

Crit 2: Body of Work

Where I Started

Core Question

**Why do people maintain or pass on rules and rituals
that once made them uncomfortable?**

Where I Started

7-in-7

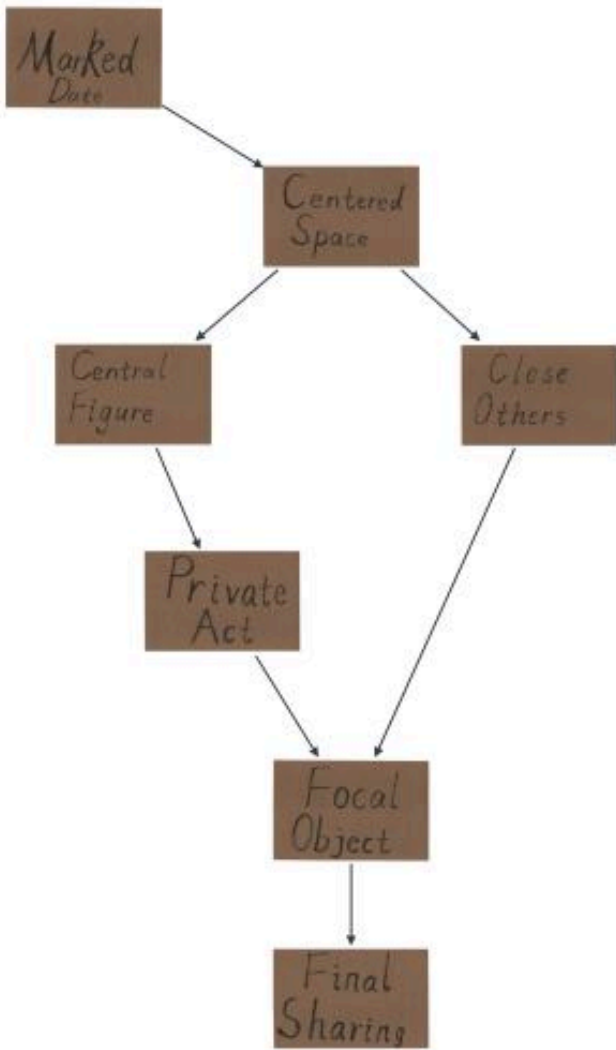
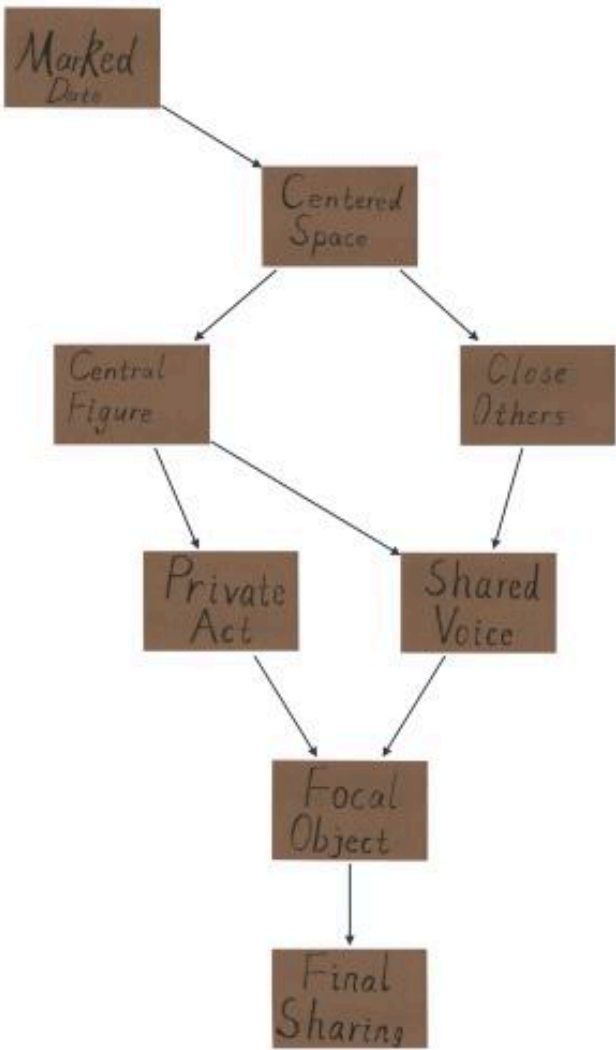
Prototype 1

What happens to a ritual when one of its components is removed?

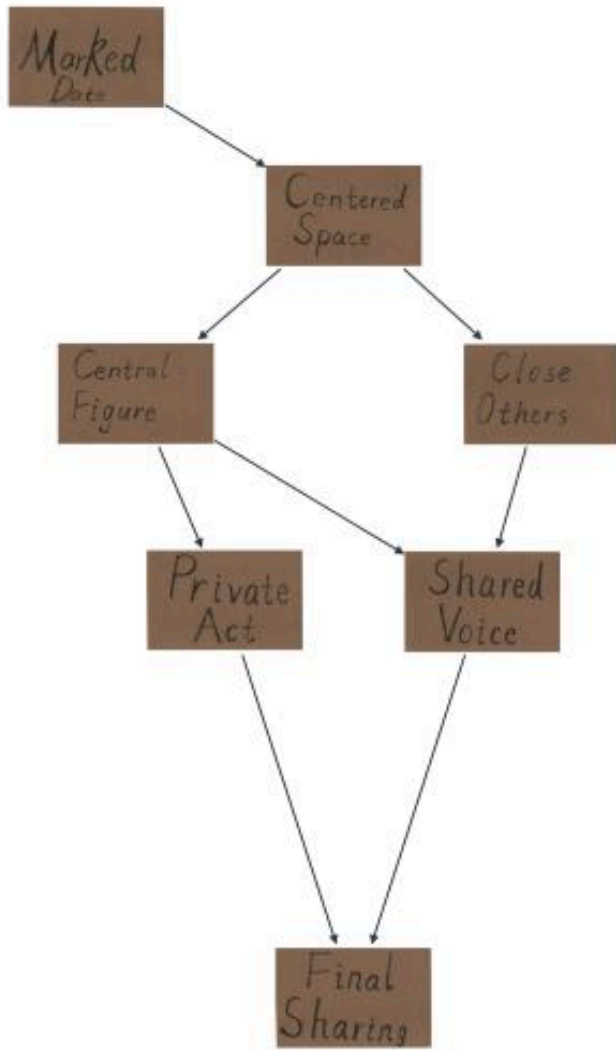
I broke one familiar ritual into eight components and mapped the relationships between them. I then removed different components and reorganized the remaining connections.

