
Status & Hierarchy Formation

CRJ 523

Network Criminology

Learning Goals

- ❖ Understand the logic of how hierarchies develop through **social processes**.
- ❖ Revisit **conceptualization** and **operationalization** in research and the utility of network science.
- ❖ Understand the **network configurations** of hierarchy formation.

Status and Hierarchies

❖ *What is “status”?*

Exercise

- ❖ Think about these questions:
- ❖ Who do you think is powerful / influential in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (SCCJ)?
- ❖ Why?

Power and Influence in SCCJ

- ❖ Formal structures

Power and Influence in SCCJ

- ❖ Formal structures
 - ❖ *Leadership*



Power and Influence in SCCJ

- ❖ Formal structures

- ❖ *Rank*



Power and Influence in SCCJ

- ❖ Formal structures
 - ❖ *Committees*



Power and Influence in SCCJ

- ❖ Formal structures
 - ❖ *Centers*



Power and Influence in SCCJ

- ❖ In the “interstices” of the formal structure, there are **informal** structures.
- ❖ Examples:
 - ❖ *Advice seeking*
 - ❖ *Input on decision making*

Status and Hierarchies

- ❖ People can be powerful / influential for different reasons.
- ❖ But all of these lead to “hierarchical differentiation”.
 - ❖ In other words, **inequality**.
 - ❖ Inequality in pay, influence, etc.
- ❖ *How do these come about?*

Social Processes and Hierarchy

- ❖ Gould (2002)

- ❖ 2 ways to answer this:

- ❖ Individualistic / Market

- ❖ People differ, differences are rewarded, creating an incentive structure.

- ❖ Status hierarchies are an *emergent* feature.

- ❖ Structural

- ❖ High status people define their positions as high status.

- ❖ Status hierarchies are an *enacted* feature.

Power and Influence in SCCJ

- ❖ Who is powerful / influential, “of status”, in SCCJ?

Power and Influence in SCCJ

- ❖ Who is powerful / influential, “of status”, in SCCJ?
 - ❖ Individualistic / Market answer
 - ❖ People differ, differences are rewarded, creating an incentive structure.
 - ❖ People who publish are better “scholars”, people then model that behavior.

Power and Influence in SCCJ

- ❖ Who is powerful / influential, “of status”, in SCCJ?
 - ❖ Structural answer
 - ❖ High status people define their positions as high status.
 - ❖ People who publish don't perish and reinforce publishing as a standard.

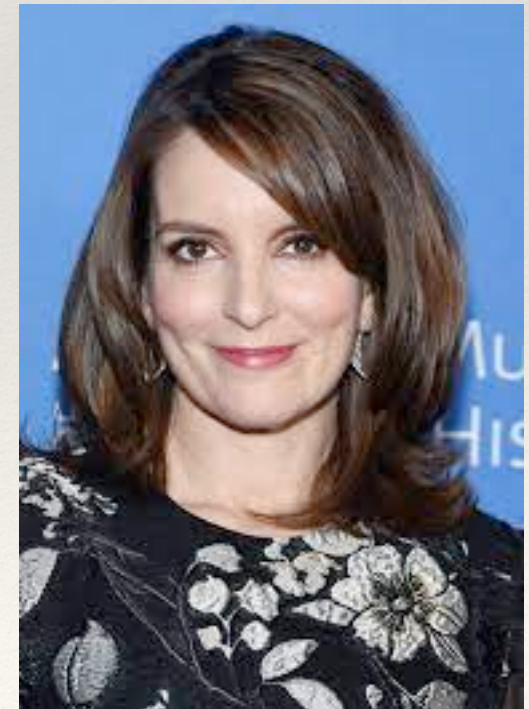
Social Processes and Hierarchy

- ❖ Gould (2002)
 - ❖ Nope...it is not **that** complicated:
 - ❖ “hierarchies seem to be produced and sustained through processes that are more decentralized and less purposeful” (p. 1146)
 - ❖ It is actually 2 social processes.

