

Peer Review

Review of: "Wasta Unveiled: Navigating Nepotism in the Arabian Peninsula"

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The paper is dedicated to an important, interesting, and vital social phenomenon. It provides new insights and generates further research questions. The paper was significantly improved after the first submission. The main questions to the authors or concerns:

- 1) If the threads are publicly open content, how can you justify people's honesty? Since you claimed that in surveys people will not reply honestly to questions on wasta, what about public open space online?
- 2) What is the added value of the research after all? Since you cannot present quantitative results as you cannot identify people's origin (online it can be whoever), the main conclusion might seem a bit obvious – one group is in favour of wasta and another group criticises wasta. That is not something new that qualitative research can produce, isn't it?
- 3) The Methods and Data section needs more rigorous descriptions of what videos were discussed, why 5, and why these 5. Before, you were speaking of 20. How did you select threads? How did you end up with 416 threads to analyse?
- 4) Now, you shifted the focus to SA and SA students in the results, but the data and methodology do not mention anything specific on SA.
- 5) Minor comment: no need to repeat every time 'Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA)', one time, the first time, is enough, and then you can use the abbreviation LDA.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.