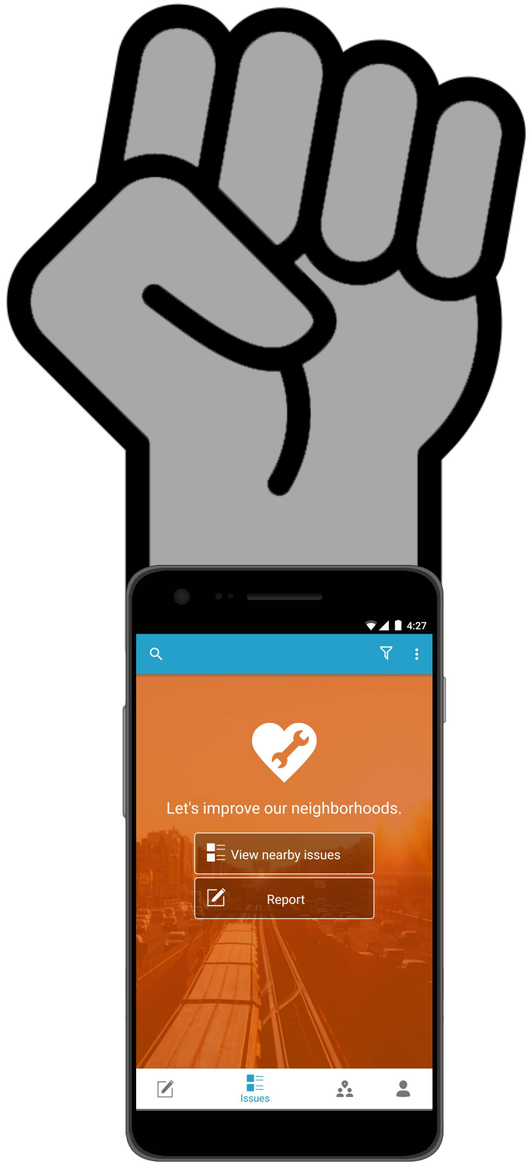
The Rise of Monitorial Citizenship



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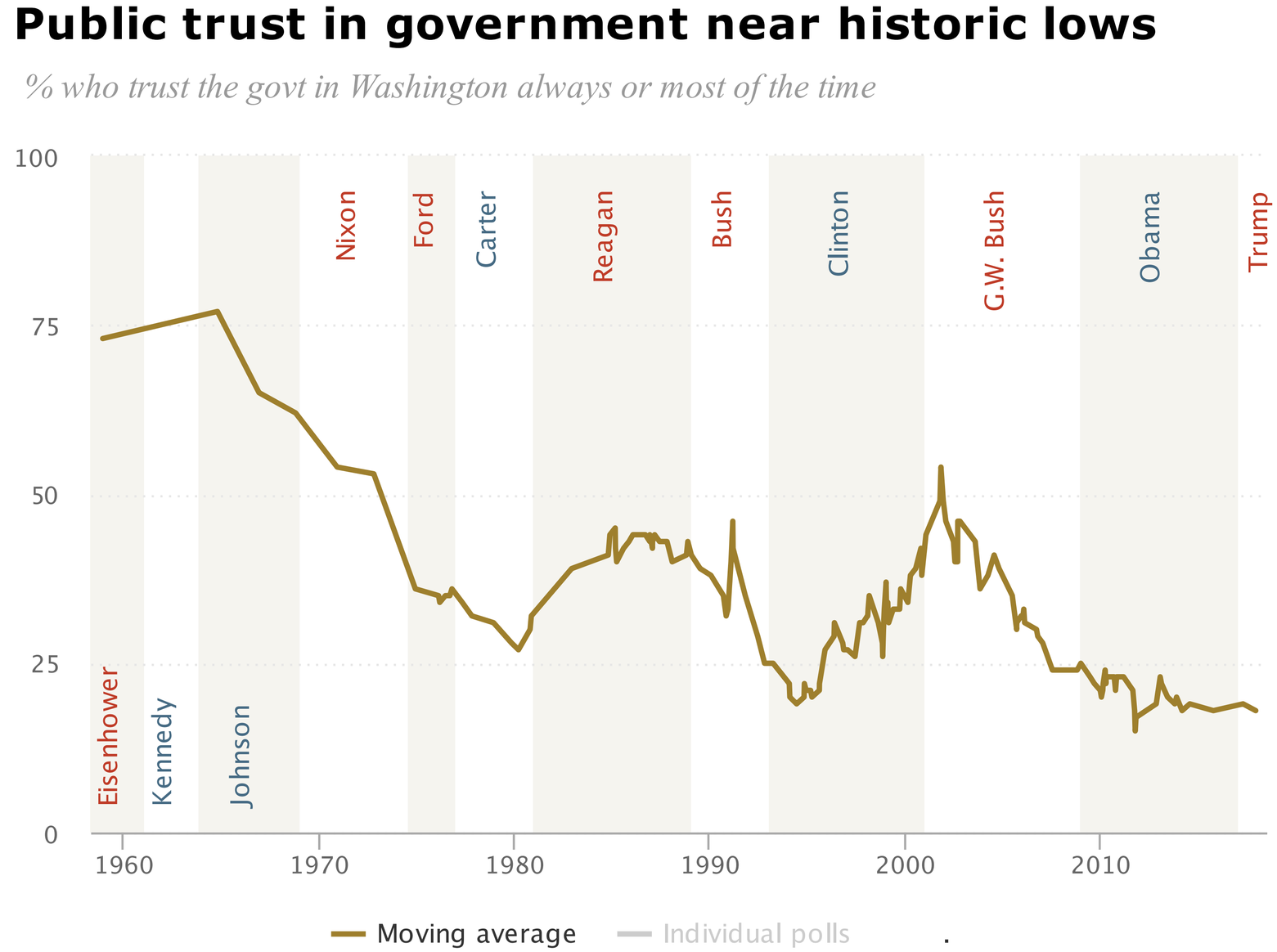
Monitorial Citizenship is a form of civic engagement in which people collect information about their surroundings or track issues of local or personal interest in order to improve their communities and pursue justice.