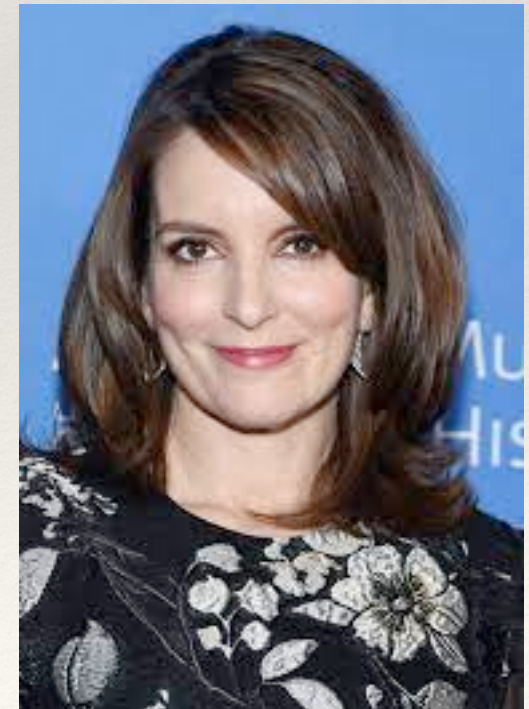
Social Processes and Hierarchy

- ❖ Gould (2002)
 - ❖ *Quality judgement and social influence*
 - ❖ Hard to assess the quality of someone.
 - ❖ These assessments become socially-defined and adhered to through **self-validation**.
 - ❖ Example: Why is Tina so popular? (because everyone else thinks so)

Social Processes and Hierarchy



Social Processes and Hierarchy



Social Processes and Hierarchy

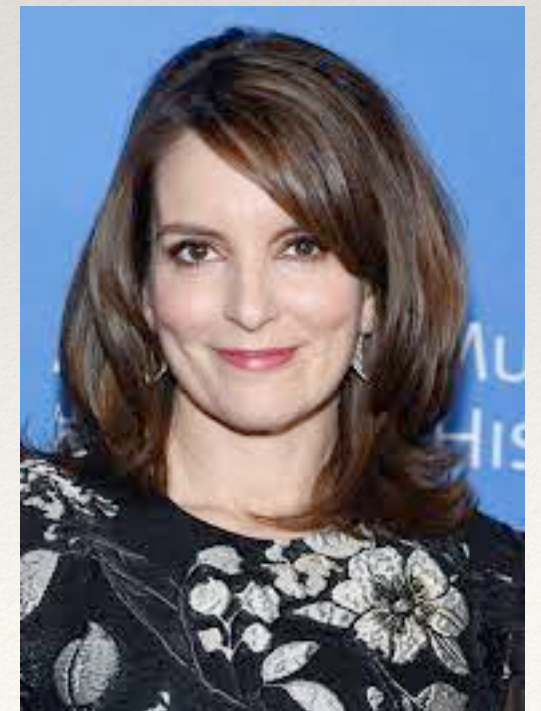
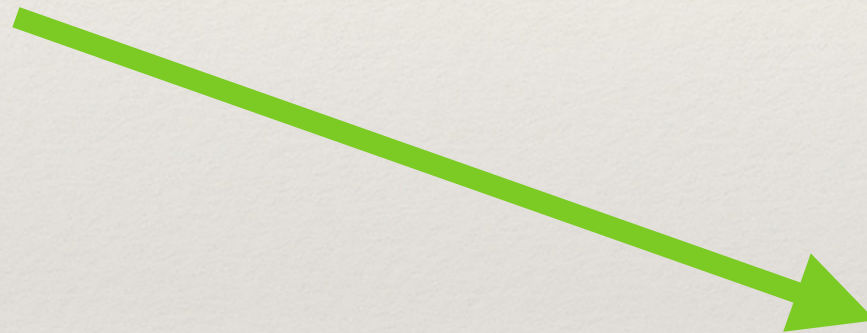
- ❖ Gould (2002)
 - ❖ Minor differences become reinforced and then amplified.