The experiment suggested that the components of a ritual do not function in the same way.

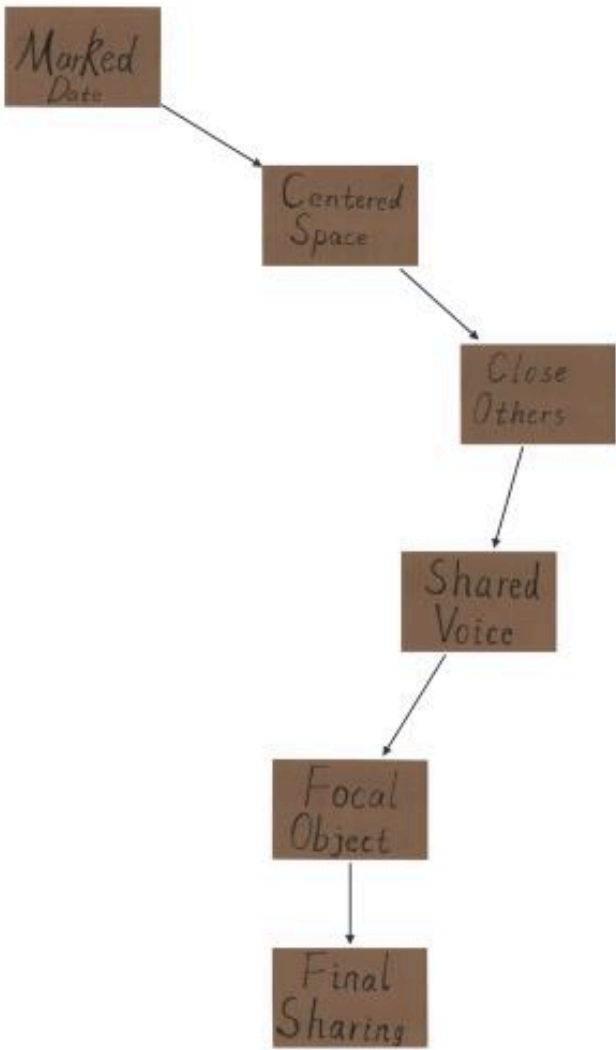
Removing the central figure changed several relationships at once, while removing the marked date left most of the internal structure intact. This made me question whether what makes a ritual recognizable is necessarily the same as what makes it structurally work.



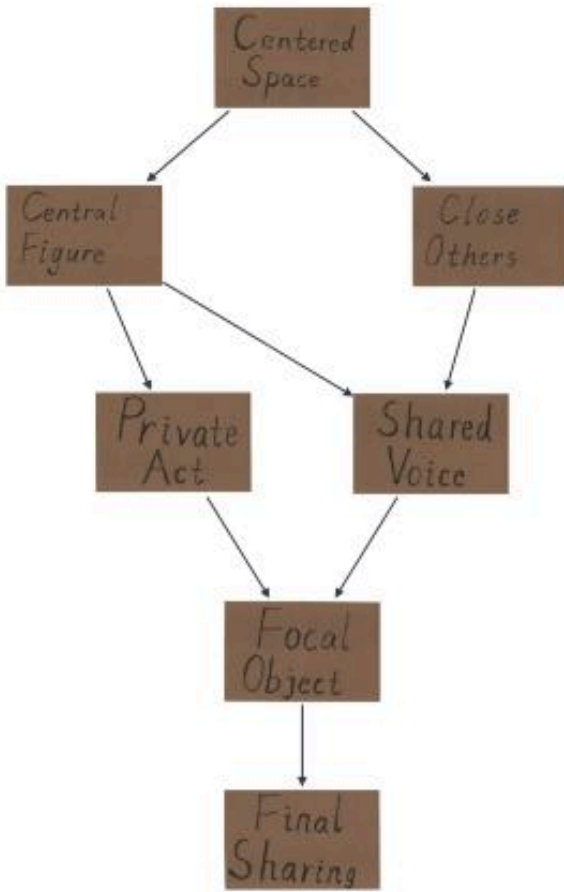
Removing Shared Voice
The structure could still continue with relatively little change.



Removing Focal Object
The actions could still be connected, but the material center of the ritual disappeared.



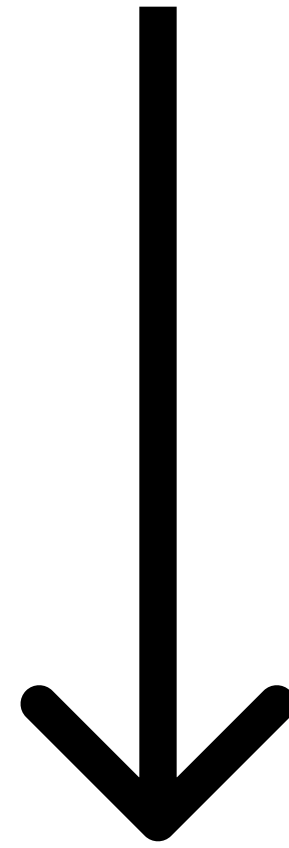
Removing Central Figure
This caused a larger structural change. The private act also disappeared, while the remaining actions reorganized around collective participation.



Removing Marked Date
Almost all of the internal relationships remained intact.

The more I abstracted rituals, the harder they became to recognize.

