The personal networks dynamics of migrants in Spain

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

Dynamic personal network research

- **The changes in personal networks overall** (e.g., Wellman, Wong, Tindall, & Nazer, 1997)

- **The changes in personal networks following some specific life event, e.g.:**

  - Changes in marital status: marriage (Kalmijn, 2003), divorce (Broese van Groenou et al., 1990), widowhood (Morgan, Neal & Carder, 2000);

  - Entry into adult life (Degenne & Lebeaux, 2005), married mothers return to school (Feld, Suitor, & Gartner Hoegh, 2007);

  - Residential mobility (Magdol, 2000), migration.

Research projects in progress …

- *Dynamics of actors and networks across levels: individuals, groups, organizations and social settings* (SEJ2005-25683-E 05_ECRP_FP026) financiado por la European Science Foundation y el MEC (con Isidro Maya Jariego y Carlos Lozares).

- *Development of a Social Network Measure of Acculturation and its Application to Immigrant Populations in South Florida and Northeastern Spain* (BCS-0417429) financiado por la National Science Foundation (con Chris McCarty).
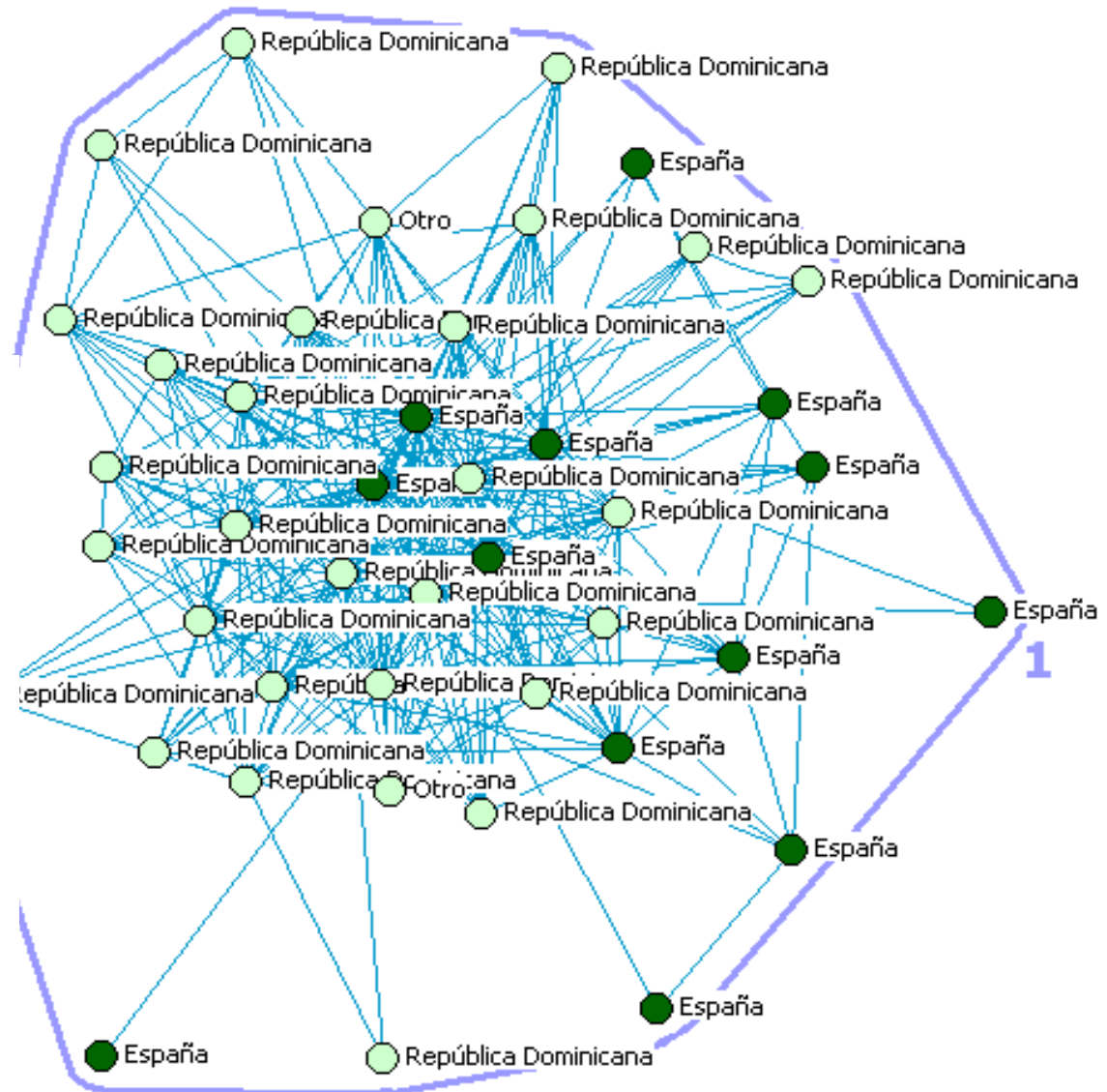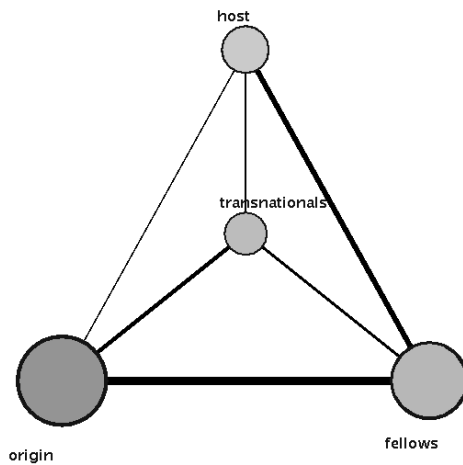
Data ...

