

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.

This article reviews nearly 150 articles dating back to the 1960s to review and construct the definition of “social infrastructure”. The authors promote the solution of “streamlin(ing) the definition of social capital into one that focuses on the networking social capital aspects that the term encompasses.” This article has several merits. Firstly, it reviews a dataset of a comprehensive list of articles. Through this analysis, the authors are able to provide the origins and development of the concept of social infrastructure in the five fields with different locales: education, health care, housing, transport, and networking spaces. This research contributes to summarizing and organizing social infrastructure work.

I agree with Dr. Lee that a few places regarding the method can be clarified. For example, the authors wrote that “We discarded hits that had the phrase but insufficient available citation information (such as the date and author), information critical for replication.” I encourage the author to clarify the rationale behind doing so. The authors also mentioned, “we discarded any hits that were not in the English language or lacked authorized English translations. ”. I think clarification is needed on what is considered “authorized” versus “not authorized” translations.

I also encourage the authors to introduce the reasons why they are particularly interested in connecting social infrastructure with social capital research. I also wonder whether there are fields of overlapping areas of research. For example, I have been debating whether the category of “networking space” is a separate category on its own, or it is actually a concept of another dimension that actually overlaps with all the other four categories mentioned in this article. For example, I can imagine schools being an area of “social gathering” too.

Overall, I enjoy reading this article. I think it is clearly written, the jargons are well-explained and cited, and it helps synthesizes research on the concept of social infrastructure across academic areas.