Crit 1 What is being passed on through rituals?



**Crit 2 How do people participate in
maintaining and changing rules?**

From Analysis to Speculation

8 Provocations

1. Po, children create the rituals that adults must follow.
2. Po, people have to pay tax every time they perform a ritual.
3. Po, rituals must never be seen.
4. Po, the world is controlled by rituals, and humans are raised by them.
5. Po, rituals are jealous of one another.
6. Po, rituals have their own hierarchy — some are noble, some are lowly, and some rank above others.
7. Po, ritual is chewing gum.
8. Po, I am the Emperor of Rituals, and I rule over all the rituals in the world.

3 Prototypes

Po,
people have to pay tax every
time they perform a ritual.

This explored how rituals
might be passed down not
only as traditions, but also as
burdens and responsibilities.



Ritual News 
@RitualNews

A 24-year-old is facing bankruptcy after inheriting 55 annual family rituals from his grandparents. He has begun selling ritual objects and instruction guides to help pay off his ritual debt.



1:55 PM · Sep 30, 2026 · 1.2M Views

428

1260

8700

151

Relevant 

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Reply

I need money @moneycomemoneycome · Sep 30 

My grandfather left me 11 rituals, and I'm already overwhelmed. They take up almost half my year, and I didn't choose any of them.

4

3

27

3677

Selling Tradition Cheap @cheaptraditions · Sep 30  

Honestly, I'd sell too. Some of these inherited rituals cost more to maintain than my rent.

1

0

11

218

Buy my rituals  @please_5555 · Sep 30  

If anyone wants a complete anniversary ritual set, DM me. Barely used.

0

1

2

15

YourProblem  @yourproblemnotmine · Sep 30  

55 rituals and he's acting like he inherited a terminal illness. His grandparents managed them. Why can't he?

12

5

1

4599

Margaret Hill @hill · Sep 30  

Selling your grandparents' rituals feels wrong. Some things are meant to be carried forward, not liquidated.

4

2

12

567

WorldLover  @ineversignedup · Sep 30  

Inherited rituals should require consent. No one should automatically inherit obligations they never agreed to!

7

8

133

5601

Susan Parker susanparker · Oct 1  

You don't have to love every ritual. Keeping them is part of what it means to belong to a family.

19

21

27

8974

justcausingtrouble @thatisme · Oct 2  

55 isn't even that bad. My cousin inherited 83 and had to move back home.

2

12

53

7923

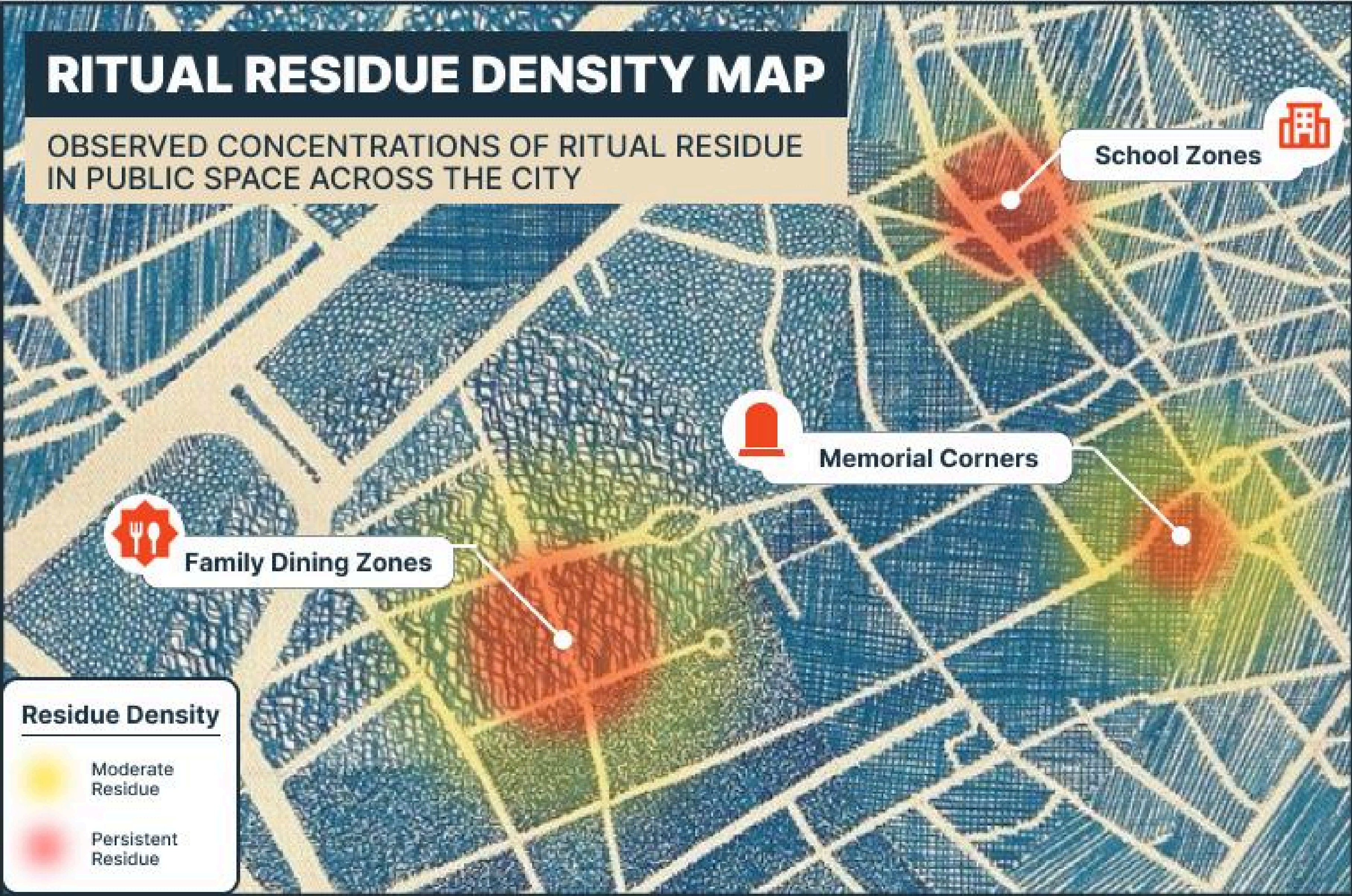
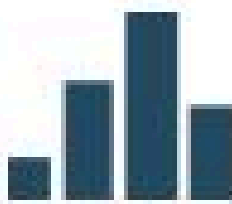
3 Prototypes

Po,
ritual is chewing gum.