- Migrants in Catalonia (Barcelona, Vic, Girona).
  - 2004-2006: **300 personal networks** of migrants.
  - After a classification of types of networks we have selected **60 people for a second interview two years later.**
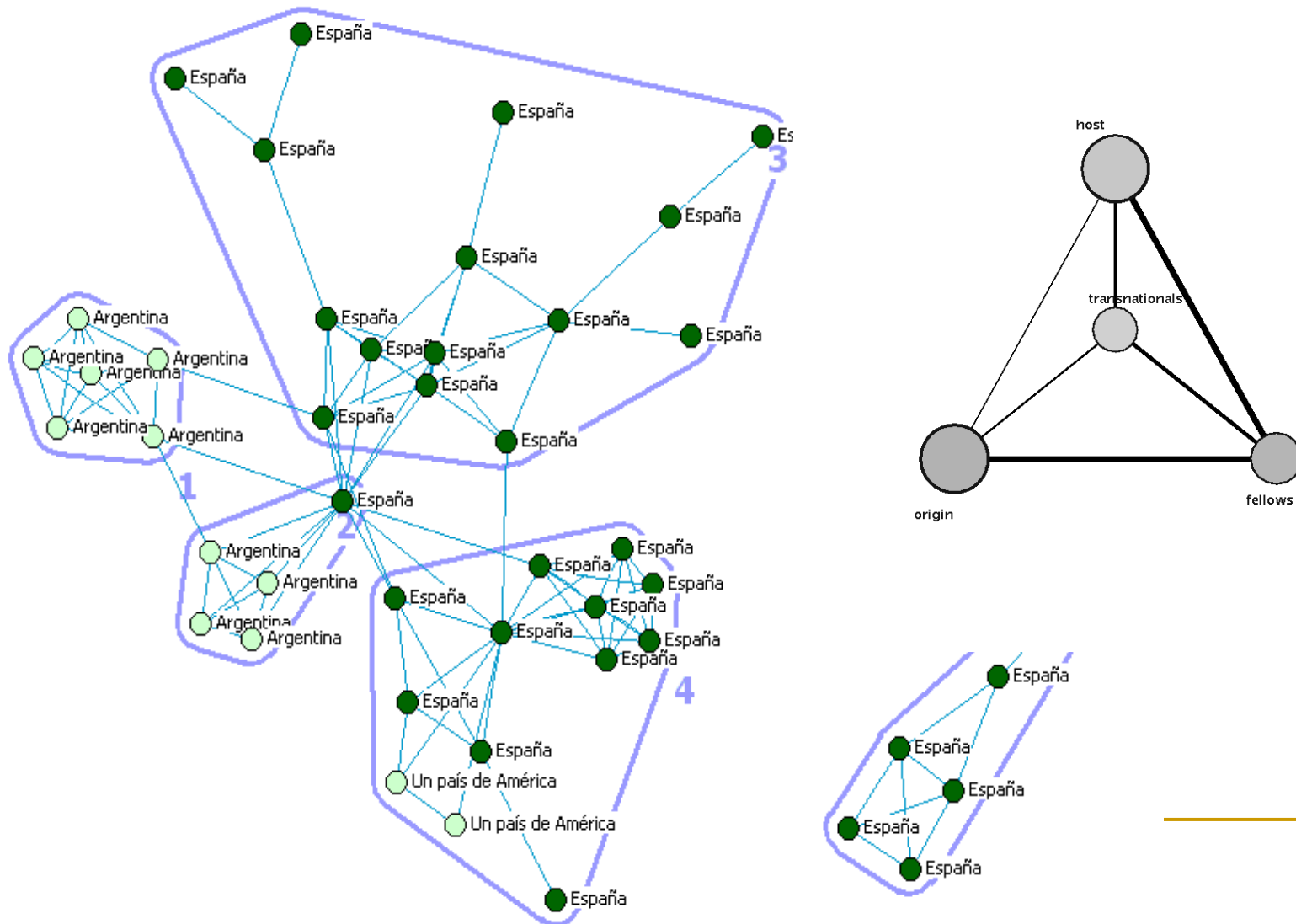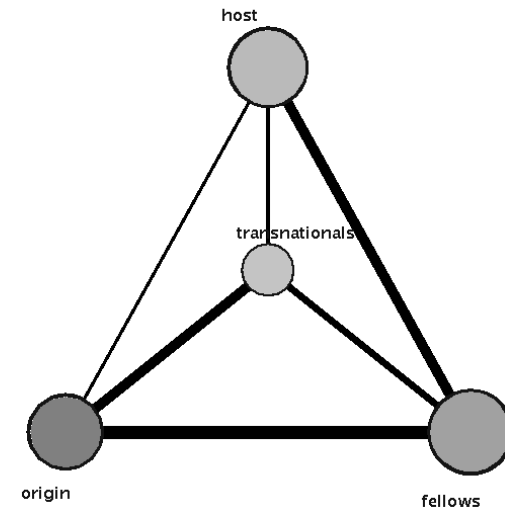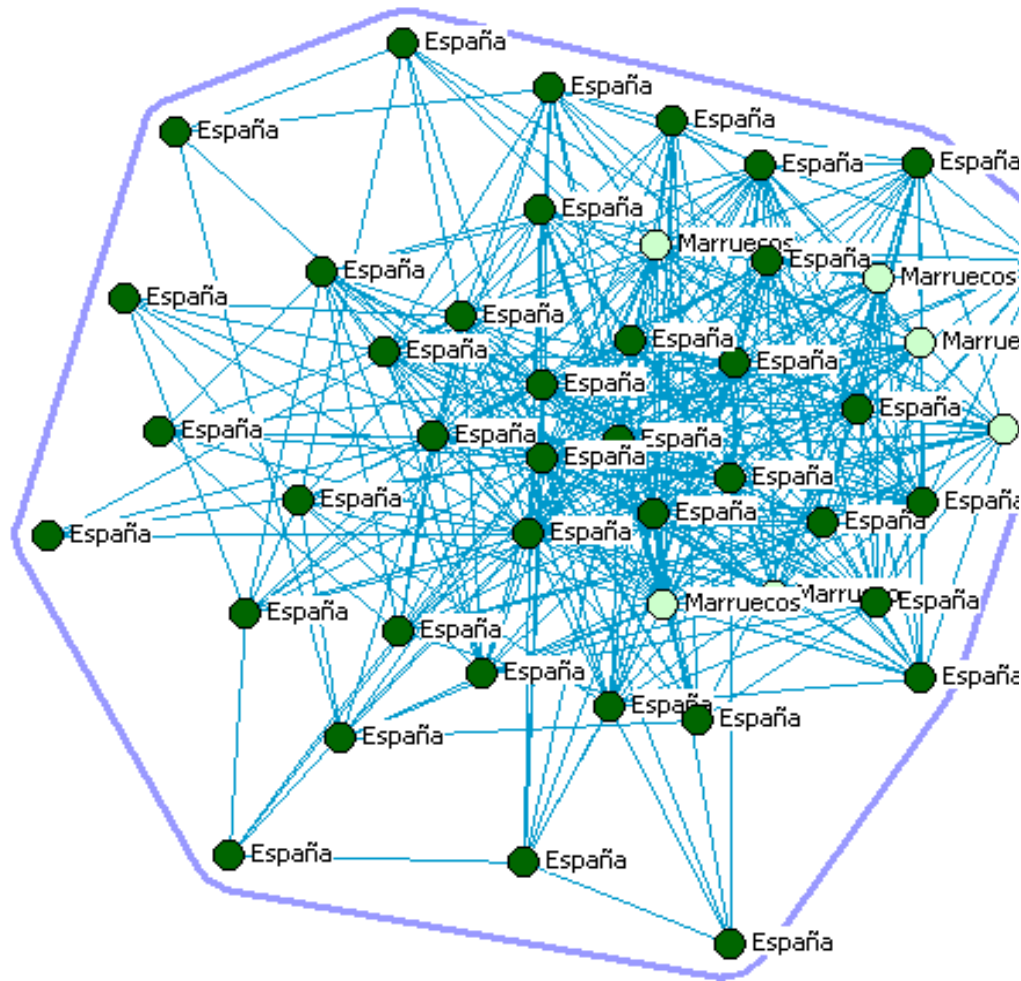
