

# Project Title

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# 1 Introduction

The present study is situated within the broader field of social sciences, with a particular focus on the application of Social Network Analysis (SNA) to the investigation of covert criminal organizations. Social Network Analysis offers a methodological framework to explore how individuals within a group are connected, how influence and control are distributed, and how structural properties affect organizational resilience and vulnerability. Our specific application concerns the comparative analysis of two covert criminal networks — one operating in Italy and the other in London — in order to explore both structural and sociocultural differences between them. The datasets used for this study, *Italian Gangs Network* (67 nodes, 114 edges) (available online at [**italianGangsSite**]) and *London Gang Network* (54 nodes, 315 edges) (available online at [**londonGangSite**]) describe internal relationships within each gang and share a common metadata attribute: the nationality of each individual.

## 2 Problem and Motivation

The main objective of this study is to analyze and compare the structural and social dynamics of two covert criminal networks, one Italian and one London-based, in order to understand how relational structure, along with ethnic and national composition, influences internal organization and group resilience. Historically, researchers often overlooked gangs as collective entities, focusing instead on the traits of individual members [mcgloin2010theories]. As a result, the connection between gang activity and gang structure has remained largely unexplored, described as a “black box” [decker2008understanding]. Nevertheless, a small but expanding literature on gangs and social networks has emerged, based on the idea that “human relationships form the least common denominator for organized crime” [mcillwain1999organized].

Klein and Maxson [klein2006street] highlight that “ethnicity is one of the most widely discussed, and little studied, aspects of gangs.” Ethnic groups—defined by shared heritage, culture, language, religion, or country of birth [smith1987ethnic] — play a central role in gang dynamics. Research has consistently shown that ethnicity is a key factor in both gang formation and membership [adamson2017defensive] [alonso2004racialized] [freng2007race]. While ethnic diversity has been recognized as influential in broader community contexts [pyrooz2010racial], its specific relationship to gang activity and internal organization remains largely unexplored [starbuck2001hybrid].

The project therefore addresses two key issues: first, we seek to understand the structural organization and internal dynamics of covert criminal networks, focusing on how individual positions and relational patterns contribute to the stability and hierarchy of such groups; second, we aim to investigate the sociocultural dimension of these networks, exploring how national composition (i.e., the nationality of members) influences patterns of connection, leadership, and cooperation within and across criminal organizations.

To achieve these aims, the project adopts a Social Network Analysis (SNA) approach, which has a long-standing tradition in gang and organized crime research [klein1967groups] [short1965group]. Technological advancements have significantly expanded its potential [fleisher2005fieldwork] [morselli2009inside]. Reconstructing a gang as a social network involves linking each unit—whether a group or an individual—according to the type of relationship under investigation [wasserman1994social]. This dual approach is essential not only to advance the theoretical application of Social Network Analysis within criminology, but also to generate actionable insights for security policies and investigative strategies by identifying key nodes and structural vulnerabilities in criminal systems. Although prior research has examined individual network structures, comparative studies across distinct sociocultural contexts remain rare. From a practical perspective, understanding how relational configurations and cultural factors interact to influence organizational resilience can inform policymaking, intelligence analysis, and law enforcement interventions, facilitating the detection of central actors, weak points, and cohesive subgroups that sustain covert operations.

The main contributions of the project include:

1. Comparative Perspective - We will conduct a systematic comparison between two real-world covert criminal networks (Italian and London-based), highlighting structural and social differences.

2. Integration of Structural and Sociocultural Analysis - By combining network metrics with the nationality attribute, we aim to understand how social identity and homophily affect organizational patterns and leadership roles.
3. 3. Insights into Network Robustness - Through the evaluation of cohesion and vulnerability to the removal of central nodes, the project will provide a deeper understanding of how criminal organizations maintain resilience despite potential disruptions.

This project aims to contribute to the understanding of relational and cultural dynamics that shape criminal networks, providing both a theoretical foundation and methodological tools for future research and practical applications in the field of security and crime prevention.

## 3 Datasets

Our analysis uses two publicly available datasets from the UCINET Software project’s repository of social networks: the **London Gang Network** (54 nodes) and the **Italian Gangs Network** (67 nodes). The London dataset was accessed from the UCINET “Covert Networks” collection [[londonGangSite](#)]; the Italian dataset was obtained from the same repository [[italianGangsSite](#)]. Both include person–person adjacency matrices and accompanying node-attribute tables, and are fully digitised, requiring no manual transcription.

### 3.1 Digitisation and Data Handling

For this study, each adjacency matrix was stored in CSV format (LONDON\_GANG.csv with a  $54 \times 54$  matrix; ITALIAN\_GANGS.csv with a  $67 \times 67$  matrix). The London attributes file (LONDON\_GANG\_ATTR.csv) lists Age, Birthplace, Residence, Arrests, Convictions, Prison, Music, and Ranking; the Italian attributes file (ITALIAN\_GANGS\_ATTR.csv) includes Nationality/Country of origin. To enable cross-network comparisons, we used only a harmonised birthplace variable (London Birthplace; Italian Nationality/Country of origin). Data handling was performed in **Python** with pandas, using `pandas.read_csv` to load matrices and attributes into DataFrames.