dissertation: bit.ly/graeffdiss
& Intl Ency of Media Literacy

Do you trust the government in Washington to do the right thing all or most of the time?



Pew Research. 2017. *Public Trust in Government: 1958–2017*.

Trust Index

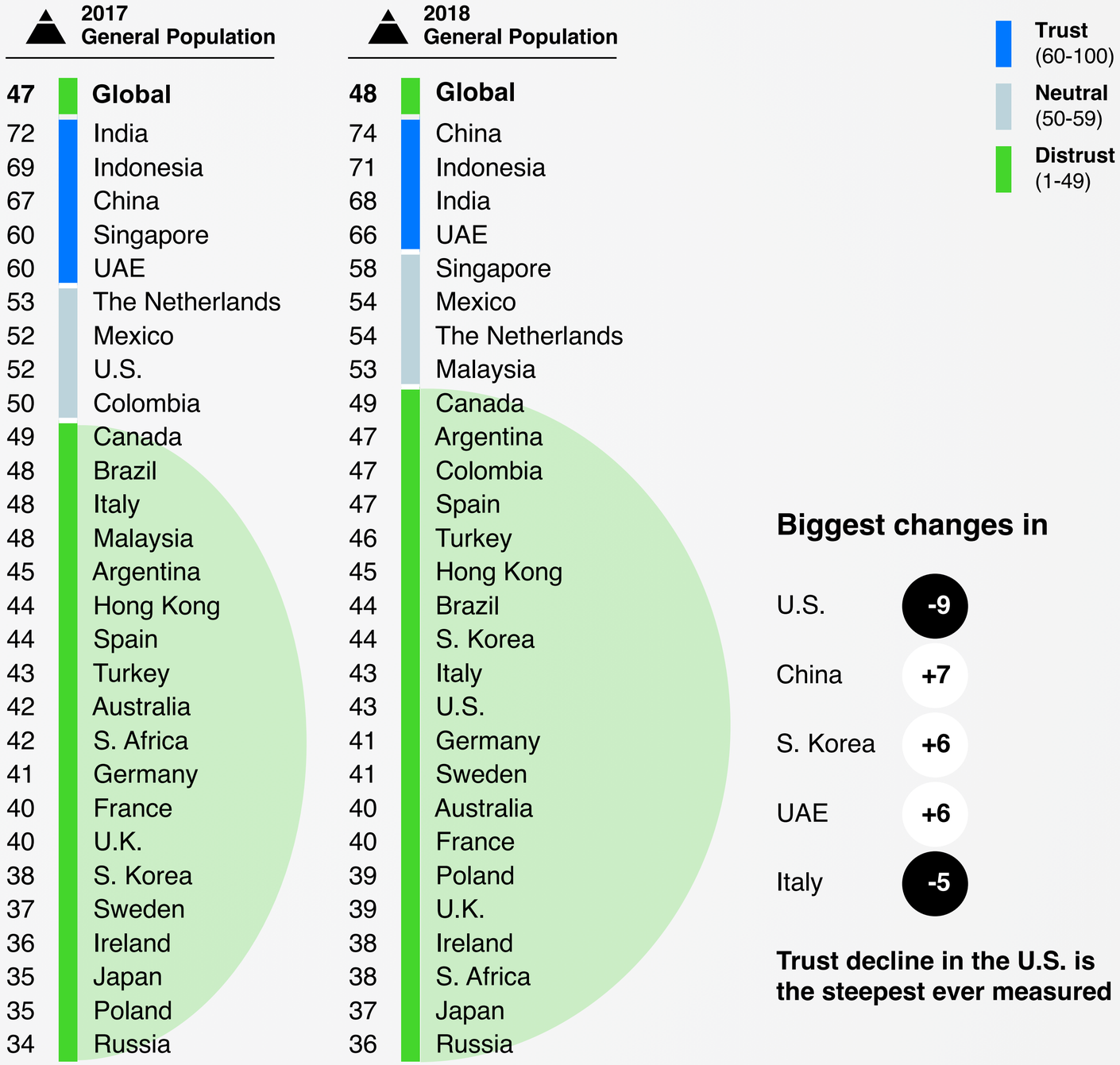
A World of Distrust

Average trust in institutions, general population, 2017 vs. 2018

Global Trust Index remains at distruster level

20 of 28 markets are distrusters, up 1 from 2017

Source: 2018 Edelman Trust Barometer.
The Trust Index is an average of a market's trust in the institutions of government, business, media and NGOs. General population, 28-market global total.