This let me think about how some rituals may persist because traces of them remain embedded in places.

URBAN RITUAL CLEANING REPORT

Department of Ritual Sanitation



3 Prototypes

Po,
I am the Emperor of Rituals,
and I rule over all the rituals
in the world.

This made me wonder whether simply requiring people to repeat certain behaviors is enough to turn them into rituals, or whether something else is needed.

MONTH OF IMPERIAL RITUALS

Daily ritual announced by the Emperor.
Citizens must check and comply each morning.

OFFICIAL MONTHLY BULLETIN

RITUAL CATEGORIES		 CLOTHING	 FOOD	 SPEECH	 MOVEMENT	
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		01  Greet one stranger formally.	02  Walk the long way home.	03	04  No black clothing today.	05
06  Leave one bite unfinished at dinner.	07	08	09	10  Wear red pants outdoor.	11	12  Breakfast must be eaten standing up.
13	14  Whisper all compliments.	15	16	17	18  Walk sideways with the left side leading.	19  Collar pulled back.
20	21	22  No one may eat alone today.	23	24  Add “thank you” after every sentence.	25	26
27  No running in public before sunset.	28	29	30  Match all socks today.			

From Imagined Worlds to Testable Situations

3 Provocations

- 1. What if children make the rules that adults must follow?**
- 2. What if children's game rules had real authority over adults?**
- 3. What if a ritual were no longer for the person it is usually centered around?**

3 Prototypes

What if children make the
rules that adults must
follow?

