

DS8104: Network Science

Class 8: Homophily

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Class Project Timeline

Choose paper & approval	2/21	(next week)
Presentation – Intro Paper	3/2	
Writeup – Reproduction Paper	4/4	
Presentation – Reproduction Paper	4/6	
Presentation – Final Project	4/27	
Writeup – Final Paper	5/5	

Network correlations

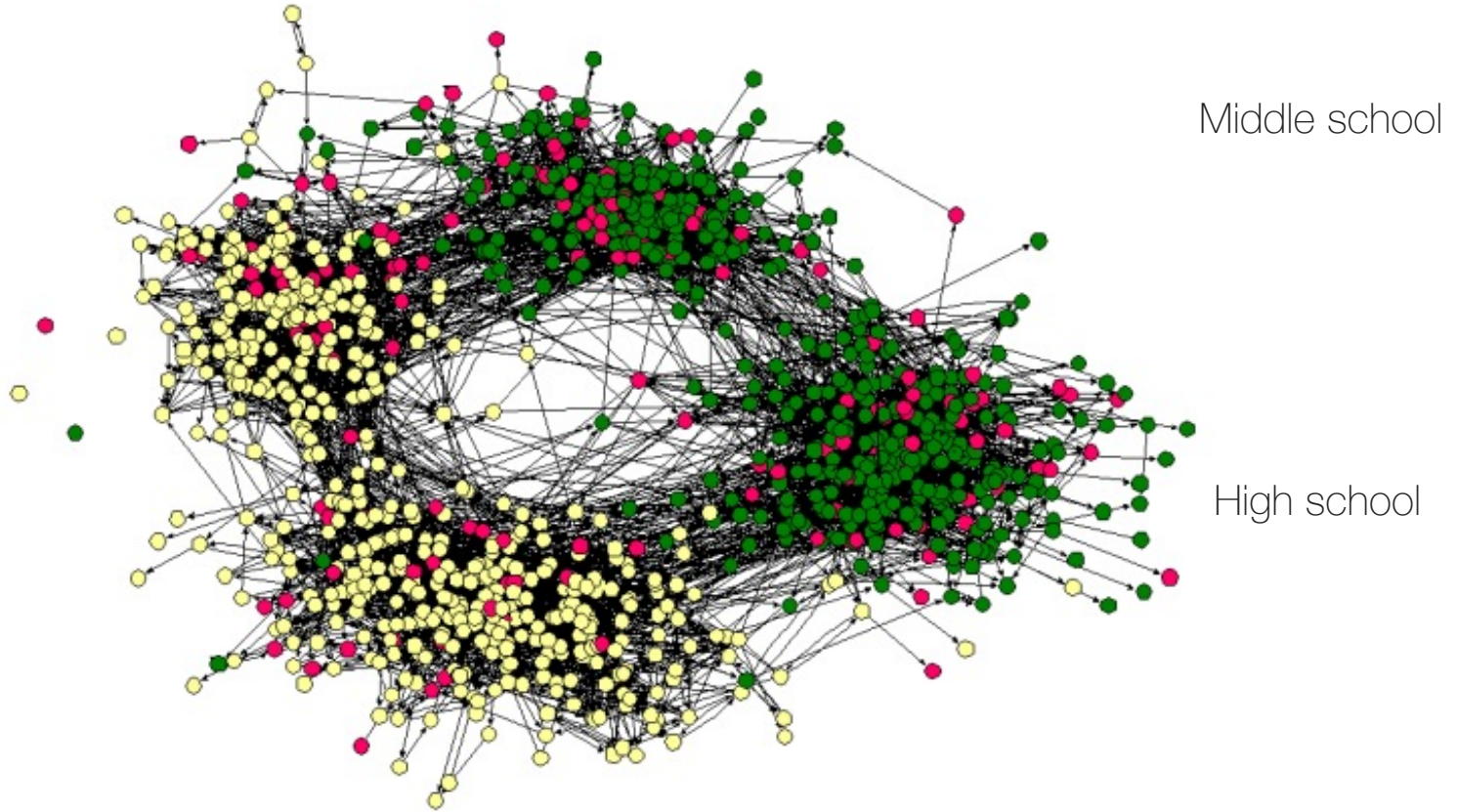
Homophily: The tendency of individuals to associate and bond with similar others

Assortativity: The tendency of network nodes with similar features to be connected

Disassortativity: The tendency of network nodes with different features to be connected

Homophily example: Rural schools

● white
● non-white
● unknown



Moody, J., 2001. Race, school integration, and friendship segregation in America. *American journal of Sociology*

Causes of homophily

Do similar nodes become connected?

OR do dissimilar nodes become unconnected?

OR do connected nodes become similar?

We generally can't tell!!!!!!

Shalizi & Thomas, 2011. Homophily and contagion are generically confounded in observational social network studies. *Sociological methods & research*

Examples and implications

Annu. Rev. Sociol. 2001. 27:415–44

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BIRDS OF A FEATHER: Homophily in Social Networks

Miller McPherson¹, Lynn Smith-Lovin¹, and
James M Cook²

¹*Department of Sociology, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85721;
e-mail: mcpherson@u.arizona.edu; smithlov@u.arizona.edu*

²*Department of Sociology, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina 27708;
e-mail: jcook@soc.duke.edu*

Privacy, homophily and network data

WWW 2009 MADRID!

Track: Security and Privacy / Session: Web Privacy

To Join or Not to Join: The Illusion of Privacy in Social Networks with Mixed Public and Private User Profiles

Elena Zheleva
Department of Computer Science
University of Maryland, College Park
elena@cs.umd.edu

Lise Getoor
Department of Computer Science
University of Maryland, College Park
getoor@cs.umd.edu