

Review of: "Corralling a Chimera: A Critical Review of the Term Social Infrastructure"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to (p)review this article on the use of the term social infrastructure in academic literature. I concur with the authors that a term runs the risk of becoming an empty container when it is broadly used without a focused definition, as happened to many other theoretical concepts, such as gentrification.

My main remark is the use of the term 'networking spaces'. For me, this has a work-related connotation; people network to advance their careers. However, in the literature – and I believe also your interpretation – social infrastructure is much more about social ties, care, encounters, etc. Why not use the term spaces of encounter (see e.g. work by Helen F. Wilson)? In any case, I feel this category needs more attention and careful labelling, since your argument is that it should be the main focal point of social infrastructure research. Are you arguing to drop the term social infrastructure altogether and talk about networking spaces? If so, wouldn't that term create similar confusion and broadness as the original term? I would like to see some more reflection on this, either in the main body of the paper or in the conclusion/discussion.

Another reflection worthwhile to make is that by stretching the meaning of the concept of social infrastructure, we might also stretch what is expected from them. You refer to Klinenberg as one of the main thinkers within the category of 'networking', but some say it was Shannon Mattern who coined the term. She has excellent papers on social infrastructures not listed in appendix A (I don't understand why: too ambiguous definition?), which could be useful for your paper, such as:

<https://placesjournal.org/article/library-as-infrastructure/>

Some suggestions for literature that might be helpful in supporting your claim that more attention is needed for social infrastructure: Kelsey T and Kenny M (2021) *Townscapes: The Value of Social Infrastructure*. Cambridge: Bennet Institute for Public Policy – University of Cambridge.

Final remark: did I miss it or does the title not reappear in the main body of the text? Shouldn't you explain or mention the corralling of the chimera?