MIXED-METHOD APPROACHES TO SOCIAL NETWORK ANALYSIS

A conference organised by the Social Network Analysis Study Group (SNAG) of the British Sociological Association (BSA) with Middlesex University and University of Greenwich

12 May 2014, Middlesex University, Hendon Campus, London NW4 4BT

Convenors: Alessio D'Angelo, Middlesex University (Social Policy Research Centre)  
Prof. Louise Ryan, Middlesex University (Social Policy Research Centre)  
Dr. Paola Tubaro, University of Greenwich

Key Note Speaker: Prof. Nick Crossley, University of Manchester

Social Network analysis (SNA) is experiencing ‘a golden age of rapid growth’ (Burt, et al, 2012). Much of this development has occurred using a quantitative perspective, partly due to today’s expanded computing technologies enabling statistical computations of large network structures. Despite calls in the literature, ‘few researchers have chosen to study social networks using qualitative methods’ (Hersberger, 2003) and in the UK, in particular, examples of qualitative SNA are rare (Heath et al 2009). Nonetheless, ‘social’ networks involve a world of meanings, feelings, relationships, attractions, dependencies, which have traditionally been at the heart of qualitative research and are amenable to a mixed-methods approach. The combination of SNA and qualitative methods has potential to enrich and deepen our understanding of network content in conjunction with network structure.

Programme

9:30 - 10:00 Coffee and registration

10:00 - 10:15 Welcome and introduction
  Prof. Louise Ryan, Middlesex University

10:15-11:00 Keynote presentation - Exploring Musical Worlds: Mixing Methods in Historical Network Analysis
  Prof. Nick Crossley, University of Manchester

11:00-12:30 Session A
  Chair: Prof. Louise Ryan
  Qualitative network map interviews: Combining egocentric network maps and narrations
  Alice Altissimo, University of Hildesheim, Germany
Biographical Networks: Whose Network is it anyway?
*Dr. Neil Armitage, University of Canterbury*

Lessons from understanding social capital: Using the interpretation of hand-drawn network maps to trace the impact of digitally-mediated social ties
*Cornelia Reyes Acosta, London School of Economics*

12:30-13:30  Lunch

13:30-15:00  Session B
*Chair: Dr. Paola Tubaro, University of Greenwich*

Qualitative methods, network boundaries and hidden mechanisms in network research
*Dr. Elisa Bellotti, University of Manchester*

Using Agent-Based Simulation to integrate micro/qualitative evidence, macro-quantitative data and network analysis
*Dr. Bruce Edmonds, University of Manchester*

Mapping networks through stories: an approach for studying the personal networks of British think-tank researchers
*Jordan Soukias Tchilingirian, University of Cambridge*

15:00 – 15:15  Presentation about SNAG (BSA Social Network Analysis Group)

15:15-15:30  Coffee break

15:30-16:30  Session C
*Chair: Alessio D'Angelo, Middlesex University*

Network Ethnography? Analysing a Multi-organisational Emergency Response Network using a Mixed Method Approach
*Michael Grothe-Hammer, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany*

Using mixed-method SNA to investigate the ‘meaning structure’ of personal social networks
*Dr. Gemma Edwards, University of Manchester*

16:30-17:00  Final discussion and close

Deadline for registrations: 30 April 2014.

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For information about SNAG (BSA Social Network Analysis study group) visit [our webpage](http://portal.britsoc.co.uk/public/event/eventBooking.aspx?id=EVT10329).