



WHY DOES SOCIAL CAPITAL MATTER?

Presentation for the Strategic Futures Group

David Halpern, PMFSU

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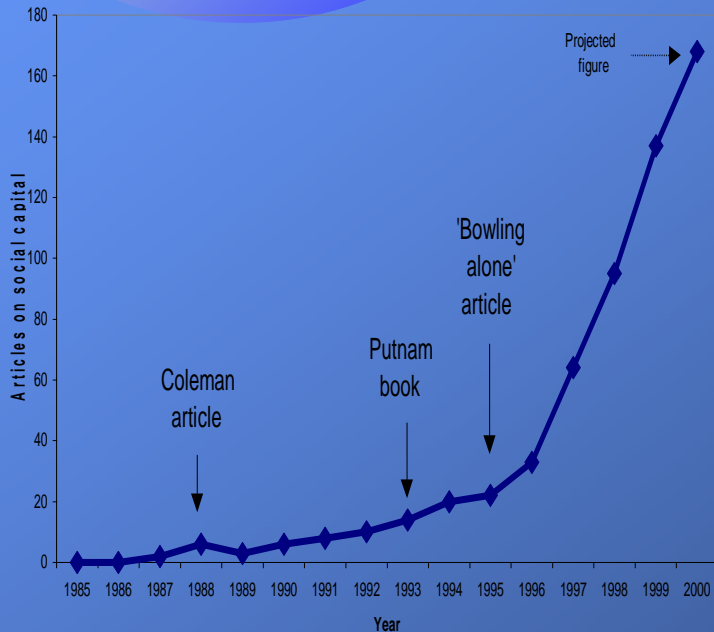
- Three common responses
- Evidence on effects
- Final thoughts



Common responses

- Hear it all before?
 - many continuities
 - new evidence
 - ecological effects: MLM, clustering
- Theoretically confused?
 - a lot of chaff
 - fungability
 - framework
- Can't do anything about it anyway?
 - Deep roots
 - but changing over time
 - successful interventions

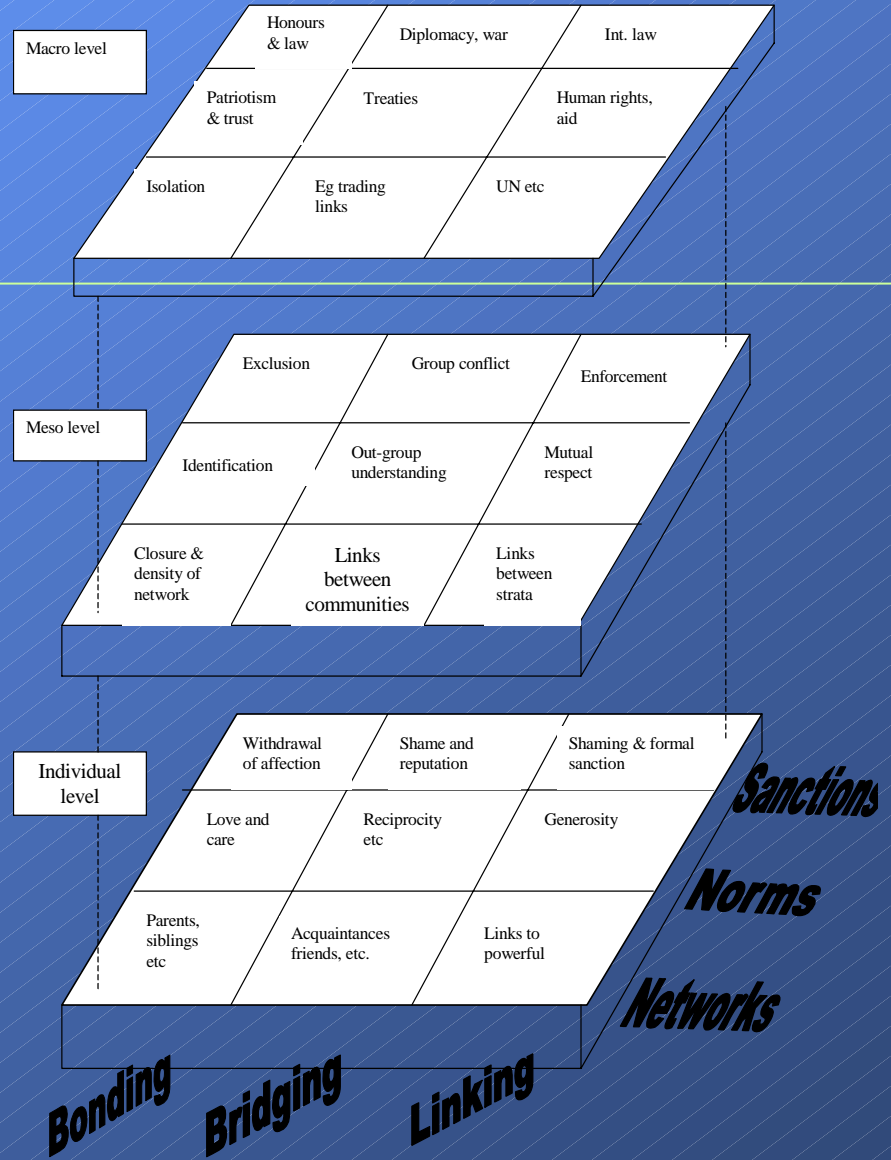
Figure 1.1 References to social capital in the titles or abstracts of academic articles, 1985-2000. [Combined search conducted of Econlit; Psychlit; Crimlit; and Medline. Figure for the year 2000 projected from part-year total. Raw figure for 1991 adjusted from 18 to 8, due to 11 simultaneous 'hits' from 11 articles in single issue of Early Child Development and Care all being entered under keyword.]





- A framework
- An example: the traditional community

Fig. 1...





Economic effects

- **Indiv:** Employment and earnings;
- **Meso:** NY diamond market, firms;
- **Macro:** national & regional differences (UK);
- **Path:** transaction costs & information.



Health

- **Indiv:** social support - longitudinal studies
- **Meso:** Roseto, Finland
- **Macro:** US states, but nations?

- **Path:** stress reaction and support



Crime

- **Indiv:** personal histories, prison
- **Meso:** neighbourhood and peer effects
- **Macro:** US states, national differences

- **Path:** ‘social control’ and respect



Education

- **Indiv:** family influences
- **Meso:** school & other ecological effects
- **Macro:** US states, OECD literacy

- **Path:** aspiration



Government

- **Indiv:** housing self-management
- **Meso:** Italian case +
- **Macro:** national -> supra-national

- **Path:** virtuous citizens



...and finally

- Do all good things go together?
- Trends
- Multiple aspects - the vitamin model
- Downsides
- Tensions - which objective? Still choices.