Social Processes and Hierarchy



Observing
others is
influential

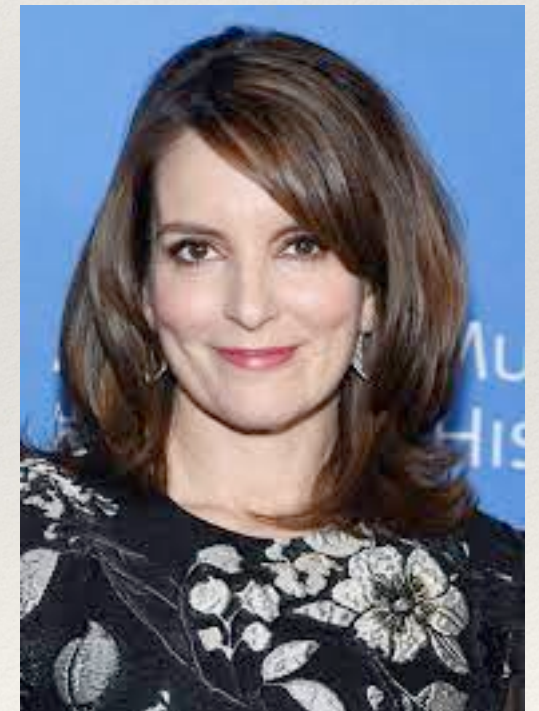
Social Processes and Hierarchy



Social Processes and Hierarchy

- ❖ Gould (2002)
 - ❖ Even minor differences generate a distribution of total inequality.

Social Processes and Hierarchy



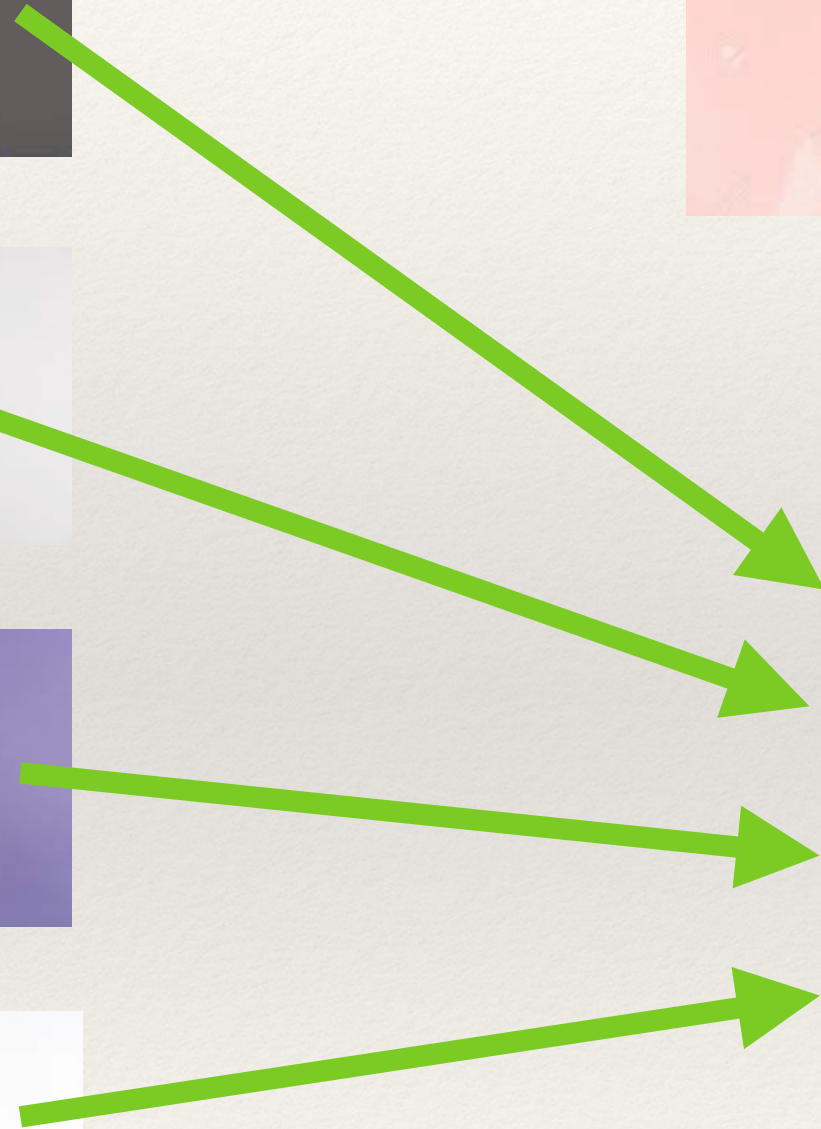
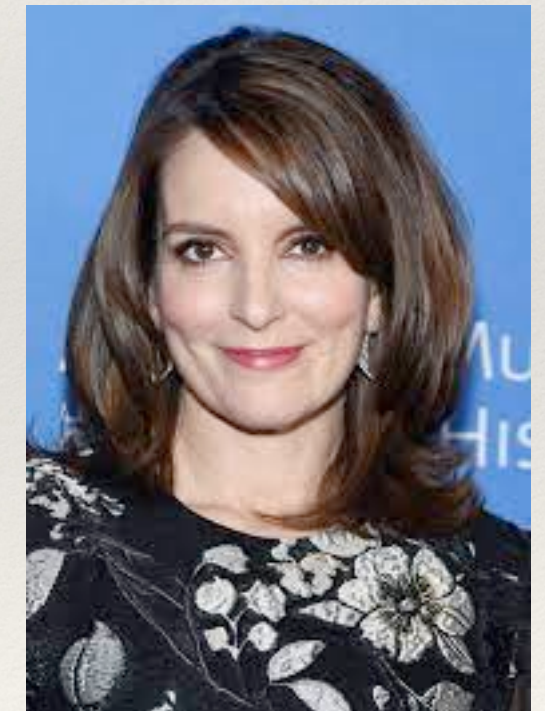
Social Processes and Hierarchy

