

Class project: the social networks of ISEG's undergraduate majors

Step 0 of final essay

General Introduction

- In any research we should have:
- Theoretical framework
- Research questions and hypothesis based on this theoretical framework and the knowledge of the field of our object of study
- **Here we skip this** as it is an exercise to practice the method of SNA. Our aim is descriptive, not explanatory i.e.
- We do not have any hypotheses that
 - ERASMUS students subgroups are based on major or nationality, or that
 - Finance students just form dyads (groups of 2) not bigger

General introduction

- This calls project is the main piece of evaluation and it will be completed by steps during the semester and with my support.
- I will be telling you what to do step by step.
- As any other project not everything is predictable and under control – some unexpected events may happen during the process
- The objective is to practice the SNA measures taught in class and by doing it characterise the various undergraduate majors from ISEG and their relational patterns (in at least 3 different relations)

Class project: the social networks of ISEG's undergraduate majors

- Step 0 : data collection:
- Objects of study – undergraduate majors:
- Management – portuguese
- Management – english
- Economics – portuguese
- Economics – english
- Finance
- MAEG
- ERASMUS students

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- Required:
- At least 35/40 students in each major
- They must be 3rd year (or more) students
- These students must share one course, i.e. They must be sitting in one classroom the moment you question them (IDEALLY)
- Which course – you to find out , but it should be a mandatory course
 - **These steps must be recorded in the written essay**

Questions to be asked

- The questionnaire should be as simple as possible to avoid fatigue of participants and consequent incomplete/dishonest answers
- There are some required questions, but , as we have discussed in class , you can try a couple of more questions (that must be previously discussed with me)

Questions to be asked

- The questionnaire must contain questions on attributes and sociometric (relational questions) – please review slides on the research process

Step 0 – data collection - attributes

- The questionnaire: **examples of information on attributes**
- Name and surname
- Degree
- Nationality (if not portuguese)
- For portuguese students :
 - place of living before studying in ISEG
- Question on students performance ? Must decide format as it is sensitive.
- e.g. Do you see yourself as an 1) above average student; 2) average student; 3) below average student
- E.g 7-10; 10-13, etc

Step 0 – data collection - relations

- Sociometric questions
- Need to have at least 3 similar to these (examples from previous years)
 - 1) with whom do you share notes and /or exchange information about classes (in general, not just this one)?
 - 2) with whom do you meet socially outside ISEG?
 - 3) whom do you expect to stay as friends , or at least to keep on meeting after you finished your degree?
- **More – you are doing it**

Organisation of the questionnaire: introductory paragraph

- Intro to explain the students what this is about and give some instructions:
 - Final project of SNA which aims to map the social networks of ISEG students in different degrees and years of study
 - This questionnaire will take X minutes
 - Please answer sincerely/honestly
 - Please name your colleagues by name and surname
 - All the info will be codified and no one will be identified in the final project

Organisation of the questionnaire

- Separate attribute questions (no need to name people)
- from sociometric questions (need to name others)
- Start with sociometric questions in which it will be more obvious that lots of people are named – e.g. sharing notes- and end with those more intimate – e.g. who do you hang out with after school
- Leave sensitive questions to the end
 - e.g. grades

Implementing the questionnaire: practical issues

- Anonymity – must reassure students that their names will not be disclosed (they will be codified)
 - Eg. Student 1 Erasmus = 1_E_3
 - E.g student 5 Finance = 5_F_3
 - Note: 3 for 3rd year
- **Students of this class as subjects (while researchers too!):**
 - If you are in the course/major you will also be a subject – must be very honest in the answer- **do the questionnaire at the same time as other students**

The final format of the questionnaire – done in group meetings the 13th March

- Before the meetings I had asked you
- **Submit a pre-version for corrections**
- **That you tell me :**
 - Class /hour/professor in which you submit the questionnaire – the prof must give you permission to distribute the questionnaire at the end of the class
 - Other method to distribute the questionnaire
- After the meeting I asked you to show me text of the mail you send to the professor to ask for permission (some will speak to him/her personally)

Step 0 hand in/sent to the class e-mail by the 3rd april

- Your questionnaire
- A small report of the data collection :
- -class(es) intervened – name + professors + schedule
- -number of students that answered (number of students that you expected to answer
- Problems encountered that may have biased the data
- The data inserted in excel format: send it to
 - Socnet.iseg.18.19@gmail.com