Acknowledgements

Thank you to Jay Emerson for advising me on this thesis, challenging my ideas, reminding me not to infer causation, and thinking of ways to measure different effects.

Thank you to Dan Spielman for collecting and allowing me to use this unique data set, pushing me in interesting directions on this project, and advising me as an Applied Mathematics major.

Thank you to Andrew Papachristos for teaching me about network theory and brainstorming ideas to explore in my thesis. An additional thanks to my group in Social Networks and Society of Networks made up of George Gemelas, Sophie Deans, Stella Shannon, and Tiana Wang who worked with me on a related class project in the Fall of 2016 that inspired this project.

Thank you to Joscha Legewie for giving me another perspective on gender dynamics in classrooms.

Thank you to my family for supporting me and encouraging me to explore my interests. A special thanks to Ben Green for giving me a reading list of network studies and to Jenny Altshuler for help with edits.

Thank you to Kira Tebbe for being a sounding board for questions about my thesis, helping me organize and edit the final product, and for lending me an artistic eye for visualizations.