- ❖ Gould (2002)
 - ❖ **BUT...**total inequality (“runaway” hierarchy) is rare.
 - ❖ *Why?*

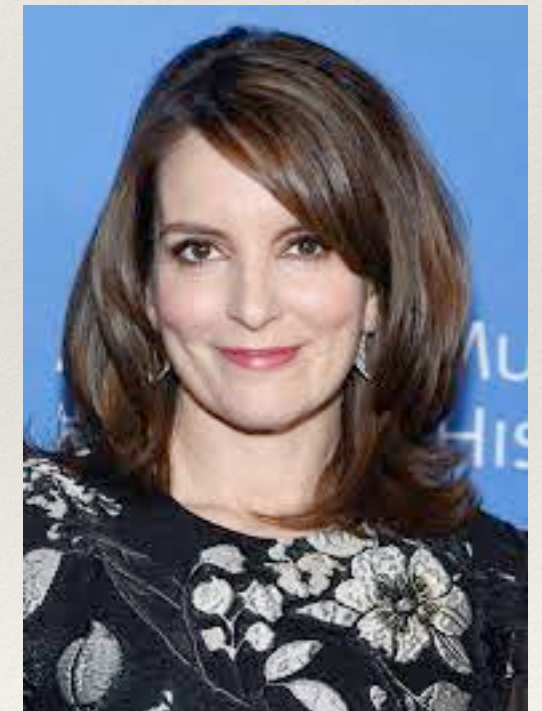
Social Processes and Hierarchy

- ❖ Gould (2002)
- ❖ **Another mechanism:**
 - ❖ “displeasure of unreciprocated gestures”