Man from Senegal with a year of residence
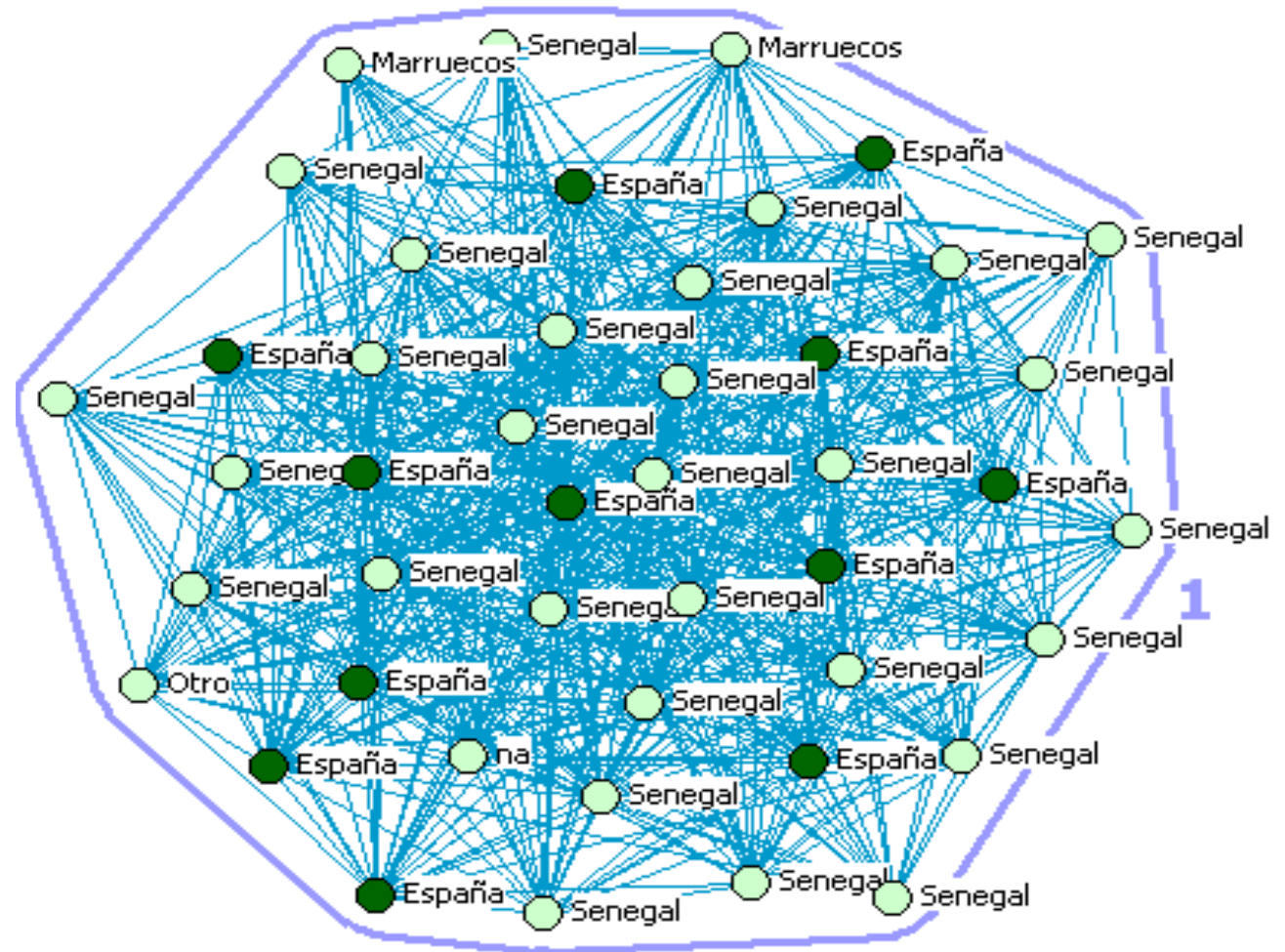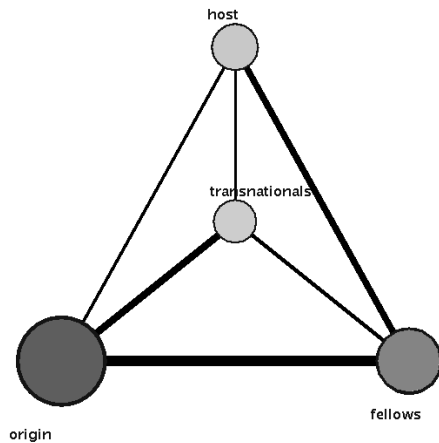
Dominican (male), 4 years of residence...