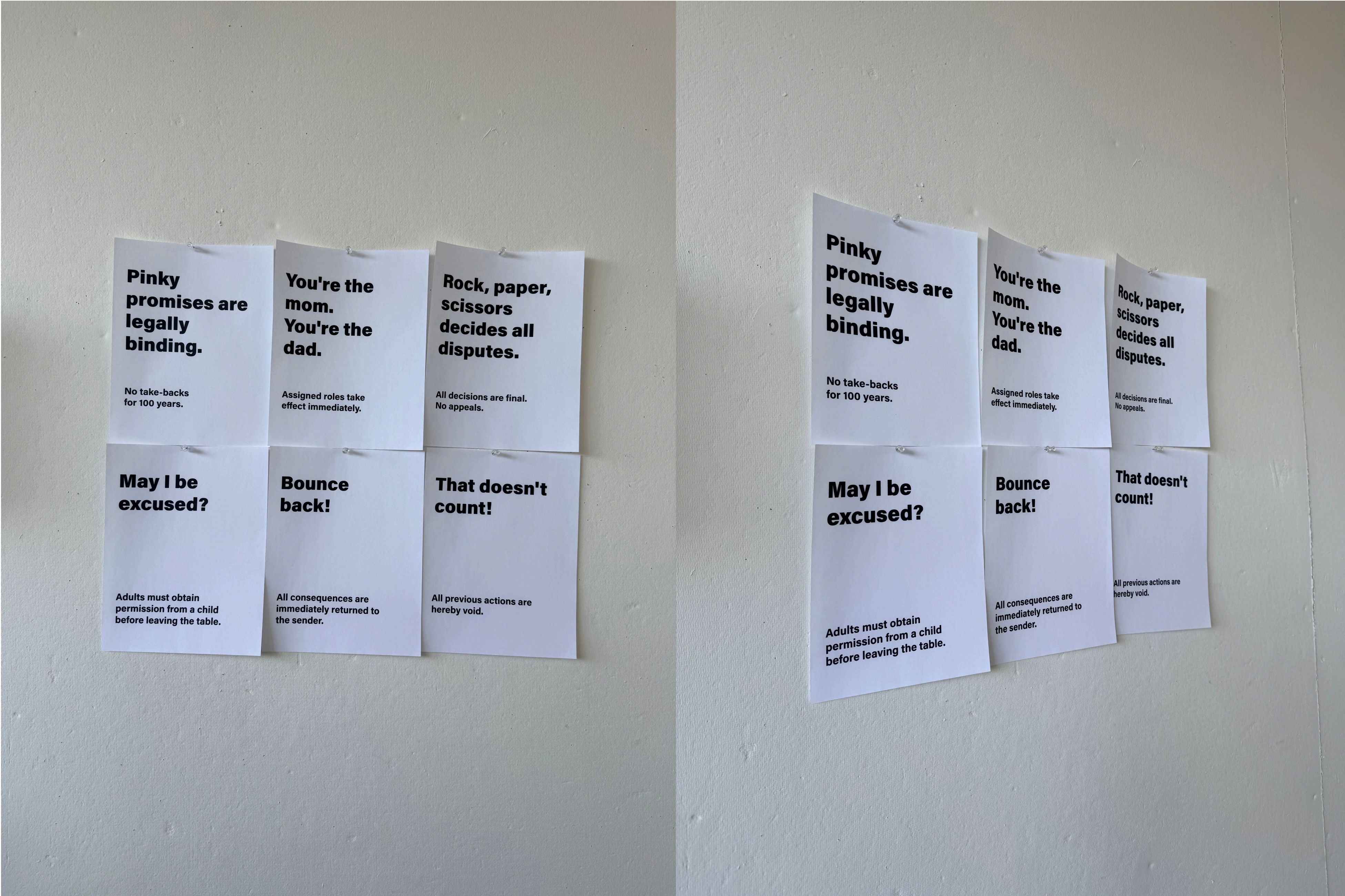
Don't Step on the Line



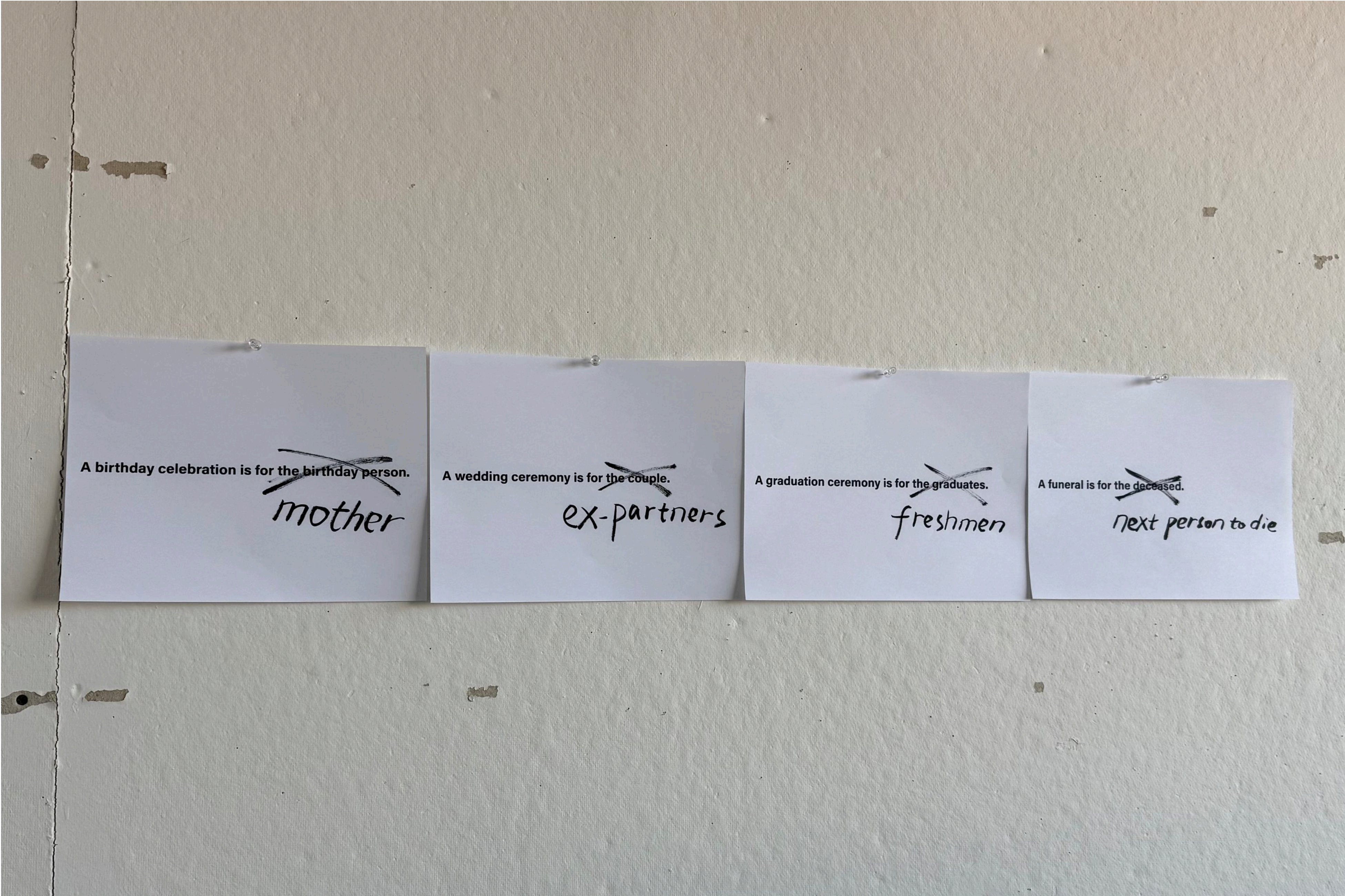
3 Prototypes

What if children’s game rules had real authority over adults?

