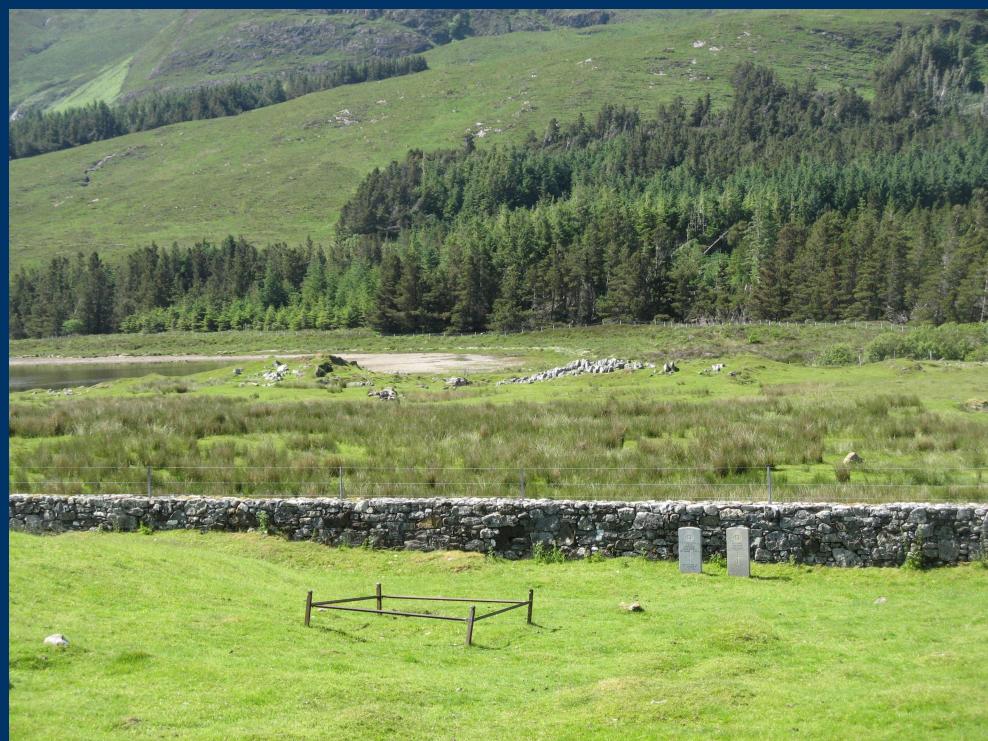


Commons as binding object: Re-conceiving community in assessing Scottish community land ownership

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13 April 2018
AAG 2018

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Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust and Assynt Crofters Trust



Isle of Eigg



North Assynt Estate



Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust



Assynt Crofters Trust (subdivided)



Definitions of “community” from land reform supporters

“All who reside within an agreed area.”

“A group of people who live and or work on the land permanently, who have a common aim for the betterment of the area they live in.”

“There should be several layers of definition [sic].”

“All of Scotland is the common community to which land belongs.”

“A community is a group of people who live in the same area and work together for the benefit of each other.”

Definitions of “community” from land reform opponents

“That's the can of worms you don't want to open!”

“A hugely complex question which I don't feel qualified to answer although feel strongly that it should be for genuine local community and not be abused by relaxed rules that allow outsiders to have influence. I would suggest it is very difficult to have a one fix definition that fits all.”

“The Government should have defined what a community is before releasing this consultation. The fact that it has not is a major flaw. ”

