

Statistical Analysis of Networks

Sources of Network Data

Learning Goals

- ❖ Review various sources of network data.

Twelve sites with data

- ❖ <https://icon.colorado.edu/#!/>
- ❖ <https://github.com/awesomedata/awesome-public-datasets#socialnetworks>
- ❖ www-personal.umich.edu/~mejn/netdata
- ❖ <http://snap.stanford.edu/data/index.html>
- ❖ <https://lincs.soe.ucsc.edu/data>
- ❖ <https://networkdata.ics.uci.edu/>
- ❖ <http://jmcauley.ucsd.edu/data/amazon/>
- ❖ <http://konect.uni-koblenz.de/networks>
- ❖ <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/NAHDAP/studies/22140>
- ❖ <https://www.dimensions.ai/widgets/access/>
- ❖ <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/studies/36975>

Prison Inmate Network Study (PINS)

- ❖ The PINS is a two-wave study of relationships among incarcerated men in a medium security prison.
- ❖ See: <http://justicecenter.psu.edu/research/projects/prison-inmate-networks-study-pins>
- ❖ Each wave captures survey and network data for individuals in the same unit with a capacity of 205 inmates.
- ❖ These data are currently being examined by the PINS team and have produced several scholarly products.

Where “Old Heads” Prevail: Inmate Hierarchy in a Men’s Prison Unit

American Sociological Review
2017, Vol. 82(4) 685–718
© American Sociological
Association 2017
DOI:10.1177/0003122417710462
journals.sagepub.com/home/asr



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Abstract

Research on inmate social order, a once-vibrant area, receded just as U.S. incarceration rates climbed and the country’s carceral contexts dramatically changed. This study returns to inmate society with an abductive mixed-methods investigation of informal status within a contemporary men’s prison unit. We collected narrative and social network data from 133 male inmates housed in a unit of a Pennsylvania medium-security prison. Analyses of inmate narratives suggest that unit “old heads” provide collective goods in the form of mentoring and role modeling that foster a positive and stable peer environment. We test this hypothesis with Exponential Random Graph Models (ERGMs) of peer nomination data. The ERGM results complement the qualitative analysis and suggest that older inmates and inmates who have been on the unit longer are perceived by their peers as powerful and influential. Both analytic strategies point to the maturity of aging and the acquisition of local knowledge as important for attaining informal status in the unit. In summary, this mixed-methods case study extends theoretical insights of classic prison ethnographies, adds quantifiable results capable of future replication, and points to a growing population of older inmates as important for contemporary prison social organization.



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

Social Networks

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/socnet



Friends in locked places: An investigation of prison inmate network structure



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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Available online 1 March 2017

Keywords:

Prison
Inmates
Friendship
Race
Homophily
Community detection
Brokerage
Exponential random graph model

ABSTRACT

The current study investigates informal social structure among prison inmates. Data come from the Prison Inmate Network Study (PINS), a project focused on a unit of a Pennsylvania medium security men's prison. We focus on 205 inmates and their "get along with" network – an approximation of friendship in other settings. We find a weak subgroup structure dominated by two groups of "old heads" and characterized by moderate (non gang-based) race/ethnic clustering. Structurally, the network resembles adolescents in schools, suggesting that prison inmates are capable of successfully building peer associations. We conclude that under the right conditions self-organizing inmate society can foster social integration reminiscent of other social settings.

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Prison Inmate Network Study (PINS)

- ❖ But, there is still **LOTS** that can be done!
- ❖ The PINS data are an option for this course.
 - ❖ Steps:
 - ❖ Review PINS surveys,
 - ❖ Complete PINS data request template,
 - ❖ Wait...
 - ❖ Start working with PINS data.

Boston Special Youth Project (SYP) Affiliation Data

- ❖ Another source of data are the SYP affiliation data.
- ❖ See: <https://www.jacobtnyoung.com/syp-networks.html>
- ❖ Or: **Young, Jacob T.N.**, Scott H. Decker, and Gary Sweeten. 2018. "The Boston Special Youth Project Affiliation Dataset". *Connections*, 37(1&2): 85-88. <https://www.exeley.com/journal/connections>.

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Questions?