SNA 17-18- class project step 0

Discussion on problems & solutions encountered

About instructions given to respondents

* This is a very important step as it avoids mistakes while filing up the questionnaire; can/should motivate respondents => all this to get the best – more accurate possible – data

* **Example 1**

* This is a questionnaire for a Social Network Analysis which aims to map the social networks of ISEG Erasmus students. The questionnaire will take 5 minutes. Please try to be as honest and sincere as possible, and name **ONLY** your colleagues **IN THIS CURRENT CLASS** using their **FULL NAME** if possible. Your name will not be associated with your answers, so please be as honest as possible. Thank you!

About instructions given to respondents

* Example 2:

* <Please answer sincerely because your answers will **be the base, the foundation of all the project.**

* And note that the final result of this survey will be coded and no one will be identified.>

Problems and solutions encountered

Examples from your essays

MAEG 1st year

* **Problem :** Not everyone we expected took part in the questionnaire, therefore, some of the answered names can not be placed at our data base **– can you clarify?**

* **Solution :** for the data base, we only considered the students that were present that day- **seems OK , but need clarificatin**

* **Problem :** Some of the answers were not direct as we expected. For instance, few students did not give exact classmates names for the first question – **Questionnaire instructions can help here**

* **Solution:** for that reason we tried to deduce the logical answer by analising the other answers – OK

MAEG 1ˢᵗ year

* **Problem** :Some of the answers were too general, so the results can be biased (question number 5 – some of them answered "no one" or "everyone");- **Questionnaire instructions can help here**

* **Problem:** Some of the names are unreadable because of the handwriting; **Questionnaire instructions can help here**

Maeg 3rd year

* **PROBLEM :** Some people weren't very amenable to the questionnaire because it was not anonymous, but everyone answered it. **Reinforce that idea orally**

* **PROBLEM :** By analyzing the answers we find the outcome of the question about the group members in class projects a bit concerning because some people answered the name of a person that didn't answer their names and the outcome was supposed to be symmetric. **Did they forget? Can you re-check? Symmetrise? Should keep that in mind and in later analysis – individual level networks – should spot those individuals to try to understand why did they forget/not mention the others**

* **Problem:** the only thing we would like to add is the fact that some people in this class are repeating it, so this may affect the data. **Yes maybe. Again when the individual level analysis will be done you should try to spot them and consider taking them out**

* **Information:** In the matrix with the attributes we chose to characterize them by a number. **Not clear what is meant**

Economics PT

* RROBLEM : some people did not follow the rules of only mentioning people from this class, which will bias the outcome we will get in following steps. **Better questionnaire instructions could have helped here**

* **Solution :** However, we deleted all the people that are not in this class to minimize the influences of those wrong answers. **OK**

Which degree? Questionnaire applied in International Law

* **Problem :**Not all students were in class this day, so we don't have all the information Furthermore, because of that some students have been included in the answers but as they were absent we do not have their attributes information. **Try to reach them still**

* **Information:** We deleted question 3 "who are your group project members" from our questionnaire because students didn't have a group project to do in this class. **This is the type of mistake that can and should be avoided with the info collection prior to questionnaire implementation. It lowers the credibility of those implementing the questionnaire**

Erasmus

* **PROBLEM: Number of Students Answered:** 35* (Exact figure still uncertain, as some of the data may be unusable due to inaccuracy or user failure to comply with survey instructions); Number of Students Expected to Answer: 50 - **WHAT is the situation now? How have you solved it ; why did'nt they comply?**

* **PROBLEM-** Students completing the same survey beside **(sitting next to ?)** friends of theirs may feel obligated to write down their names to preserve their friendships or to avoid conflict **Difficult to solve that one ; only by doing individual questionnaires, which was not feasible here**

* **PROBLEM-** Students may feel a sense of forced reciprocity in the event that they learn of other students putting their name on the survey **– Same answer as befor**e….

ERASMUS

* **PROBLEM-**Students may not understand the survey instructions - **Reinforce orally if there are any doubts and show your availability to help**

* **PROBLEM-**Students may not care about their responses in the survey and provide inaccurate data – **More care with survey instructions and their oral reinforcement**

* **Problem -** Saliency Effect: Students may only put the names of those who are readily available in their mind, perhaps from a prior interaction or because they are situated near them in the class – **Difficult to solve that one , as it is how our mind works; but may not create bias, those cited are the mots relvant ones, and those forgotten are the less relevant**

Finance - PT

* **PROBLEM** -some of the students didn't put the complete name and there was more than one student with the same name. **Better questionnaire instructions could have helped here**

* **PROBLEM**- some answers didn't made sense according with what we were asking **Better questionnaire instructions could have helped here**

* **PROBLEM**-some of them didn't fill all the survey **Incomplete survey? Please clarify**

Economics english

* **PROBLEMS**: For a total of 41 questionnaires We encountered some problems after collecting the questionnaires, only 36 of them answer correctly to the survey:2 students don't write her name; 4 students didn't answer by name and surname to the questions – **How are you trying to solve it ?**

* **PROBLEM** - We sometimes have names which don't take part of the matrices (especially question D) **Drop those names**

Next reports Always include

* Name of group members

* Degree/year you are studying

* The coding of your attributes