

Network Analysis for Humanists

This course provides an introduction to network analysis, specifically designed for humanities students. Network analysis offers powerful methods for examining relationships, connections, and structures within cultural, historical, and literary contexts. The course covers both the theoretical foundations of network science and the practical application of network analysis and visualisation tools in humanities research.

Students will explore key concepts and methodologies while gaining hands-on experience in mapping social networks in historical archives, analysing character relationships in literature, and tracing intellectual networks in scholarly communication.

The course consists of eight sessions, each including a lecture, a seminar, and a hands-on session. Lectures introduce fundamental concepts and methods, while seminars encourage critical engagement with research projects applying network analysis to different types of humanities data. Hands-on sessions provide practical training with tools, primarily Python libraries for network analysis.

By the end of the course, students will be able to critically evaluate network-based approaches, apply network analysis techniques to their research, and interpret visualisations and metrics in meaningful ways.

Prior basic programming experience is necessary (Python, Jupyter Notebooks)

Time: Wednesdays, 13:00-16:00

Place: 65 Rue de Richelieu, 75002 Paris

Teacher: Dr Katarzyna Anna Kapitan

Schedule:

Date	Lectures & Labs	Seminars
1	28 January	Network Thinking
2	4 February	Fundamentals
3	11 February	Connectivity
4	18 February	Centrality
5	11 March	Influence
6	18 March	Communities
7	25 March	Modelling
8	1 April	Dynamics
		Introduction
		Networks & Literature
		Networks & History
		Networks & Manuscripts
		Networks & Linguistics
		Networks & Media
		Networks & Scholarship
		Project Presentations

Textbooks:

- F Menczer, S Fortunato and CA Davis, *A First Course in Network Science* (Cambridge 2020)
- A-L Barabási, *Network Science* (Cambridge 2018)

Seminar Topics and Readings:

1. Introduction to Network Analysis in the Humanities
 - a. Required reading (in-class exercise): Burge 2024
 - b. Other readings: (Ahnert et al. 2020)
2. Networks & Literature
 - a. Required reading: Moretti 2011
 - b. Other readings: (Pang et al. 2023; Perri et al. 2022; Min and Park 2019)
3. Networks & History
 - a. Required reading: Ahnert and Ahnert 2019
 - b. Other readings: (Warren et al. 2016; Schich et al. 2014)
4. Networks & Manuscripts
 - a. Required reading: Kaska 2023
 - b. Other readings: (Kapitan and Wills 2023; King 2024)
5. Networks & Linguistics
 - a. Required reading: Würschinger 2001
 - b. Other readings: (Paradowski et al. 2021; List et al. 2013)
6. Networks & Media
 - a. Required reading: Villa et al. 2021
 - b. Other readings: (Luis Vargas et al. 2020; Grandjean 2016)
7. Networks & Scholarship
 - a. Required reading: Gao et al. 2022
 - b. Other readings: (Blidstein and Zhitomirsky-Geffet 2022; Fagan et al. 2018)

Assessment:

- Final Exam – 40% [Lectures]
- Group Project – 30% [Labs]
- Individual Participation & Presentation – 30% [Seminar]

Note: In order to pass the class you need to pass all three grading components (Group work, Article-review, and Final exam).

Bibliography

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