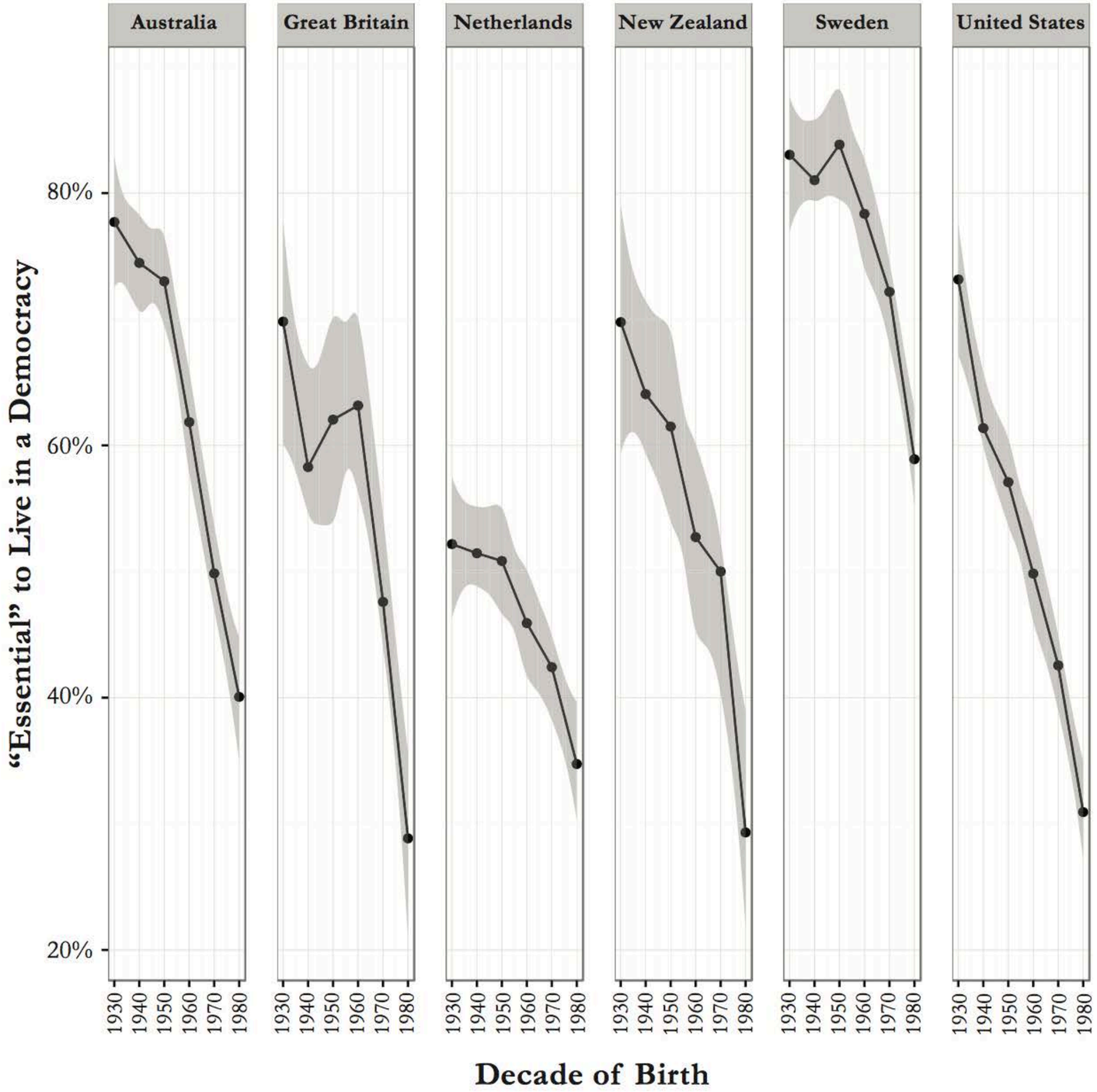


Biggest changes in

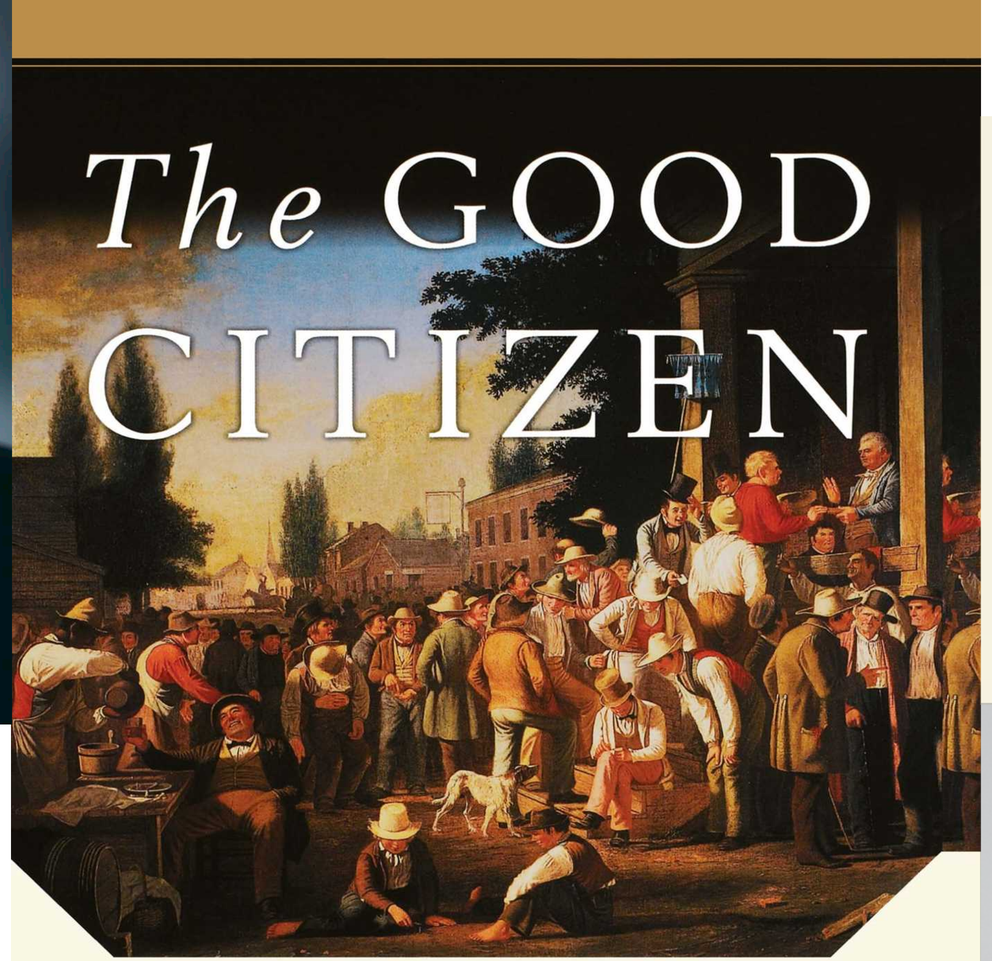
U.S.	-9
China	+7
S. Korea	+6
UAE	+6
Italy	-5

Trust decline in the U.S. is the steepest ever measured

Contemporary youth see living in a country that is government democratically as less essential



Foa, R. & Mounk, Y. 2017. The Signs of Deconsolidation. *Journal of Democracy*, 28(1), 5–16.