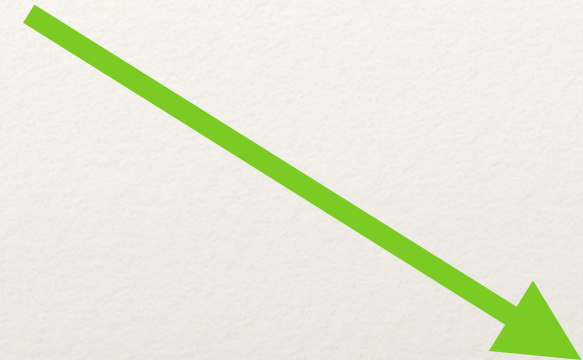
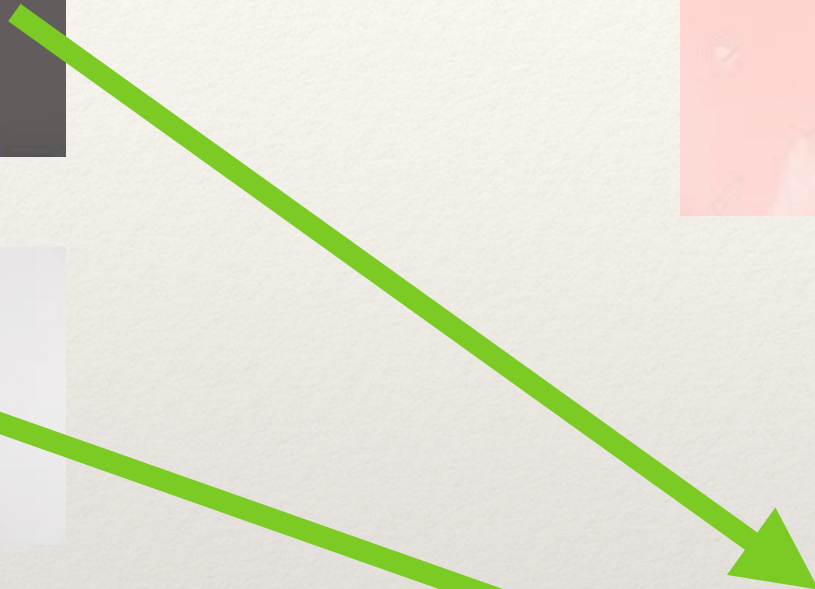
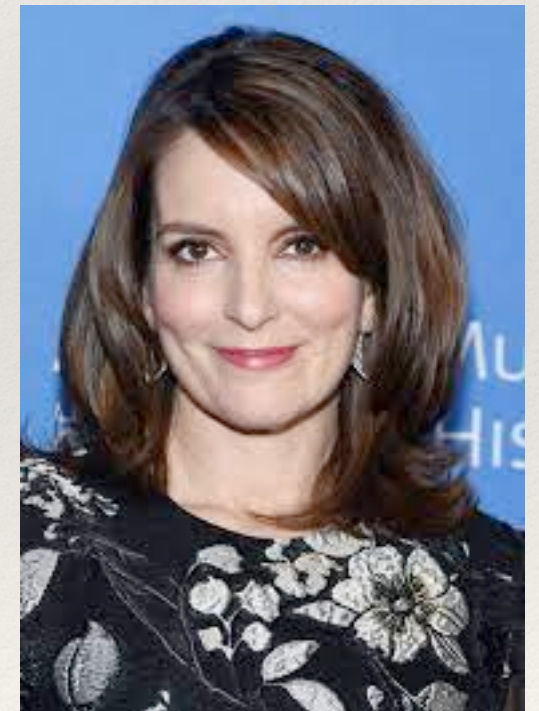
Social Processes and Hierarchy



