

Contagion and Diffusion Discussion Questions

- **Smangs (2010)**
 - Do you think tie strength should have been measured differently? How so? And Why?
 - How might the idea that these relationships were created due to a shared characteristic (i.e. foci; actors formed a bond via the neighborhood they grew up in) impact these findings?
- **Young and Ready (2014)**
 - How do you think the changes in legitimacy would have looked if the time frame between surveys was 6 months? Or longer?
 - Given there was a network effect on the legitimacy of BWCs, although small, how might this play out under a discretionary activation policy? A weaker effect? Stronger? Why?
- **Papachristos et al. (2015)**
 - Papachristos et al. (2015) primarily focuses on non-fatal gunshot injuries, however, there is further inquiry in other forms of violence as they may relate to the influence of contagious on deviant behavior. What other forms of violence are worth examining and why?
 - Papachristos et al. (2015) revealed that victimization is inherently contagious. That being said, when thinking about violence from a gendered perspective, how might trauma fueled by sexual assault contribute to an increase in violence towards women?
 - How might the social relation of one's family contribute to the contagion of violence, gun usage, and victimization?
- **Papachristos et al. (2018)**
 - Papachristos raises an interesting point in his discussion of the data that arrests are largely driven by policing behavior. Law enforcement officers have been known to over-police disadvantaged, minority neighborhoods. Thus, the co-arrest network may be a proxy for how police behavior connects the city rather than criminals. How much of the co-arrest network do you think is due to policing and how much is due to offenders themselves? What other measures might you use to capture the social network of offenders?
 - Over the past few weeks, several of us have discussed police misconduct from a network perspective. After reading this article, what variables from a police organization do you think would be useful in determining if officer misconduct has an element of contagion by diffusion?
 - Do you believe some crimes may be more connected through the social network than others? What kinds of crimes would offenders be more likely to cross geographic lines to commit?