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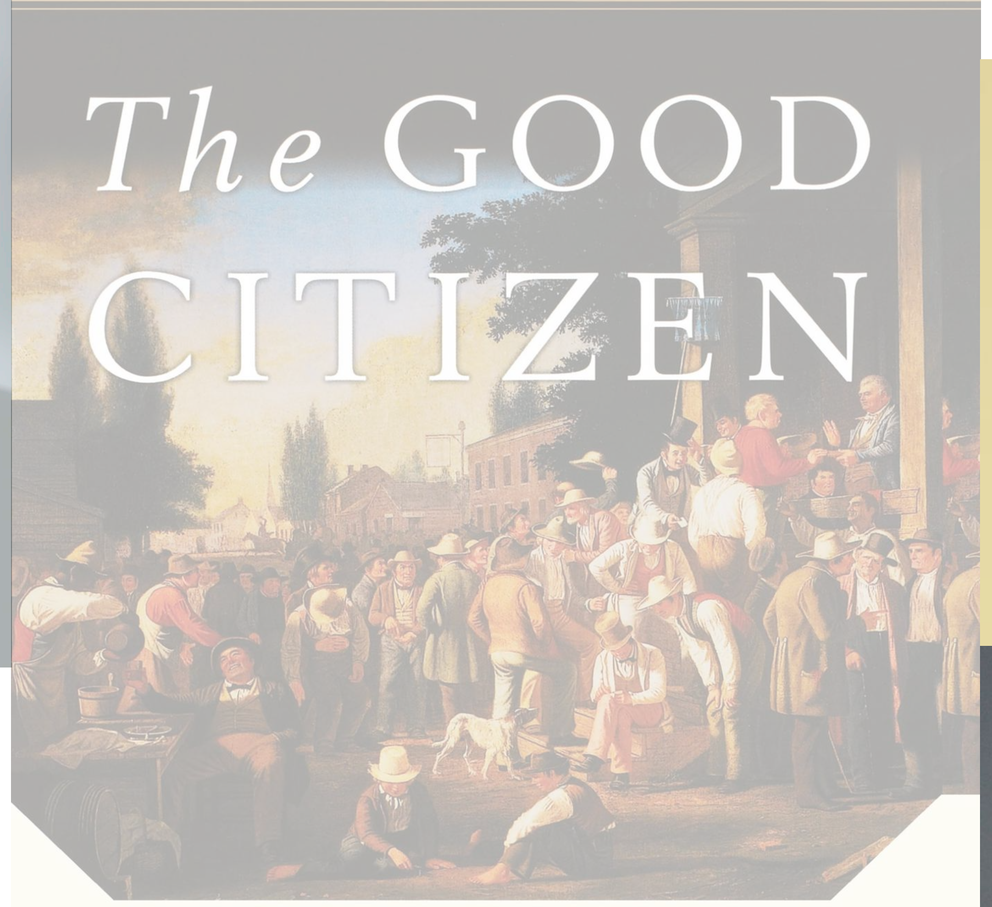
A HISTORY of AMERICAN CIVIC LIFE

MICHAEL SCHUDSON

The GOOD CITIZEN



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A HISTORY of AMERICAN CIVIC LIFE

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Monitorial Citizenship Core Practices

- **collecting information**
- **sharing stories and insights**
- **coordinating with networks of other civic actors**
- **pursuing accountability for institutions and elite individuals and their perceived responsibilities**