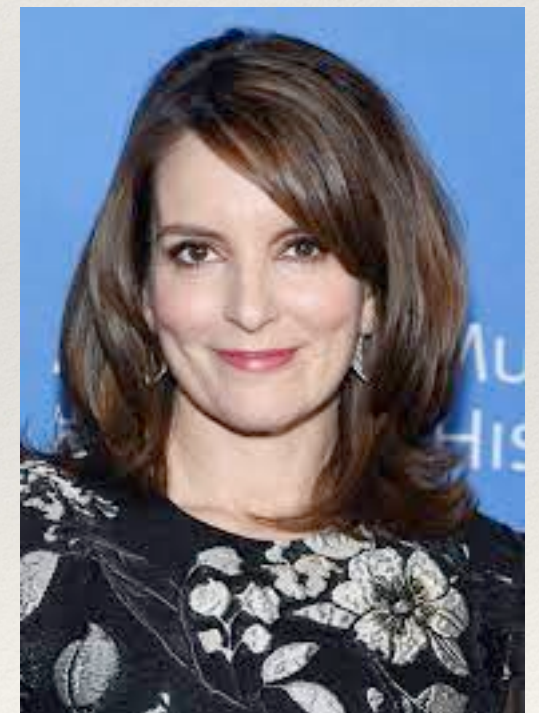
Social Processes and Hierarchy



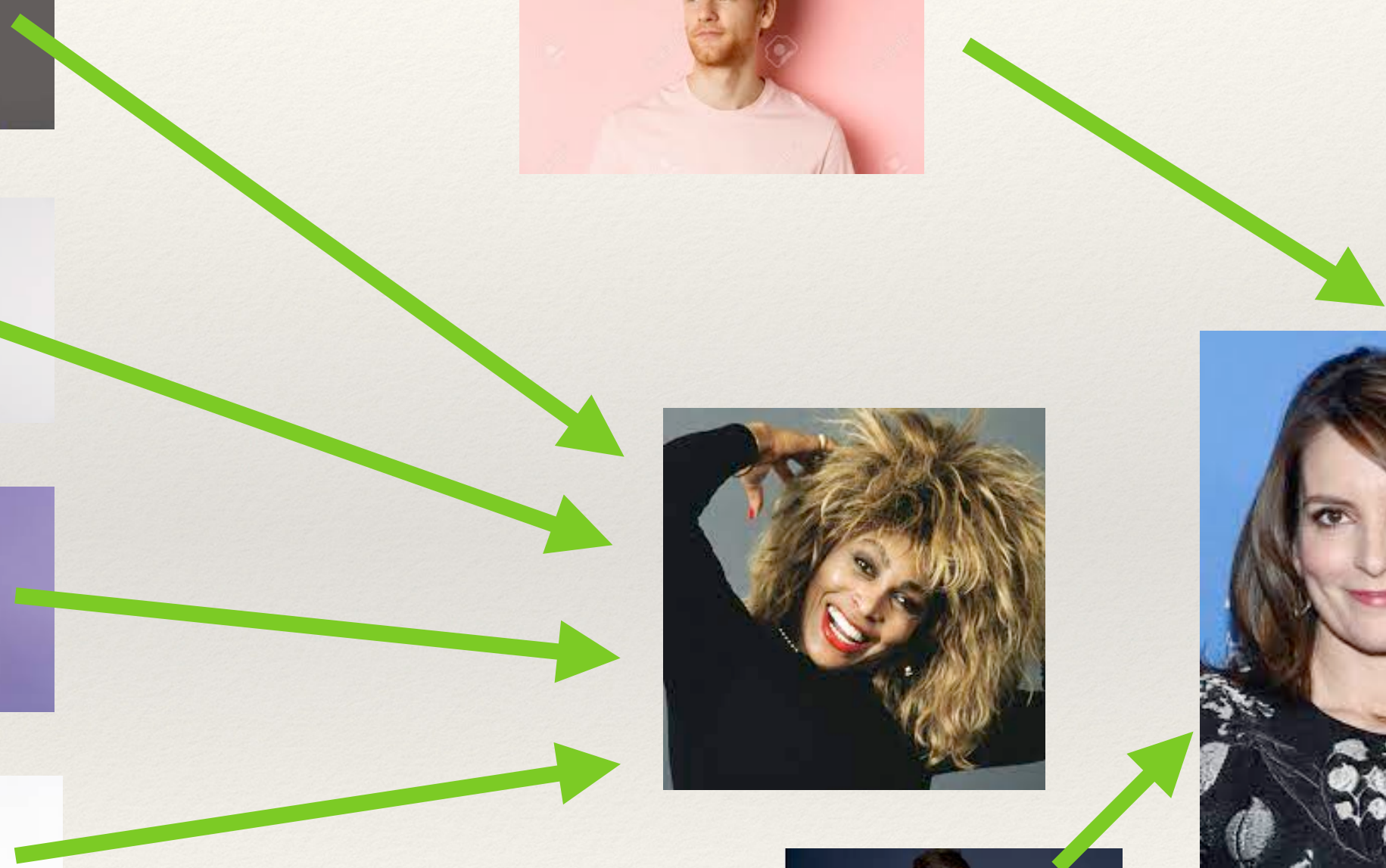
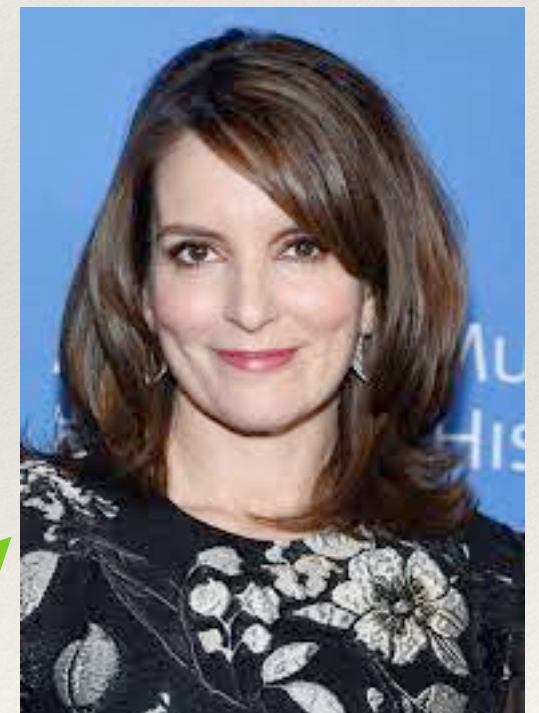
Social Processes and Hierarchy



