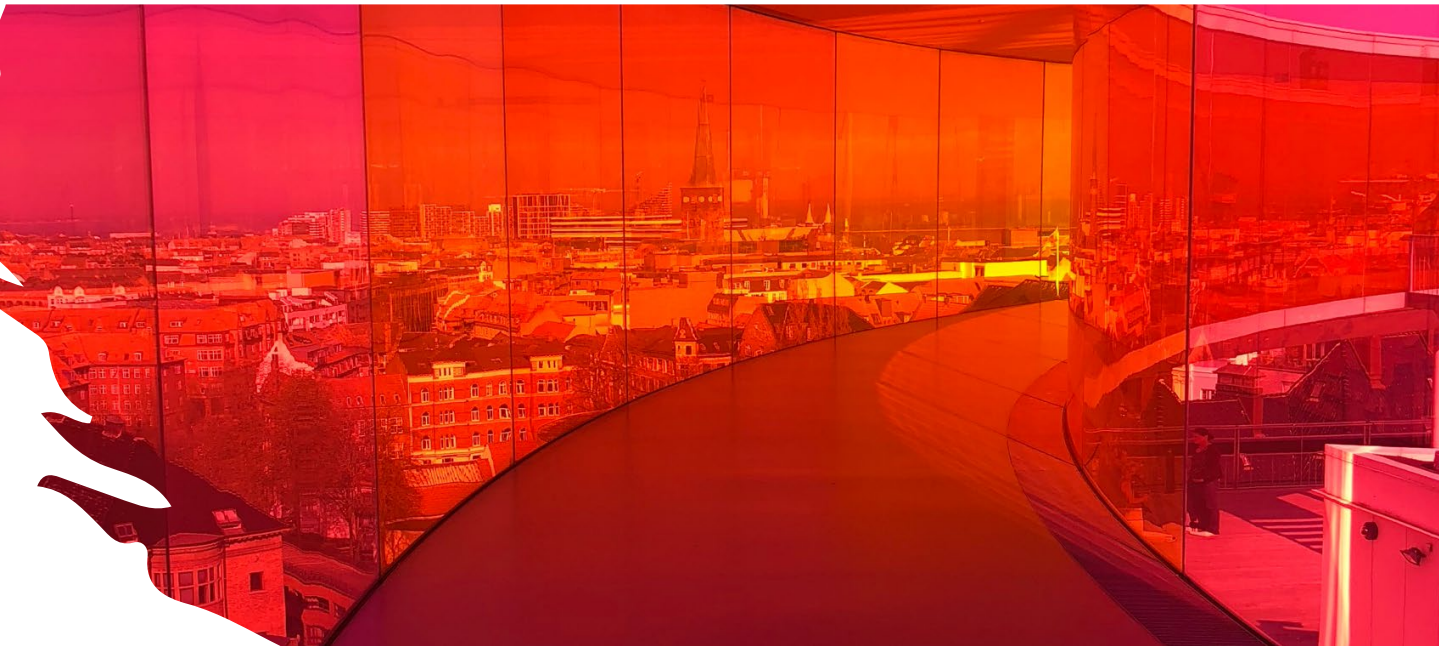
**TECHNOLOGIES NETWORK US,
BUT IT IS OUR STORIES THAT CONNECT US.**

IDENTIFY US. AND, DIVIDE US.

BE (TRUE TO) YOURSELF

PLAY

LET YOURSELF BE BORED



YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY IN THE
WRONG PLACE.



**AFTER
DEMOCRACY
IMAGINING
OUR POLITICAL
FUTURE**
ZIZI PAPACHARISSI

DEMOCRACY BEFORE::AFTER::BEYOND

1. REVERSE THE TREND:Soft Capitalism // Strong Democracy
2. MICRO GOVERNANCE
3. COUNTING ABSENCE
4. LONG AND SHORT TERM POLITICS
5. BEYOND VOTING
6. A CIVIC EDUCATION FOR ALL
7. FORGET MESSIAHS
8. GAME THE SYSTEM News media, headlines, and economics of attention
9. REINVENT JOURNALISM
10. BE OUR OWN AGENTS OF CIVIC CHANGE



TECHNOLOGY :: SOLIDARITY :: DISTANCE

- PREMEDIATION, NEWS STORYTELLING AND COVID 19, BLM, ACAB (1312), DEFUND POLICE, but also QANON
- STRUCTURES OF FEELING, SOCIAL MEDIA, AND SOLIDARITY
- AFFECTIVE TUNING IN AND OUT; DISTANCE
- ACCELERATED AND SLOW LIVING
 - INSTANTANEITY AND PACE OF STORYTELLING



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