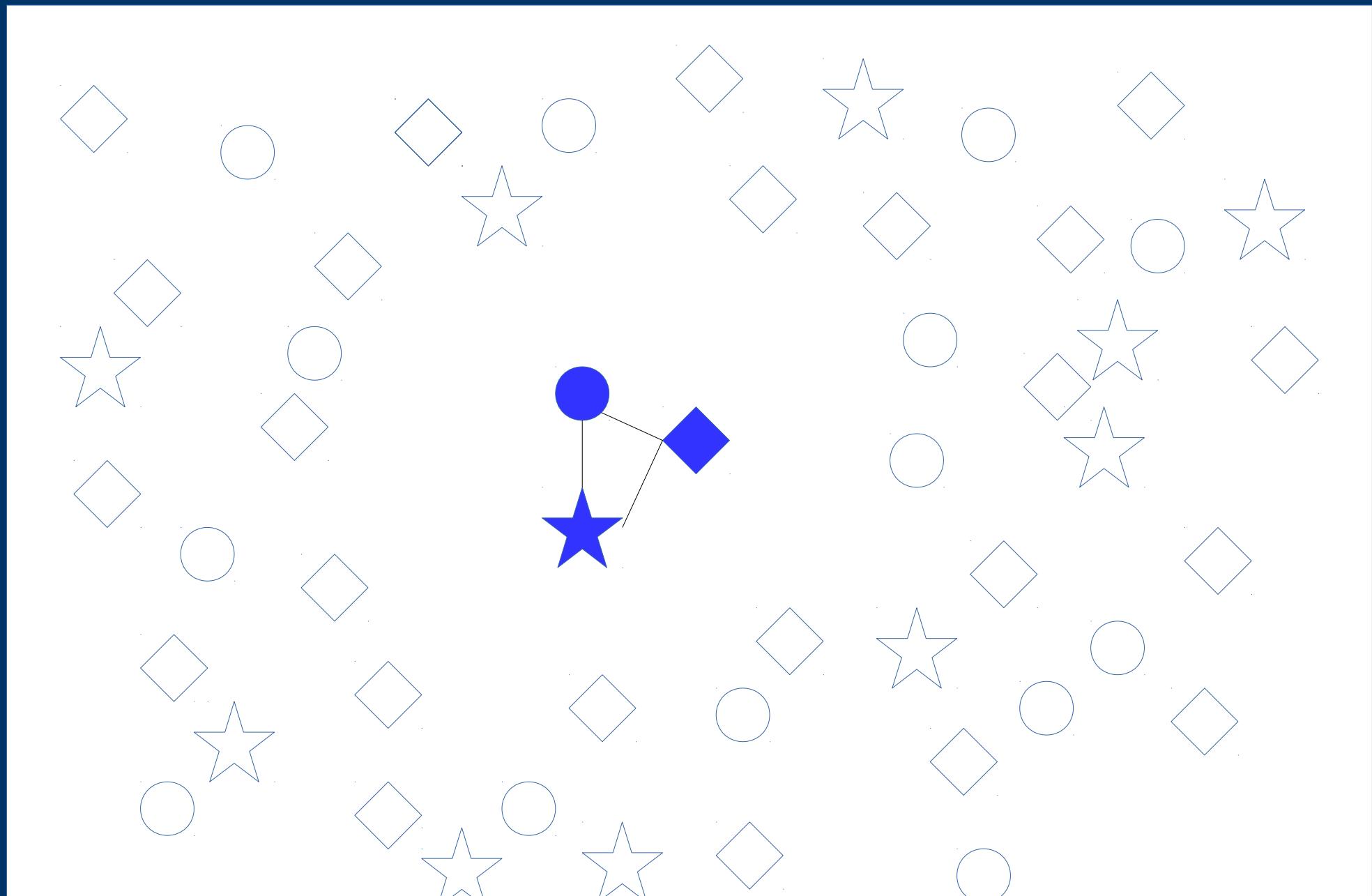
Developing a working model of “community”

- *Strong*
- *More than warm fuzzies*
- *More than human*
- *Role of common property*
- *Generates secondary connections*
- *Incorporates local place but isn't fully restricted by it*

