

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY ASSOCIATION

Integrating New Migrants in the New Europe

A Challenge for Community Psychology

Sevilla, 19th, 20th and 21th de September, 2007

SIMPOSIUM. Diversity, community and participation: the dynamics of personal networks of immigrants

Coordinators: Isidro Maya Jariego and José Luis Molina

The study of the influence between social networks and individual behaviour requires to disentangle the relative impact of social influence and social selection processes. At this respect, recent methodological developments allows the longitudinal analysis of complete network data. The SIENA software (Snijders et al., 2005) is designed to analyse the simultaneous dynamics of networks and behaviour. This is part of the rationale and tools of the 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/>>.

As part of this ECRP, the Symposium addresses one of the general basic questions of the project: *How do characteristics and behaviour of individual actors influence changing network structure?* In particular, the role of personal networks in the model of co-evolution of social networks and behaviour will be analysed:

- Dynamics of personal networks: processes and patterns of change in the composition and structure of personal networks.
- The use of personal network data as attributive information in the SIENA model. Typology of personal networks and the evolution of complete social networks.
- Covariation between personal network and social network data.

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.

The process of psychological adaptation is reflected in the changes occurring in the personal network. Its size, structure, and functional dynamics are reconstructed 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 (Maya Jariego, 2006).

The symposium is organized in two parts. First, we shall analyse the dynamics of personal networks of people experimenting relocation, as is the case with immigrant populations. Second, we shall analyse the potential role of personal network information in the model of co-evolution of networks and behaviour implemented in SIENA.

The implications for the social integration of new immigrants in Europe will be discussed.

References

Maya Jariego, I. (2006). Webs of Compatriots: Relationship Networks Among Immigrants. En Pérez Pont, J. L. (Ed.). *Geografías del desorden. Migración, alteridad y nueva esfera social*, 257-276. Universidad de Valencia: Valencia.

Snijders, T.A.B., Steglich, C.E.G., Schweinberger, M., and Huisman, M.E. (2005). *Manual for SIENA version 2.1*. Groningen: ICS.

Contents of the Symposium

Dynamics of personal networks

1. Lubbers, M.J., JL Molina & Chris McCarty. *The personal networks dynamics of migrants in Spain*.
2. Isidro Maya Jariego, Universidad de Sevilla. *Ecological transitions: multiple affiliations and personal network dynamics*.
3. Molina, José Luis, M.J. Lubbers & Chris McCarty. *Personal networks and ethnic identification*.

Personal network information in the study of the co-evolution of networks and behaviour

4. Miranda J. Lubbers. *The SIENA model in the study of personal networks*.
5. Romina Cachia & Isidro Maya Jariego. *Personal networks, social networks and diversity among Flickr's users*.
6. Open to contributions.

More information on the International Seminar

<http://migrantintegration.org/seminar/en>