

Reticulated Civic Engagement
Invitations, Obstacles, and Passionate Participation

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Abstract: The Internet has been celebrated and reviled as a means to improve public spaces of interaction. But technical infrastructures alone do not change hearts and minds with regard to enhancing online and offline environments. Drawing on YouTube videos on subjects such as improving spaces of play, reducing contentious online commentary, protecting free speech, and promoting world peace, this talk will examine interactions that address social change. It will focus on the micro-steps that reticulate or draw individuals into social networks of civic engagement. It suggests that future research should analyze the subtle, emotionally-laden invitations and obstacles to participation that must be addressed if meaningful change can be achieved.

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