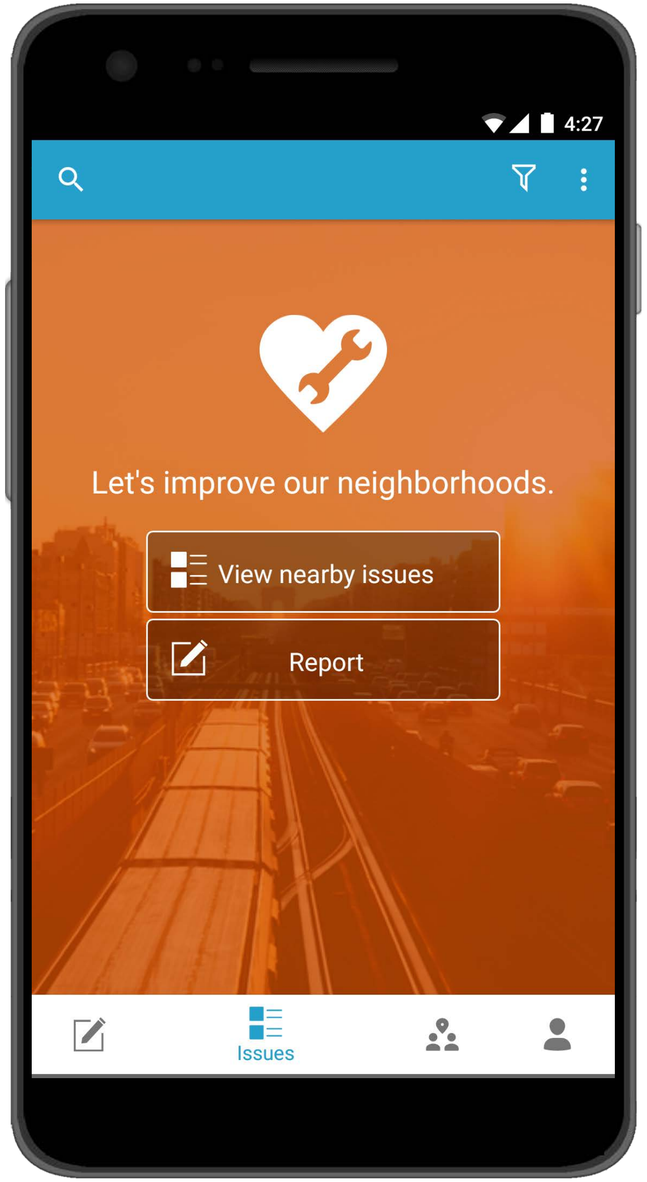
Example: Public Lab

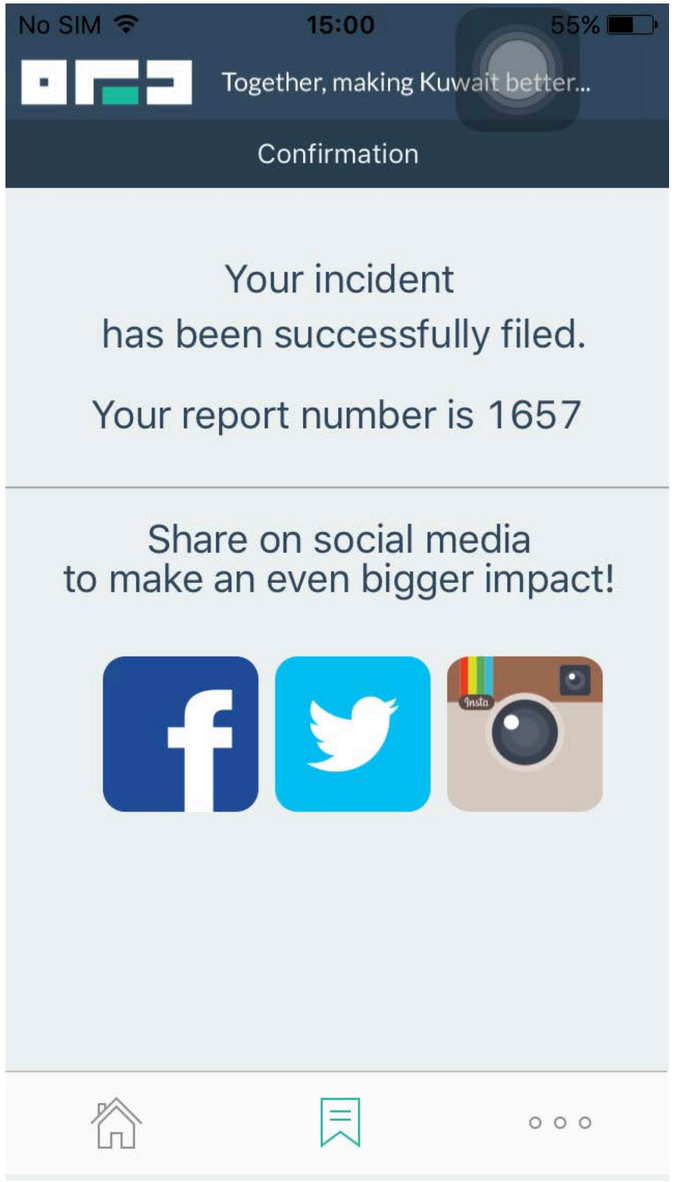
Example: Promise Tracker