Child-Made Statements



3 Prototypes



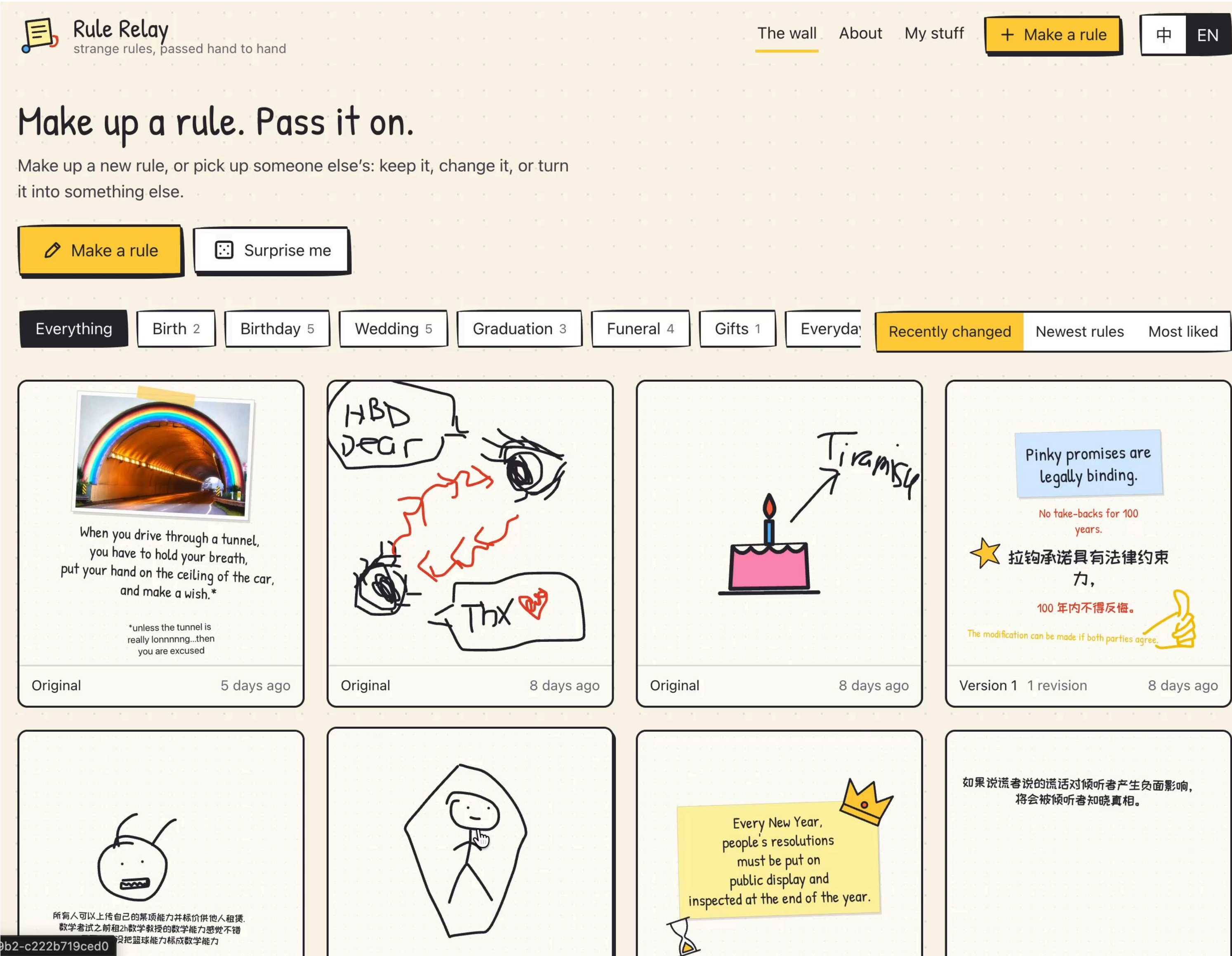
What if a ritual were no longer for the person it is usually centered around?

Changing the Main Character

Testing Rules Through Participation

Rule-Relay: Creating and Modifying Rules

I wanted to explore how people create, negotiate, and pass on rules when they have the opportunity to change them.



Rule-Relay: Creating and Modifying Rules

What Happened When People Could Change Rules

Each time the birthday person turns a year older, their parents must pass a fitness test to prove they can still handle being parents.

寿星每增加一岁，父母就必须完成一项体能测试，以证明自己仍然有能力继续承担父母的角色。

Original

starting rule

Birthday

2026.10.11 20:24 · 2 revisions so far

the rule

Each time the birthday person turns a year older, their parents must pass a fitness test to prove they can still handle being parents.
寿星每增加一岁，父母就必须完成一项体能测试，以证明自己仍然有能力继续承担

Like 1

This is an earlier version.

Continued directly by 1 other v

Show who added what

Each time the birthday person turns a year older, their parents must pass a fitness test to prove they can still handle being parents.

寿星每增加一岁，父母就必须完成一项体能测试，以证明自己仍然有能力继续承担父母的角色。

Version 1

Birthday

2026.10.12 01:15 · 2 revisions so far

the rule

Each time the birthday person turns a year older, their parents must pass a fitness test to prove they can still handle being parents.
寿星每增加一岁，父母就必须完成一项体能测试，以证明自己仍然有能力继续承担父母的角色。

why it was changed

感觉作为父母，除了体为一个三观正确/各方面

Like

This is an earlier version.

Continued directly by 1 other v

Show who added what

Each time the birthday person turns a year older, their parents must pass a fitness test to prove they can still handle being parents.

寿星每增加一岁，父母就必须完成一项体能测试，以证明自己仍然有能力继续承担父母的角色。

Version 2

Birthday

2026.10.12 02:00 · 2 revisions so far

the rule

Each time the birthday person turns a year older, their parents must pass a fitness test to prove they can still handle being parents.
寿星每增加一岁，父母就必须完成一项体能测试，以证明自己仍然有能力继续承担父母的角色。

why it was changed

这边把压力给到父母（

Like 1

Continue this rule

All versions (3)

Surprise me

Show who added what

心理测试and教育测试

且测试必须合格！

心理测试and教育测试

Participants not only create rules but also try to make them more reasonable.

Jiayi Li
2026.10.21

Rule-Relay: Creating and Modifying Rules

What Happened When People Could Change Rules

红色每很好，
黑白婚配
也很酷！

Original

Wedding

2026.10.12 00:02 · 0 revisions so far

the rule

婚礼的时候，可以按照自己的审美安排场地的色彩，不需要换两套华丽的衣服，新娘新郎可以自己决定需不需要敬酒环节。

why it was made

我的表姐想要办黑白色的婚礼但是被家里人拒绝了 但是这是她的婚礼

Like

Continue this rule

All versions (1)

Surprise me

Marriage and having children require obtaining a certificate to prove that they are capable and responsible enough to move on to the next stage of life.

结婚、生孩子必须要考证书
以此证明他们有能力有责任进入到下一个身份

Original

2026.10.11 23:40 · 0 revisions so far

the rule

准确来说，是在结婚和备孕之前，要进行一定的新婚夫妇、新手父母的阶段性培训和考试。考试分数越高，并且在后续考核过程中没有问题的家庭，给予一定的奖励。

why it was made

结婚和备孕生孩子这些事在我看来，身份的转变都是很突然的。有些人还没来得及做好准备，就非常茫然的进入到下一阶段。我认为这种考试，虽然看起来好像没有人情味，但是在备考期间，可以更加让对方更加了解彼此，也会让自己又一些心理准备。它会让人们对这两件事看的更加严肃和认真，而不是随便就结婚备孕生孩子，有人的人生了也只是只生不养，更多男性更是无法承担起他们应有的责任。