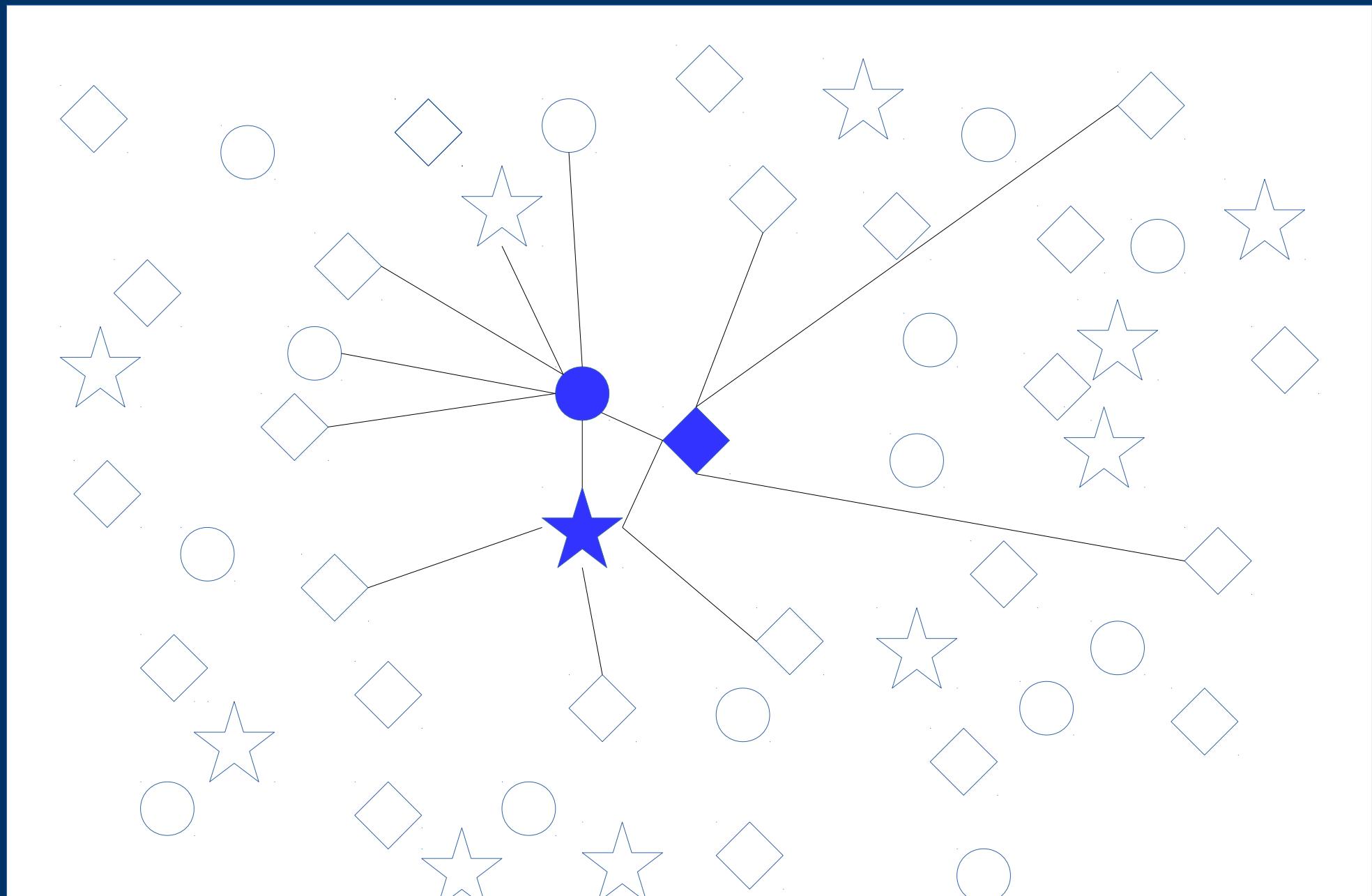
Developing a working model of “community”



