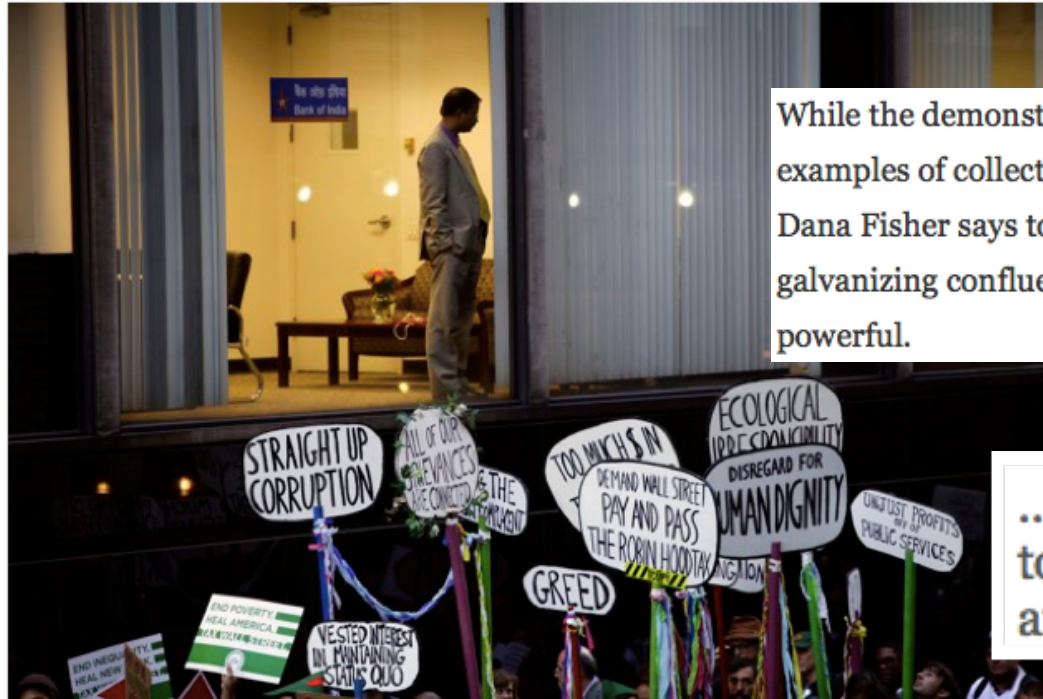


Public Trust & Accountability

Why Street Protests Don't Work

How can so many demonstrations accomplish so little?



A Bank of India worker watches from a window as Occupy Wall Street protesters march along 47th Street in New York in September 2013. (Joshua Lott/Reuters)

The protest movement is failing: it's fighting the same old battles with the same poor results...

While the demonstrations of the 1960s brought about historic change, more recent examples of collective activism seem to have had a smaller impact. Columbia professor Dana Fisher says today's protests lack the numbers of attendees, duration and galvanizing confluence of social movements that made rallies decades earlier so powerful.

...government responses usually amount to little more than rhetorical appeasement, and certainly no major political reforms...