Like

Continue this rule

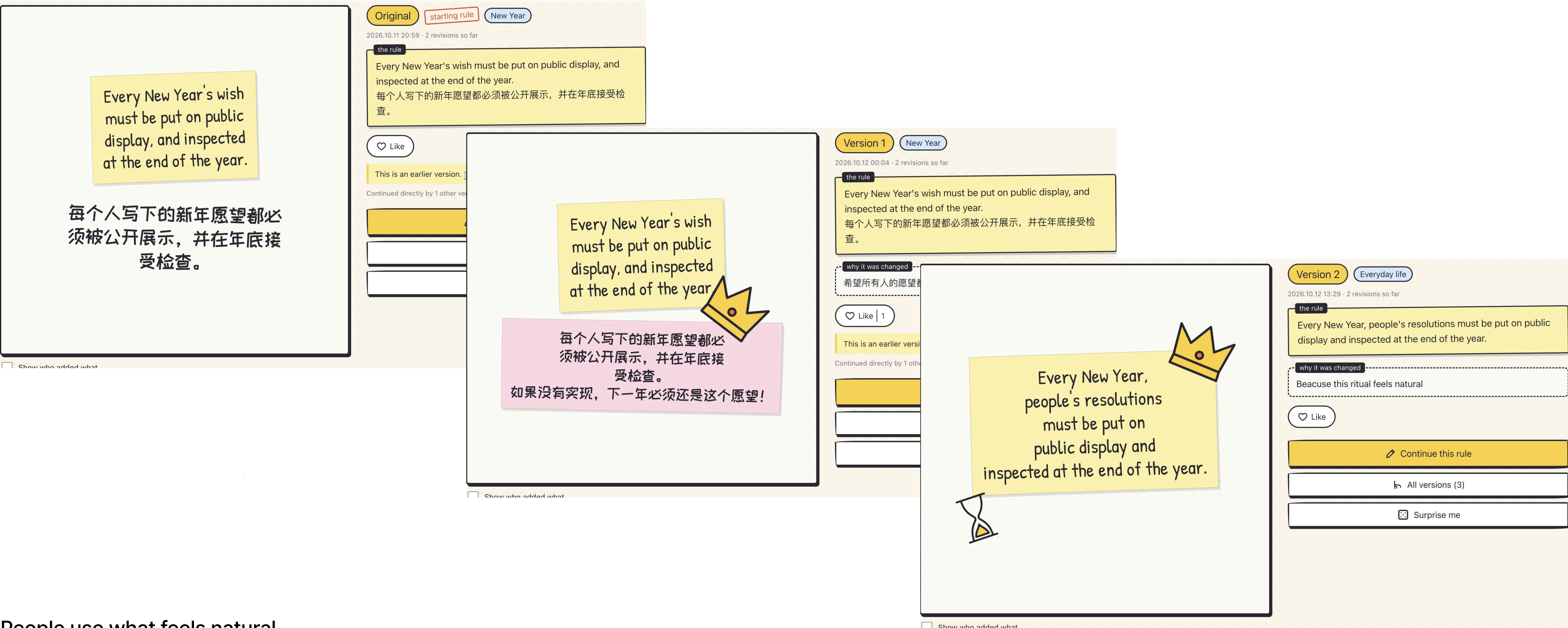
All versions (1)

Surprise me

Participants bring personal experiences and values into the rules they create.

Rule-Relay: Creating and Modifying Rules

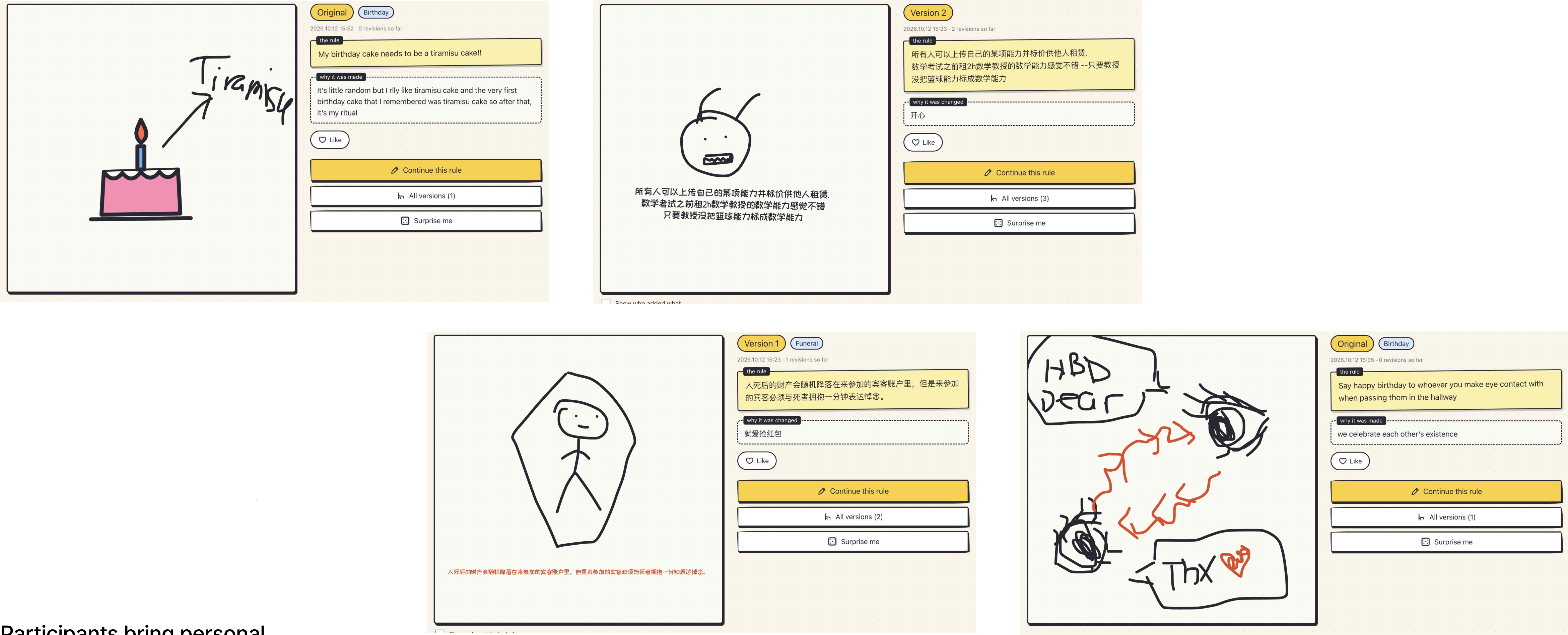
What Happened When People Could Change Rules?



