

## **CRJ 523: Network Criminology**

### *General Discussion Questions*

*Here are a few questions that will aid in your readings for the course. Not every question will be applicable every week. But, they will help provide a consistent level of inquiry to the readings.*

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For each of the assigned articles, what is the primary finding or take-away? If your grandmother asked you about the article, what would you tell her?

In the study of networks, we often distinguish between statistical description of a network (i.e. what are the properties?) vs. statistical inferences (i.e. are these different from a random or stochastic process?). Of the readings this week, which are primarily descriptive and which are primarily inferential?

Does the study provide a different approach to an *existing* question? Or, does it examine a *new* question? How does that article advance our understanding of the pressing questions in the particular area (if it does)?

What is gained from using network data and network analysis? Are networks just a "shiny object" (i.e. something we stare at and do not really move past [aka seductions of newness])?

For each of the assigned articles, identify the primary concept that is examined. What type of network data is used to operationalize this concept? What are the limitations of the particular operationalization chosen for measuring the concept?

Think about various policies for reducing criminality and/or crime you may have learned from other courses. How might these policies be better executed by drawing on networks? Are there "tough problems" in policy that might be better addressed by using network data and/or network interventions? Does network research make any of the policies irrelevant? Can you think of successful policies cast doubt on ideas from network criminology?

Consider the limitations of network data and network thinking. Are these limitations simply the common limitations of all research? Or, does network criminology face special challenges?