Monitorando a Cidade
Coleta de dados para ação cidadã

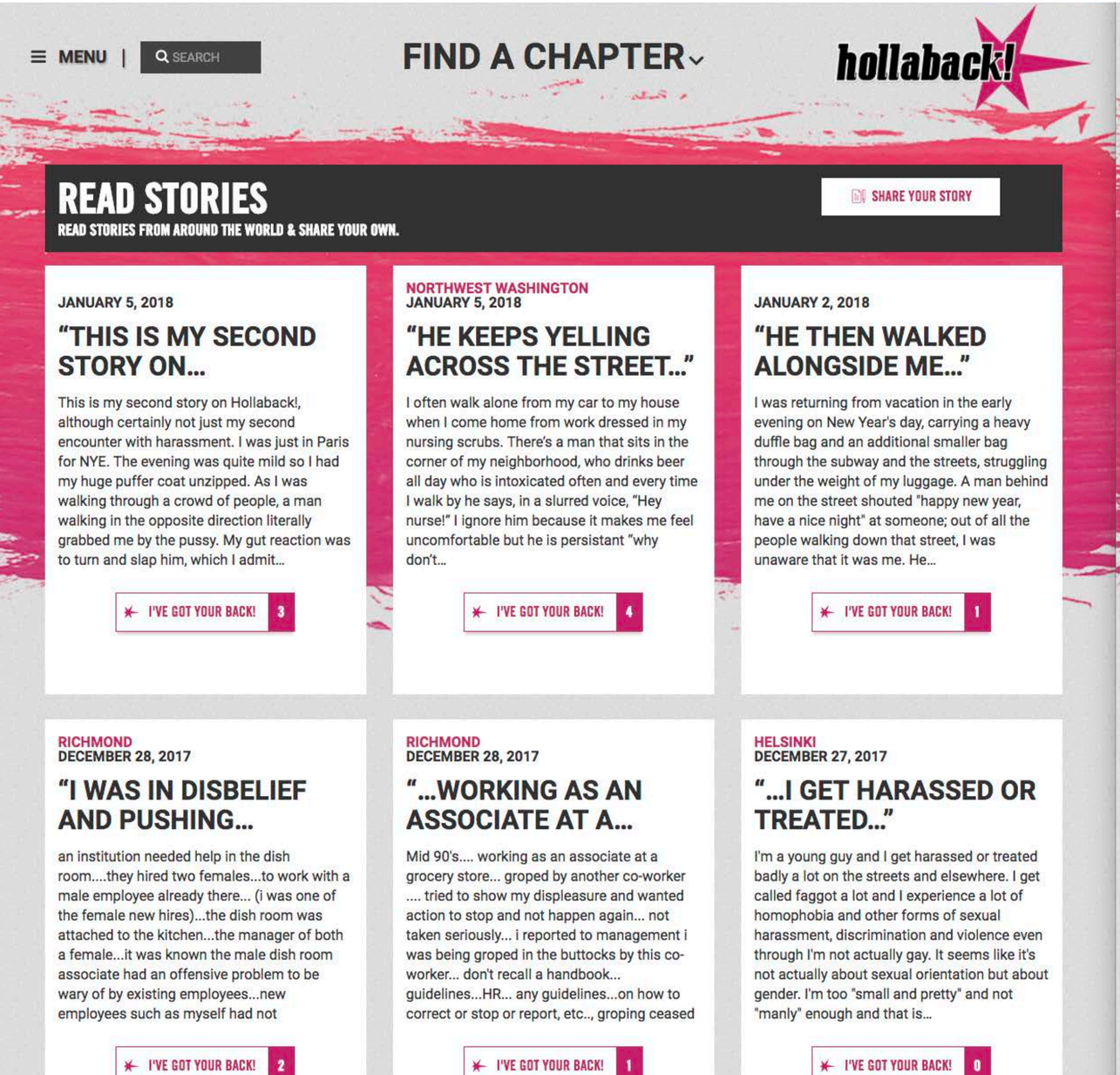
Égua da merenda, João!

