

Discussion Questions

- Smith et al. (2016):
 - Criminality and personal networks are tightly connected. Resulting in some of the most frequent interactions between networks. Why is that? Could it simply be the criminality brings people closer together? Or could it be an issue of having no choice but to trust someone that is untrustworthy for one's own survival?
 - Since capone had the highest and strongest ties to criminal, political and legitimate business. With over 1,300 ties, he was in an egocentric network revolving around him. If he was caught much earlier or killed, would one of his close associates be able to take his place? Or would the whole network structure collapse?
- Papachristos (2013):
 - Is there a realistic way to identify a social pecking order based on network embeddedness?
 - Would identifying venerated locations and mapping violent offenses be more effective than running strictly off of turf approximations?
 - Racial homophily has some support on violence being directed externally towards other gangs. Do you think internally within a heterogenous gang that the same effect may be present?
- Becker et al. (2020):
 - The researchers established that Martin Luther's direct influence (i.e., influence to direct network) and the spatial diffusion (followers then disseminating those ideas via trade and travel) worked simultaneously with another to achieve the spread of Reformation. Do you believe (if at all) that spatial diffusion is reliant on the followers? In other words, do these disciples need to hold a certain social status or possess some other characteristic for people to internalize these new ideas?
 - Researchers discussed the idea of "charisma" to illustrate the effectiveness of Luther.
 - Would Martin Luther have been successful if not for his diverse personal network/social structure? Is an infectious leadership style more indicative of whether the spread of information will be successful?