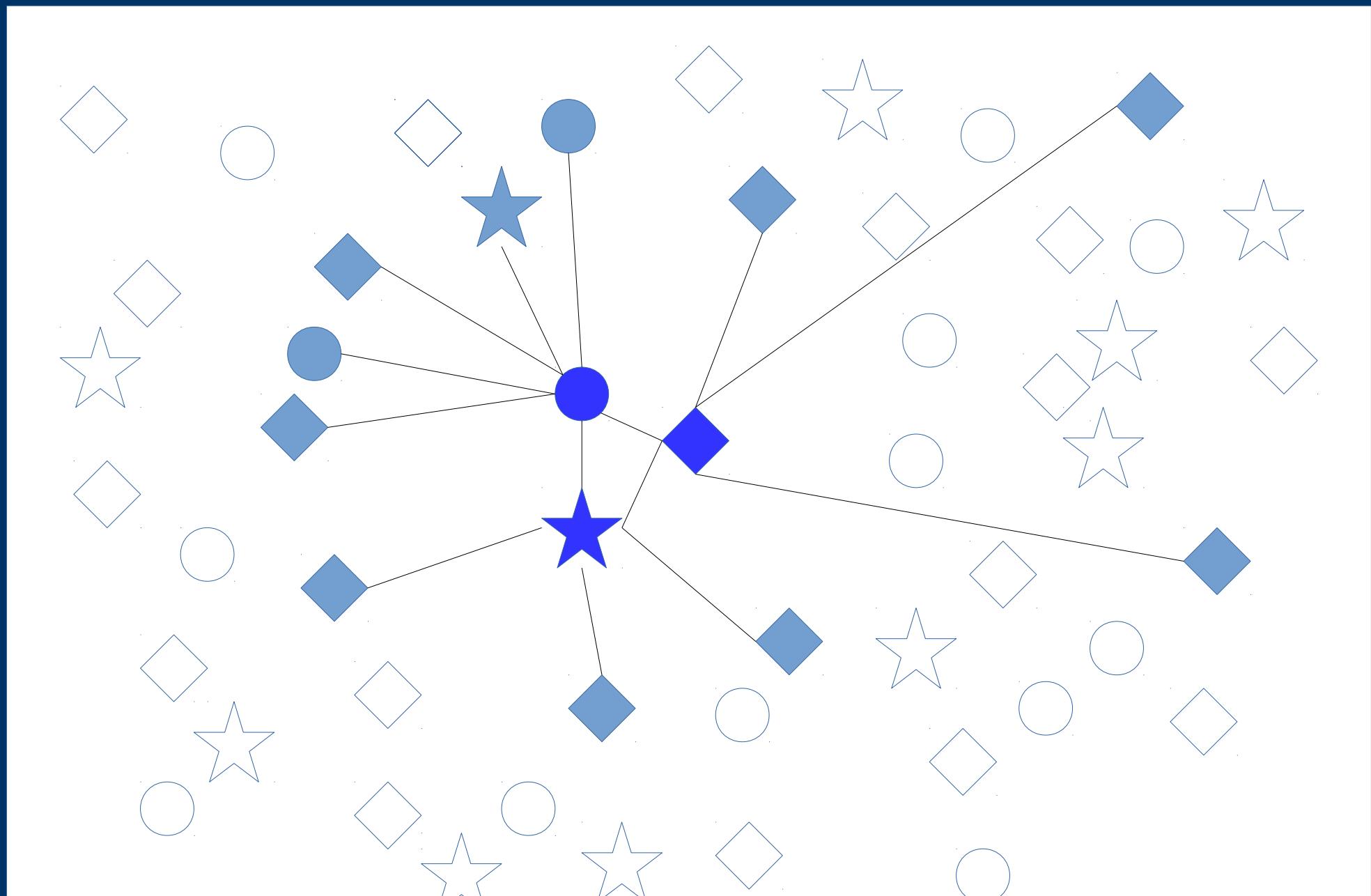
Developing a working model of “community”