Argentinean woman with 4 years of residence ...

Male from Morroco, 14 years of residence ...

What about change?

- **We know that personal networks change along time …**
  - Lerner & Brandes paper …
  - Brandes et. al. paper …

Types of questions in dynamic personal network research

- **At the individual level/aggregate level of personal network**
    - **How stable are networks over time?** Does the network stability depend on characteristics of ego (e.g., years of residence) or of the network (e.g., density, closeness, % family)?
    - **How do the structure and the composition change over time?** Does the type of change depend on the characteristics of ego (e.g., years of residence) or initial network characteristics (e.g., density)?

Types of questions in dynamic personal network research

- **At the dyadic level (ego-alter relationships)**
  - Which characteristics of the relationship between ego and alter predict whether the relation **persists or not** (strong ties, e.g.)?
  - In which aspects do newly appearing alters **differ** from the alters who disappeared?
  - Do persistent relationships **change in strength or function** over time?
  - To what extent can we **predict** these changes with characteristics of ego, alter, or the relation between ego and alter (e.g., changing proximity)?

Types of questions in dynamic personal network research

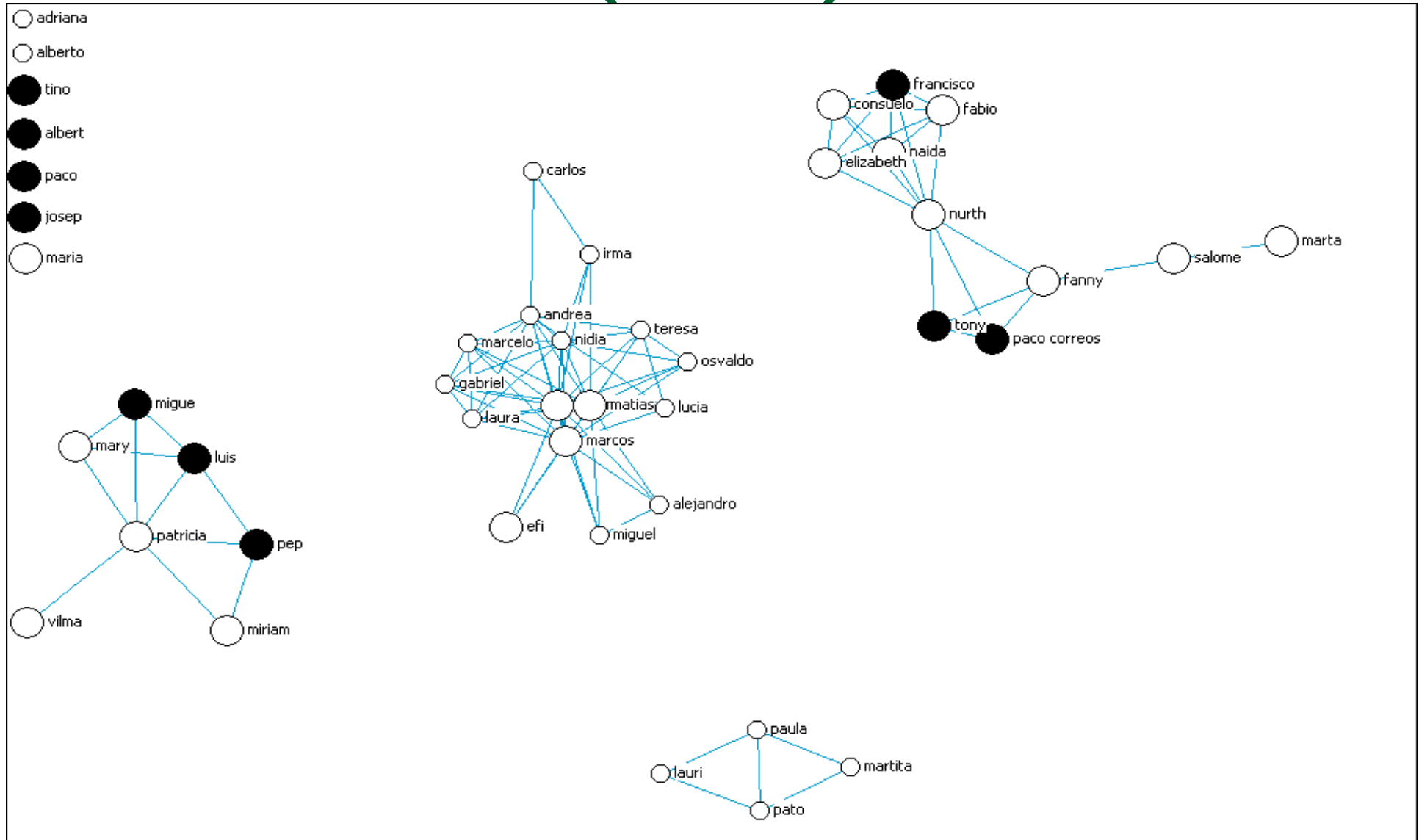- **At the dyadic / triadic level (alter-alter relationships)**