Social Processes and Hierarchy



Social Processes and Hierarchy



Social Processes and Hierarchy

- ❖ Gould (2002)

- ❖ It is a tradeoff between attaching yourself to those who are **desirable** and those who are **available**.

Network Science

- ❖ REMEMBER YOUR RESEARCH METHODS:
Conceptualization and Operationalization
- ❖ Network science **conceptualizes** theoretical concepts that are inherently relational.
- ❖ Network research **operationalizes** theoretical constructs by drawing on the formal properties of graphs.

Network Configurations

- ❖ The mechanisms Gould (2002) describes are network configurations:
 - ❖ Degree Assortativity / Preferential Attachment
 - ❖ Reciprocity

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Questions?

Break

Discussion

Network Theories and Theories of Networks*

NETWORK THEORIES ("networks as <i>cause</i> ")			THEORIES OF NETWORKS ("networks as <i>effects</i> ")
<i>Explanatory Goal</i>			<i>Explanatory Goal</i>
<i>Explanatory Model</i>	Social Capital/ Performance ("why are the benefits?")	Homogeneity ("why are nodes similar?")	Network Structure ("why is the network this way?")
Network Flow (ties as pipes)	<u>Capitalization</u> Definition: Acquisition to resources through ties and this influences human capital which contributes to performance. Examples: Access to unique information via bridging ties. Information control benefits of structural holes. Solving problems through access to diverse knowledge.	<u>Contagion</u> Definition: Nodes become similar through a process of "infection" where various "bits" are passed from one node to the other. Examples: Diffusion of innovations. Peer influence. Disease transmission.	Examples: Homophilous Selection ("why do people with the same attitudes cluster together? They sort into these groups")
	<u>Cooperation</u> Definition: Networks provide benefits that can coordinate multiple nodes in order to bring all their resources to bear on a problem. Examples: Unionization. Collective efficacy in neighborhoods.	<u>Convergence</u> Definition: Nodes adapt to their environments, and as a result nodes with similar structural environments will demonstrate similarities. Examples: Administrative assistants have higher levels of communication in organizations.	Examples: Popularity ("why do some individuals receive more ties than others?")

*Adapted From Borgatti and Halgin (2011) and adams (2020).