

CRJ 523 Network Dynamics and Vulnerability Discussion Questions

Baker, W. E., & Faulkner, R. R. (1993). The Social Organization of Conspiracy: Illegal Networks in the Heavy Electrical Equipment Industry. *American Sociological Review*, 58(6), 837-860. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2095954>.

1. How might these findings transfer over to the organizational structure of gangs or terrorist groups?
2. Does it make sense that in a centralized network, the top executives were more likely to receive a guilty verdict? Especially after their explanation for why, in general, members in centralized networks were less likely to be found guilty?

Duijn, P. A., Kashirin, V., & Sloot, P. M. (2014). The relative ineffectiveness of criminal network disruption. *Sci Rep*, 4, 4238. <https://doi.org/10.1038/srep04238>.

1. How might the legalization of cannabis help disrupt cannabis cultivation networks, if disruption would occur at all? Could legalization contribute to resilience instead? What are your thoughts?
2. What might be some other factors that contribute to network disruption and resiliency that were not mentioned in the Duijn et al., 2014 article?
 - a. Natural disasters? Age? War? Location/Geography?
3. Disruption of criminal networks often depends on the interaction of police agents. In what ways has police technology evolved to where they have been able to disrupt criminal networks? How do you see criminal networks combating this to keep their illegal activity in operation?

Duxbury, S. W., & Haynie, D. L. (2019). Criminal network security: An agent-based approach to evaluating network resilience. *Criminology*, 57(2), 314-342. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-9125.12203>

1. The authors throw a lot of information at you (specifically about their results) do you believe that the system simplifies the ability to disrupt a network? Meaning, we know that removing the broker and their connections is the most impactful in creating long-term damage to crime syndicates but is that an easy feat to accomplish?
2. Do you think there are any variables that the system was not able to account for (for instance, does the type of crime network matter)? Or other general concerns?
3. We talked about some of the crime networks that live in the metaverse (like Anonymous), do you believe these disturbances would be as effective to them as well? Does their online status make them more secure and efficient than other organized crime networks?

Smith, C. M. (2020). Exogenous Shocks, the Criminal Elite, and Increasing Gender Inequality in Chicago Organized Crime. *American Sociological Review*, 85(5), 895-923. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0003122420948510>.

1. What do you make of Smith (2020) pulling data from the Capone database to evaluate the gender hierarchy in organized crime? Is this applicable to present criminal networks (i.e., are women still marginalized in these networks or was it more so a reflection of the period in time)
2. Do you feel that findings of Smith are fairly limited? For instance, Smith examines the shock of Prohibition (where it enhances the illicit market) but what about an ordinance like Proposition 64 (legalize marijuana). How might a negative to an illicit market impact its structure?
3. Do we need to advocate for women to be given the opportunity to become the elites of criminal networks?