  - **How do the relations among alters change over time?** Are changes in the structure of alter-alter relations explained by **endogenous effects** (tendency toward transitivity), alter characteristics (e.g., strength of relation with ego) or **dyadic characteristics** (similarity in country of origin)?

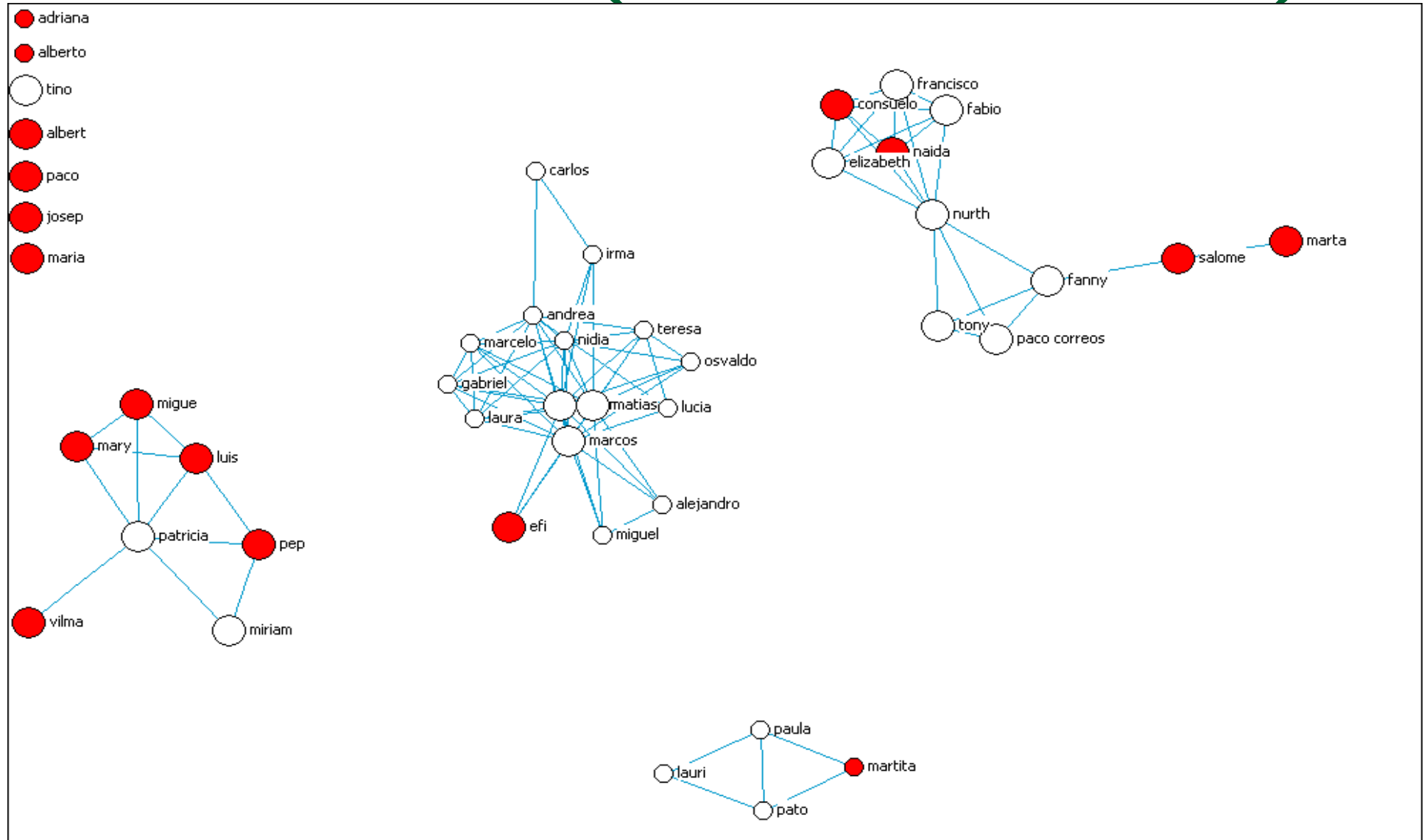# The network of Norma in the first wave (2005)