People use what feels natural
to judge rules.

Rule-Relay: Creating and Modifying Rules

What Happened When People Could Change Rules



Participants bring personal experiences and values into the rules they create.

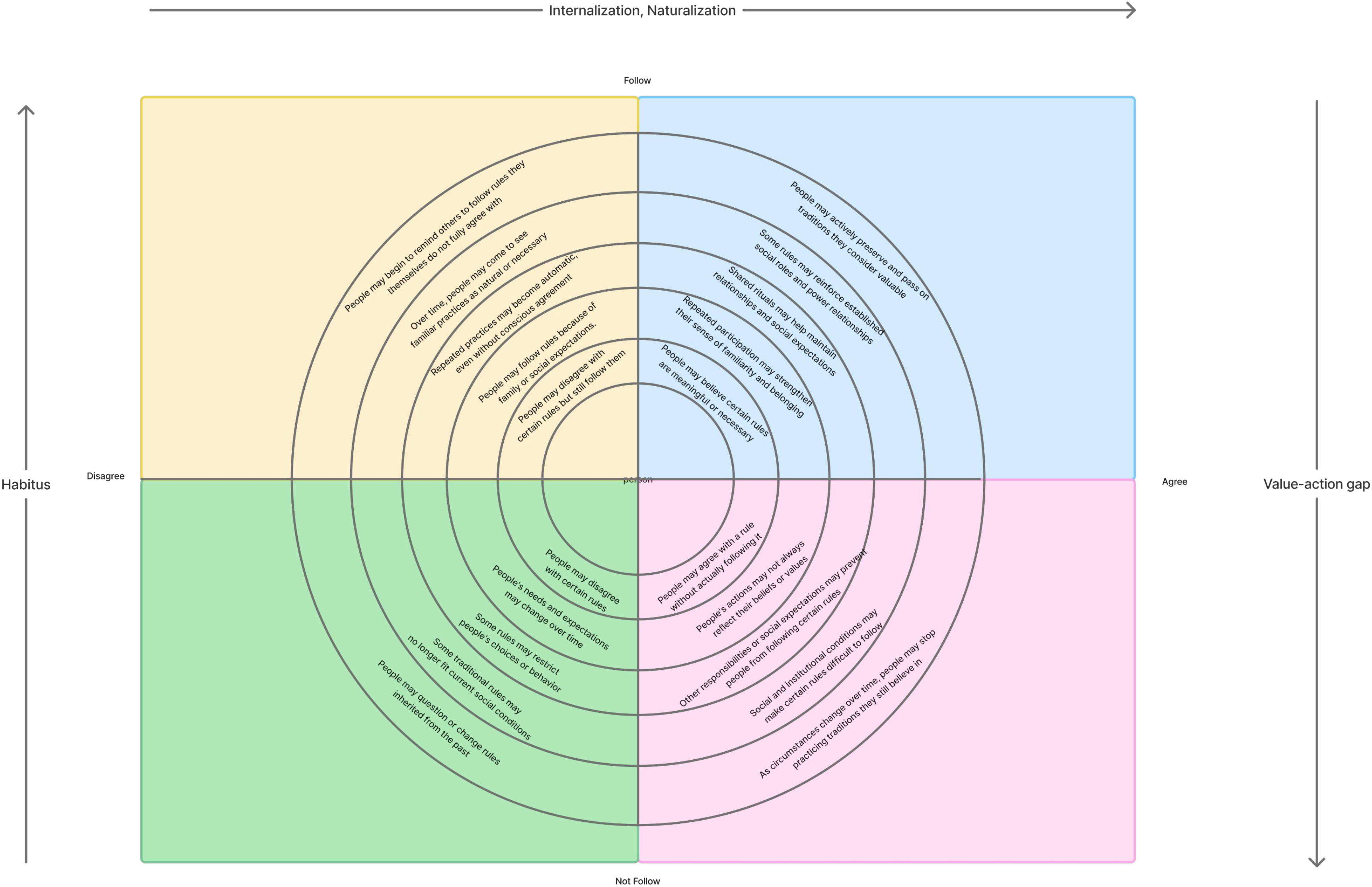
Rule-Relay: Creating and Modifying Rules

What These Experiments Reveal

- 1. Following a rule does not necessarily mean agreeing with it.**
- 2. People may maintain rules by interpreting, justifying, or modifying them.**
- 3. People's responses to rules depend on their experiences, values, and social context.**

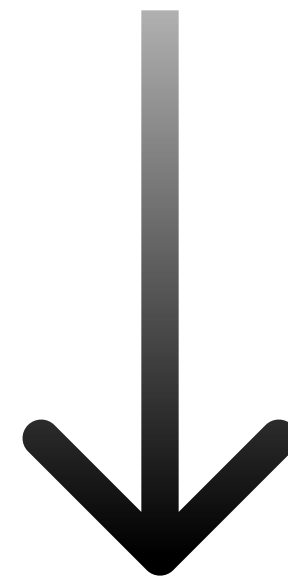
Connecting the Findings

Mapping Different Relationships to Rules



Emerging Insights

**Why do people maintain or pass on rules and rituals
that once made them uncomfortable?**



**How do people explain and justify rules
they do not fully agree with?**

Looking Ahead

Creating situations where rules lack clear justifications.

Questions for Critique

**Can a two-dimensional design intervention
be as impactful as a spatial intervention
in shaping participants' experiences?**