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_FPo26) 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).
  - 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 Morocco, 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 alterns 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% to 27% (4 members).
The case of Norma: the individual level

How stable is the personal network?

- **Stability**: Of the 45 alters at $t_1$, 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!