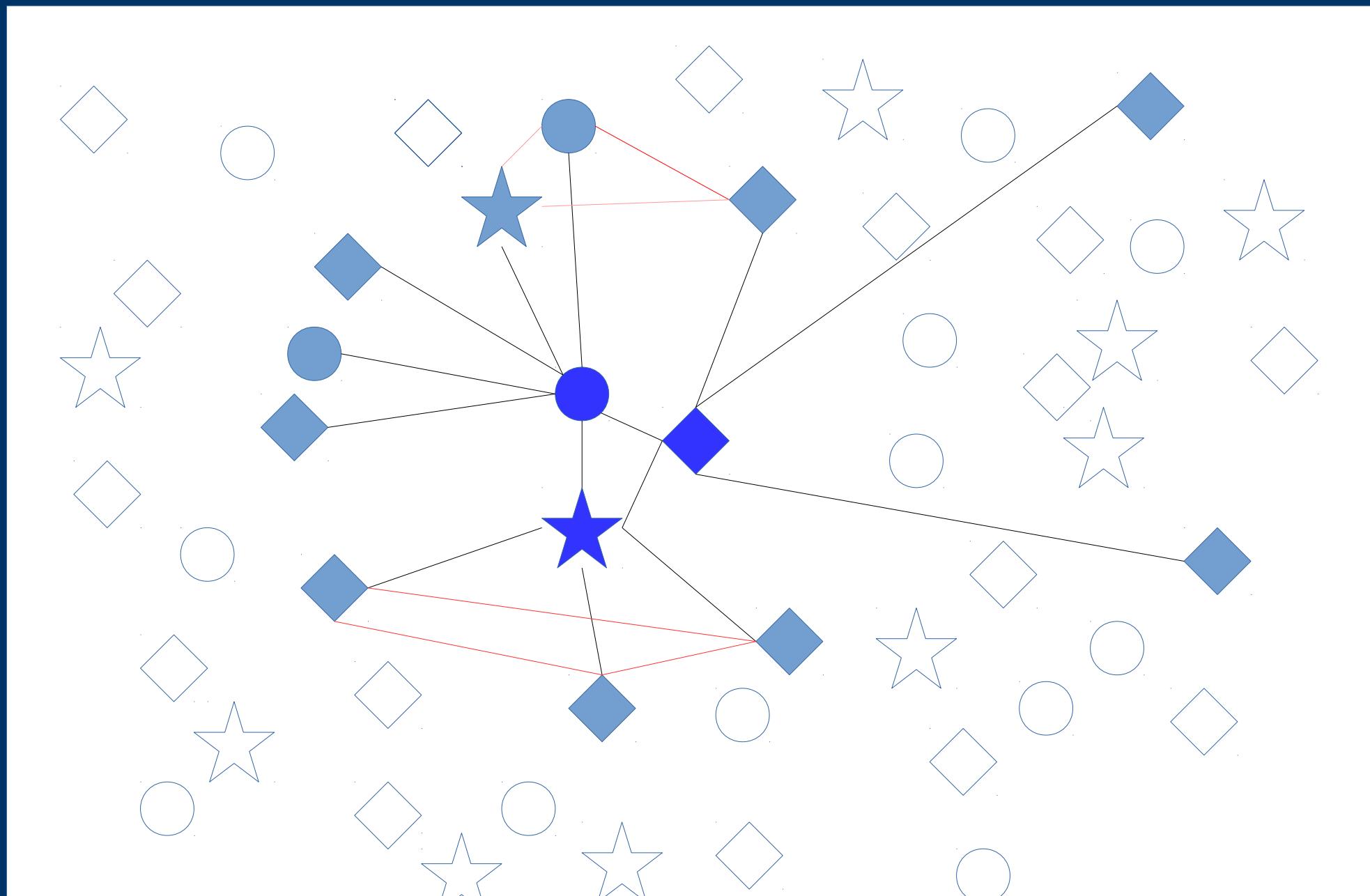
Developing a working model of “community”



Developing a working model of “community”



Developing a working model of “community”



Boundary objects and binding objects

Boundary objects:

- Susan Leigh Star
- Interpretive plasticity
- Can translate between groups
- Allows for collaboration without consensus

Binding objects

- Part extension, part subclass of boundary objects
- Bind heterogeneous actors or sub-networks into broader network
- Relationships of binding object to other member actors structures internal dynamics

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