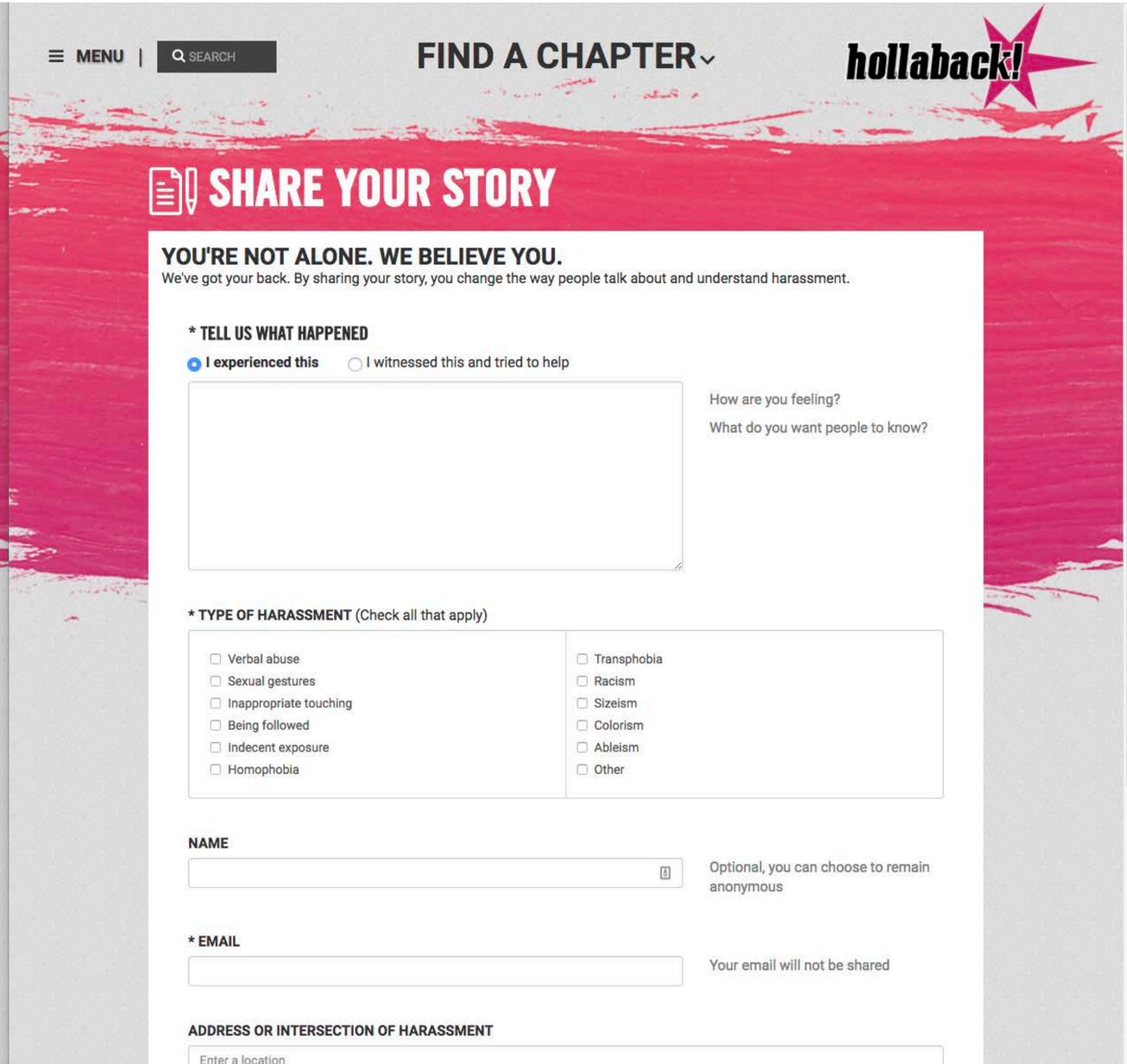
Examples: SeeClickFix & Deera





Example: Hollaback!





Examples: WeCopwatch and #BlackLivesMatter

The Rise of Monitorial Citizenship is…

a digital and civic literacy issue

The Rise of Monitorial Citizenship is…

an inequality and empowerment issue

Recommendations for Educators

- **teach information gathering and analysis (media/data literacy & YPAR)**
- **teach persuasive storytelling**
- **teach community organizing online and offline**
- **teach democracy from the perspective of citizen power**

data
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PSP the public science project
participatory action, research & design for a just world

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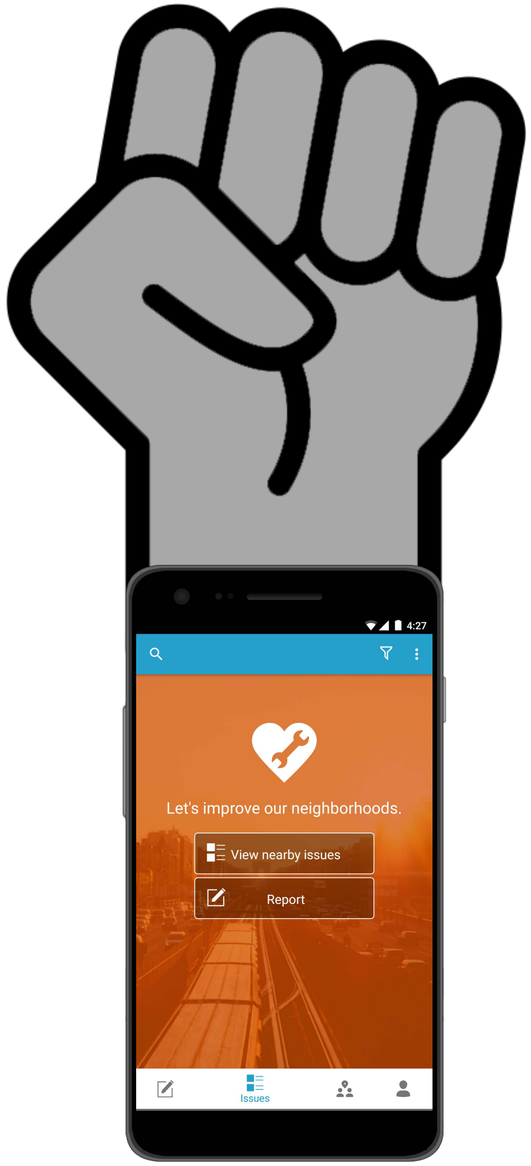
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