Diversity, community and participation: the dynamics of personal networks of immigrants
Sevilla, September 21st, 2007

Isidro Maya Jariego & José Luis Molina

European Collaborative Research Project (ECRP) Dynamics of Actors and Networks across Levels: Individuals, Groups, Organizations and Social Settings

<http://stat.gamma.rug.nl/ECRP-DANL/>.
The role of personal networks in the model of the coevolution of social networks and behaviour

• Dynamics of personal networks: processes and patterns of change in the composition and structure of personal networks.

• The use of personal network data as information in the SIENA model:
  - The SIENA software is designed to analyse the simultaneous dynamics of networks and behaviour.
  - This type of study requires disentangling the relative impact of social influence and social selection processes.
Personal networks and migration...

• International migration leads to changes in social *integration*, in the *structure* of the social network, and in the support *functions* that result from them.
  
  - Individuals move into a community where they have a weaker structural integration and greater relational mobility.
  
  - This change is concomitant with a lower availability of help and a higher concentration of the support functions.
Personal networks and migration...

- The process of psychological adaptation is reflected in the changes occurring in the personal network (in size, structure, and functional dynamics) through time:
  - Support networks **grow gradually** through the association with compatriots, family regrouping, and contacts with host society members.
  - Acculturation alters the **composition** of the personal network by increasing its heterogeneity, while it also affects the level of structural cohesion, since well-defined groups of players appear more frequently.
  - All of these changes lead to a **reorganisation** in the distribution of support functions, which recovers a greater balance between the providers involved.
Ecological transitions: multiple affiliations and personal network dynamics.
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MIGRANTS AND NETWORKS
Rosa, ecuadorian woman, 33 years old
Max, italian male, 36 years old
Dimensions in personal networks

- Composition
- Structure
- Multiplexity
- Size
Social networks and immigrant populations

• *Chain migration and international displacement*

• *Social support networks, psychological adaptation and social integration*
Research with immigrants

- Assessing the impact of displacement on the amount of available support.
- Verifying the primarily family-oriented composition of the networks of individuals who come from traditional cultures.
- Detailing the changes that the immigrant’s personal environment experiences over time in the new receiving context.
1. Chain migration
Chain of Indian immigrants in Argentina
Consequences of chain migration

- Migration become an “endogenous” process.

- Diffusion of migration in the social structure of the sending country.

- Affects the processes of psychological adaptation and social integration.
Impact of chain migration

• Immigrants belong to very dynamic relational communities.

• The size and organisation of the expatriate community determine the structure of opportunities for establishing new contacts.

• The level of family regrouping can condition the distribution of support functions.
2. The strength of ties
Three levels of multiplexity

**Table 2. The 11 most frequent multiplicity configurations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Accumulated percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Company provider</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>659</td>
<td>29.60</td>
<td>29.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Synergetic tie 1</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>9.88</td>
<td>39.48</td>
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<td>Physical help provider</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>X</td>
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<td>140</td>
<td>6.29</td>
<td>45.77</td>
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<tr>
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<td>132</td>
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<td>51.70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Positive feedback provider</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>126</td>
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<td>57.36</td>
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<tr>
<td>Companion 1</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
<td>4.49</td>
<td>61.85</td>
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<tr>
<td>Synergetic tie 2</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>2.83</td>
<td>64.68</td>
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<tr>
<td>Companion 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
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<td>61</td>
<td>2.74</td>
<td>67.42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advice provider</td>
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<td>Confidante support provider</td>
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<td>2.29</td>
<td>72.14</td>
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<td>Companion 3</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>41</td>
<td>1.84</td>
<td>73.98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Types of help: A: emotional help or the expression of personal feeling; B: material or tangible help; C: advice or information; D: positive feedback or social reinforcement; E: physical or instrumental help; and F: company or social participation.*
Three types of relationships

• Specialized ties

• Companions

• Sinergetic ties
## Types of Personal Networks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Personal Network</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Profile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimal Network</td>
<td>0-3 Providers</td>
<td>Women, Moroccans, Divorced and widows, high depression scores.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small network with a majority of compatriot friends</td>
<td>4-6 Providers</td>
<td>Primarily fellow immigrants, most prevalent type among recent immigrants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium-size network of relatives and compatriots</td>
<td>7-10 Providers</td>
<td>Second most prevalent type.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium-size network with a majority of non-relatives and Spaniards</td>
<td>7-10 Providers</td>
<td>Men, Single, Young, Latin-American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wide network resulting from family regrouping</td>
<td>10-15 Providers</td>
<td>Stable in socio-economic terms, intention of remaining in Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wide regrouping network integrated in the local community</td>
<td>12-15 Providers</td>
<td>Men, Single, Young.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Some general characteristics...

• International migration leads to changes in social *integration*, in the *structure* of the social network, and in the support *functions* that result from them
  - Less structural embeddeness
  - More relational mobility
  - Less availability of social support
  - Concentration of social support functions
  - Re-building the size, structural and functional dynamics of personal networks
  - Acculturation: more heterogeneity and less cohesion, reorganization of support functions...
Multiplexity and the structure of personal networks

• The distribution of support functions, both on an individual and on a group level, is one of the key processes in the determination of the structure and evolution of personal networks:
  - Hypothesis of the evolution of personal relationships. The history of personal relationships is expressed in the changes in multiplexity through time.
  - Hypothesis of competition between all the active multiple relationships (or the limits to multiple affiliations).
  - Hypothesis of a collective market of social support (or the distribution of multiplexity on a collective level).
THANKS!
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