

Review of: "Wasta: The Culture of Nepotism on the Arabian Peninsula"

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This is an engaging paper that addresses an important topic. The role of informal networks in economic activities has long been studied from institutional economic and anthropological perspectives, and the author appropriately emphasizes the hybrid nature and function of the institution. However, the paper's main contribution lies in its analysis of online discourse surrounding Wasta, rather than examining how the institution functions in its traditional context. Given that the analysis of online discourse is central to the paper, a more detailed and nuanced description of this discourse would have strengthened the argument. The current description, while informative, is somewhat limited due to the tools used for data collection and analysis. In light of this constraint, the paper's contribution, while still valuable, remains somewhat restricted.