Large white: Argentines in Spain

Small white: Argentines in Argentina

Large black: Spanish in Spain
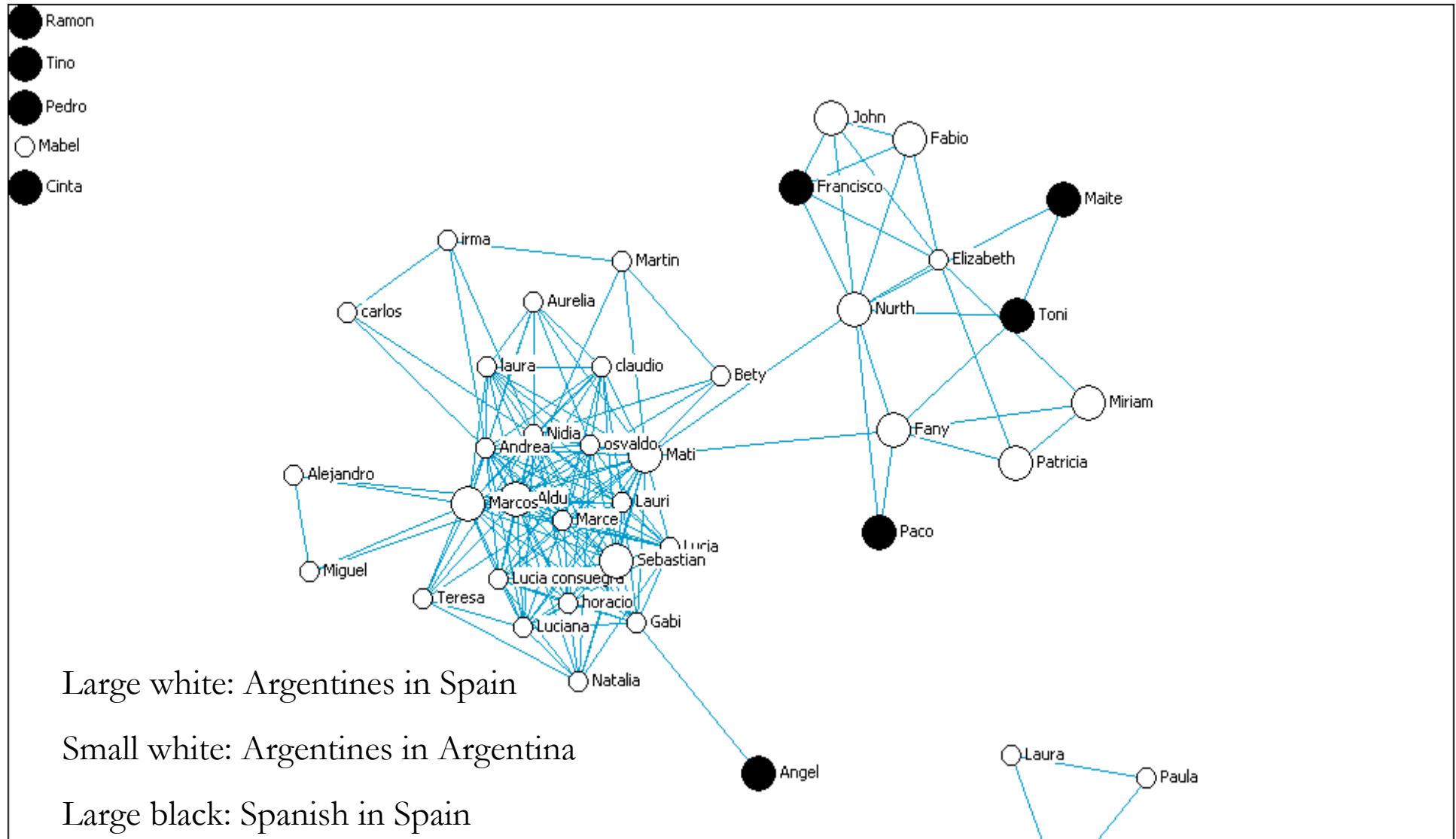
The network of Norma in the second wave (2007)

