

## **Political Networks**

Thursdays, 10:15–11:45 h, Unicom, R 7.4680

First session on 14 April!

Mary-Sommerville-Str. 7, Entry via Haus Wien

### **1) Aims**

Political decisions usually are not made by individual and isolated actors. Instead the political landscape is structured by political networks – coalitions of actors who directly cooperate in parties, interest groups, associations and organizations or coalitions of actors who share similar perspectives, convictions and/or arguments. To analyze the role and influence of political networks an explicitly relational perspective is needed, including methods that are able to operationalize the political space sets of relations. Social network analysis provides such a method and conceptual framework. This MA course provides theoretical and practical insights into the research on political networks. We will thus read and discuss important contributions to the research on political networks. In addition the course will provide an introduction to two software packages for network analysis and visualization.

### **2) Course Requirements**

Students are expected to read the required literature, as it builds the basis for collective discussion in the course. During the course you will learn to use two software packages for network analysis of which one depends on the statistical computing environment R. No prior knowledge of R is required, but students have to be willing to learn some R program code. For this all students have to bring their own laptop to the course (the programs run on Windows, Linux and Mac OS). All participants have to present in at least one session. Students can decide whether they will develop a small empirical research project or address a theoretical question in their term paper.

To receive your credit point it is required to

- regularly participate in the course
- give a PowerPoint presentation
- write a term paper until 15 September 2016

### **3) Course Schedule**

#### **1 14.4.16 Introduction**

- Introduction Network Analysis

#### **2 21.4.16 Network Society**

- Castells, Manuel (2000): Materials for an Exploratory Theory of the Network Society, in: *British Journal of Sociology* 51(1): 5–24.

### 3 28.4.16 The Relational Perspective

- Emirbayer, Mustafa (1997): Manifesto for a Relational Sociology, in: *American Journal of Sociology* 103(2): 281–317.

[ Rhodes, Roderick A.W. (2008): Policy Network Analysis, in: Michael Moran, Martin Rein, and Robert E Goodin (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Public Policy*, New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 425–447.]

### 4 12.5.16 Network Analysis

- Hennig, Marina et al. (2012): *Studying Social Networks. A Guide to Empirical Research*, Frankfurt a.M.: Campus, Chapter 2.

[ Granovetter, Mark (1973): The Strength of Weak Ties, in: *The American Journal of Sociology* 78(6): 1360–1380.]

Movie: Connected: The Power of Six Degrees

### 5 19.5.16 Intro to R & Visone

- Torfs, Paul, and Claudia Brauer (2014): *A (very) short introduction to R*, Wageningen University: Hydrology and Quantitative Water Management Group. [<https://cran.r-project.org/doc/contrib/Torfs+Brauer-Short-R-Intro.pdf>].

[ Freeman, Linton C. (2012): Methods of Social Network Visualization, in: Robert A. Meyers (ed.), *Computational Complexity*, New York: Springer, pp. 2981–2998.]

- Install R: <https://www.r-project.org/>
- Install RStudio: <https://www.rstudio.com/>
- Install Visone: <http://visone.info/>

### 6 26.5.16 Networks in International Politics

- Maoz, Zeev (2011): *Networks of Nations. The Evolution, Structure, and Impact of International Networks, 1816-2001*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Chapter 5.

[ Maoz, Zeev (2011): *Networks of Nations. The Evolution, Structure, and Impact of International Networks, 1816-2001*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Chapter 6]

Exercise: World Trade Data

### 7 2.6.16 Interest Group Networks

- Haunss, Sebastian, and Lars Kohlmorgen (2010): Conflicts about Intellectual Property Claims: The Role and Function of Collective Action Networks, in: *Journal of European Public Policy* 17(2): 242–262.

[ Klüver, Heike (2011): The contextual nature of lobbying: Explaining lobbying success in the European Union, in: *European Union Politics* 12(4): 483 –506.]

### 8 9.6.16 Network Measures

- Hennig, Marina et al. (2012): *Studying Social Networks. A Guide to Empirical*

*Research*, Frankfurt a.M.: Campus, Chapter 4.

- Bonacich, Phillip (1987): Power and Centrality: A Family of Measures, in: *The American Journal of Sociology* 92(5): 1170–1182.

Exercise: Diverse Network Measures

### 9 16.6.16 Interlocking Directorates

- Mintz, Beth, and Michael Schwartz (1981): Interlocking Directorates and Interest Group Formation, in: *American Sociological Review* 46(6): 851–869.
- [ Heemskerk, Eelke M., Fabio Daolio, and Marco Tomassini (2013): The Community Structure of the European Network of Interlocking Directorates 2005–2010, in: *PLoS ONE* 8(7).]
- [ Kono, Clifford et al. (1998): Lost in Space: The Geography of Corporate Interlocking Directorates, in: *American Journal of Sociology* 103(4): 863–911.]

### 10 23.6.16 Discourse Coalitions

- Hajer, Maarten A (1993): Discourse Coalitions and the Institutionalization of Practice: The Case of Acid Rain in Britain, in: Frank Fischer and John Forester (eds.), *The Argumentative Turn in Policy Analysis and Planning*, Durham, NC: Duke University Press, pp. 43–76.
- [ Sabatier, Paul A., and Christopher M. Weible (2007): The Advocacy Coalition Framework: Innovations and Clarifications, in: Paul A. Sabatier (ed.), *Theories of the Policy Process*, Boulder, CO: Westview Press, pp. 189–220.]

### 11 30.6.16 Discourse Networks

- Leifeld, Philip, and Sebastian Haunss (2012): Political Discourse Networks and the Conflict over Software Patents in Europe, in: *European Journal of Political Research* 51(3): 382–409.
- [ Leifeld, Philip (2013): Reconceptualizing Major Policy Change in the Advocacy Coalition Framework: A Discourse Network Analysis of German Pension Politics, in: *Policy Studies Journal* 41(1): 169–198.]

### 12 7.7.16 Coding Discourse Network Data

- Koopmans, Ruud, and Paul Statham (2010): Theoretical Framework, Research Design, and Methods, in: Ruud Koopmans and Paul Statham (eds.), *The Making of a European Public Sphere*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 34–59.

Exercise: tba

*Texts with bullet points (•) are required readings for all students, texts in square brackets are optional readings and are the basis for the presentations.*