

## **The Goal of the Social Clinic: Evaluation of Social Illness; Creation of Social Beauty**

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At the time of this writing (February 2024) the world is suffering from numerous problems: the horrible war in Gaza; the tragic war in Ukraine; the very real possibility of a World War III; the potential for nuclear war; global economic instability and potential global economic collapse; severe poverty; severe societal indebtedness; obscene concentration of wealth in the hands of a billionaire class; dangerous and heartless quests for economic dominance; a persistently threatening COVID-19 pandemic; the potential for additional pandemics; confusion and disagreement about climate change; a rise in technocratic surveillance, corporate authoritarianism, and one-sided “news;” racism; increasing divisiveness, extremism, group think, and righteous intolerance; a worsening dearth of healthy dialogue; increasing fascist thinking and behavior; a decline of healthy critical thinking and a rise of simplistic understandings and remedies; a severe lack of kind, competent, well-informed, natural leaders; a dearth of altruism and empathy among those in power---just to mention a few of the challenges Humanity is currently facing.

At the same time that people are deeply concerned about the above phenomena, they seem to be deeply confused and largely unaware of the root causes of and potential solutions for these problems. Global society is seriously ill but healthy dialogue about the root causes and potential solutions has been largely absent, even discouraged, even censored. People are overwhelmed, individually and collectively, by the lack of Social Beauty---a term that, tellingly, most people have never heard spoken or seen written. The above problems have generated a great deal of fear, anxiety, anger, depression, polarization, frustration, hopelessness, and desperation---but these problems are not being effectively addressed.

When an individual child becomes ill, their parents bring them before the medical clinic for evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment. When society becomes severely ill, it would seem wise to bring that illness before the Social Clinic for objective and informed evaluation. But where is the Social Clinic? Where are the Social Clinicians? Do Social clinics even exist, even if only figuratively? If not, why not?

Because of the current amount of confusion, extremism, intolerance, fear, and the astonishing lack of healthy dialogue, now appears to be a particularly important time to bring these many social ills before the Social Clinic. Now, more than ever, there is need to determine the root causes of these problems and creatively, respectfully, and democratically discuss how to solve them and how to create more Social Beauty.

**It is important to realize that among the deepest roots of many of the social problems that are threatening individuals and Humanity as a whole are the currently prevailing social and economic models that, unfortunately, are based on unhealthy and inadequately challenged social philosophies---including, most importantly, unhealthy, incomplete, and erroneous understandings of Human Nature. Accordingly, the most effective dialogue in the Social Clinic will be dialogue about social philosophy---particularly dialogue about the understandings of Human Nature upon which current and potential social and economic models are based.**

This website is devoted to developing the idea of the Social Clinic, facilitating healthy dialogue, and creating more Social Beauty. For purposes of discussion, it provides essays on social philosophy, economic models, Human Nature, and Social Beauty. It might be viewed as a curriculum for those who are interested in developing the idea of a “Social Clinic.” For example, Children’s Hospitals might be interested in exposing their physicians, nurses, and entire staff to the idea of the Social Clinic, using this website’s series of articles to facilitate discussion of the larger social problems affecting children’s health.

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