The network of Norma in the second wave (new alters in red)

The case of Norma: the individual level

- How do the structure and composition change?

  - Structure: The **density decreases** from 17% to 10%, the number of clusters increases from 3 to 4, the betweenness decreases from 30% to 2%.

  - Composition: The percentage of Spaniards hardly increases (from 20% to 22%) but the percentage of **alters living in Spain increases** from 42% to 60%. *The frequency of contact* decreases slightly, *closeness* increases slightly, while the percentage of *family* decreases from 36% a 27% (4 members).

The case of Norma: the individual level

- **How stable is the personal network?**

  - <u>Stability:</u> Of the 45 alters at $t1$, 28 are stable members (62%). 17 alters disappear and (consequently) 17 are new.

The case of Norma: the dyadic level (ego-alter)

- **What characteristics of the alters or the relation between ego and alter predict whether the relation *persists* or not?**

  - **Binary logistic regression** with the 45 alters of the first wave. (Predictors: age alter, sex alter, country of origin alter, alter is a family member or not, the time ego knows alter, frequency of contact ego-alter and closeness of contact ego-alter).

  - *Results*: (only) the **frequency of contact and closeness** had a significant effect ($p < .05$): Relations with lower frequency of contact and less closeness are less stable.

The case of Norma: the dyadic level (ego-alter)

- **In which aspects do the new alters differ from the leaving alters?**
  - Norma knows the new alters for less long, *but* she doesn´t feel less close to them or has less contact with them or anything.

The case of Norma: SIENA analysis

- **What guides the changes in relations among alters? (tryout)**
  - Analysis with SIENA at the alter-alter network (without ego). Relations are symmetrical.
  - *Descriptive results*:
    - Of the 378 dyads that were present in both waves, 292 dyads were not related in neither wave, 64 had a relation in both waves, 15 had a relation only in the first wave and 7 had a relation only in the second wave ($J = .74$).

The case of Norma: SIENA analysis

- **What guides the changes in relations among alters? (tryout)**
  - *Statistical results*: Significant effects were found for...
    - (similarity in frequency of contact with ego): If two alters had more or less the same frequency of contact with ego, they were more likely to be interrelated as well.
    - (transitivity) If alters A and B had a relation, and B and C as well, A and C would be more likely to become related as well.
    - (alter is a family member or not) Family members of ego were less likely to get involved in new relationships than non-kin.

Conclusion about the case Norma

- Norma´s network is moderately **stable**
- **Over the course of time, Norma knew more people who live in Spain (yet hardly more Spaniards)**
- **Strength of ties was predictive for their persistence** (whereas e.g. **country of origin was not**)
- **New members did not differ in relationship quality from contacts that disappeared**, only in time of knowing ego
- **Network members had a tendency toward network closure.**
- **Kin was hardly involved in newly formed relations.**

So ...

- SIENA outputs make sense when it is applied to personal network data.
- Provides us inputs for further meta-analysis.
- Soon ... more!

Thanks!