

# Review of: "Working on the Root System of Social Connections in a Community"

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A lively and inspiring research that brings to light the power of local communities. Like tree roots, Russell and Hofman depict neighbour communities as multiple networks and layers of proximity and trust relationships, which are constantly under construction. The authors point out a key issue in social policies: the importance of diagnosis based on processes (such as trust and liminality), since numbers do not capture the multiple effects and dimensions of commoning. The creation of new relationships, webs of mutual support, or knowledge, among other material and immaterial goods, is fundamental aspects often absent in traditional quantitative evaluations. "Being a community is not having a community," they argue, echoing Fromm. The approach undertaken by Russell and Hofman helps to advance this new conception of social policies designed to support rather than impose dynamics, where community technicians act as facilitators instead of leaders. My personal interpretation is that Public Administration may exhibit varying degrees of presence according to the actual capacities or possibilities of community articulation, which should be previously analyzed using ad hoc indicators. Additionally, this approach helps to unveil and understand the conflicts and challenges of coproduction between social groups and between these groups and the Public Administration.