### 3.2 Computing Measures

Network measures were computed with NetworkX. The adjacency DataFrames were converted into graph objects via `nx.from_pandas_adjacency`, which then served as the basis for all subsequent analyses and visualisations.

## 4 Validity and Reliability

### 4.1 Validity (Representation of Reality)

The model of the dataset—a graph of 54 nodes and 315 edges—is a structural abstraction of a complex, real-world social system. The validity, or how closely this model represents reality, is subject to several key considerations:

- **Incompleteness of Covert Data:** The dataset maps a "covert network." By definition, such networks are hidden. The data (likely sourced from surveillance or police records) is almost certainly an incomplete snapshot. We must assume that some real-world relationships were unobserved and are missing from the model.
- **Static vs. Dynamic Reality:** The dataset represents the network at a single point in time. Real-world social structures are dynamic, with ties forming, dissolving, and changing in strength. Our model does not capture this temporal evolution.
- **Unweighted Analysis of Weighted Data:** The source data is weighted (with values such as 1, 2, and 3), likely representing the frequency or strength of the relationship. In our analysis, we employed standard, unweighted measures (e.g., `nx.density`, `nx.diameter`, `nx.degree_centrality`). This was an intentional choice to focus purely on the **topological structure**, but it is a significant simplification. The model treats a strong, frequent bond as equivalent to a weak, infrequent one, which impacts the real-world interpretation of influence and cohesion.

In summary, the model is a valid (as it is academically vetted) but simplified, static, and unweighted representation of the network's topology, not a complete or dynamic reflection of its real-world social complexity.

### 4.2 Reliability (Reproducibility)

The reliability of this study (the ability for another researcher to reproduce the exact same results) is **high**. This is ensured by the methodology used to treat the data:

- **Public Data:** The dataset was sourced from a stable, public, and citable URL. Any researcher can access the exact same source files in `[londonGangSite]` `[italianGangsSite]`.
- **Open-Source, Deterministic Tools:** The entire analysis was conducted using open-source Python libraries (`pandas` and `NetworkX`). The functions used for calculating measures (`nx.density`, `nx.betweenness_centrality`, etc.) are deterministic. Given the same input graph, they will produce the identical output every time.
- **Transparent Workflow:** The data treatment was minimal and explicit: loading the CSV via `pandas`, handling indices, converting it to a `NetworkX` graph, and applying specific functions. This step-by-step process can be scripted and shared, ensuring perfect reproducibility.

Overall, while the datasets provide only partial depictions of real-world social structures, the analytical process applied to them is transparent, stable, and highly reproducible.

## 5 Measures and Results

For both the Italian and London gangs, we study the same network metrics and compare them. We start by analyzing **general structural metrics**, which quantify the overall organization and efficiency of the network:

### General Structural Metrics

- **Density ( $D$ )**: measures how many ties exist in the network compared to the maximum possible number.

$$D = \frac{2m}{n(n-1)} \quad (1)$$

where  $m$  is the number of existing edges and  $n$  the number of nodes. High density indicates strong cohesion and low vulnerability to node removal.

- **Average degree ( $\langle k \rangle$ )**: the mean number of connections per node.

$$\langle k \rangle = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n k_i = \frac{2m}{n} \quad (2)$$

It represents member activity and overall engagement.

- **Network diameter ( $D_{max}$ )** and **average path length ( $\ell$ )**: respectively, the maximum and the mean of the shortest path distances between all node pairs.

$$\ell = \frac{1}{n(n-1)} \sum_{i \neq j} d_{ij} \quad (3)$$

They describe the efficiency of information or order transmission within the network.

- **Clustering coefficient ( $C$ )**: expresses the probability that two neighbors of a node are connected, revealing local cohesion or closed “cells”. For node  $i$ :

$$C_i = \frac{2t_i}{k_i(k_i-1)} \quad (4)$$

where  $t_i$  is the number of triangles passing through  $i$ . The overall clustering coefficient is the average of  $C_i$  across all nodes:

$$C = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n C_i \quad (5)$$

- **Modularity ( $Q$ )**: quantifies the presence of well-defined communities:

$$Q = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{i,j} \left( A_{ij} - \frac{k_i k_j}{2m} \right) \delta(c_i, c_j) \quad (6)$$

where  $\delta(c_i, c_j) = 1$  if nodes  $i$  and  $j$  belong to the same community. High  $Q$  indicates strong internal divisions or cliques.

## Centrality Metrics

We also compute **centrality metrics**, which identify key actors based on different notions of importance:

- **Degree centrality** ( $C_D(i)$ ): number of direct ties a node has.

$$C_D(i) = k_i \quad (7)$$

It reveals the most active or visible members.

- **Betweenness centrality** ( $C_B(i)$ ): measures how often a node lies on the shortest paths between others.

$$C_B(i) = \sum_{s \neq i \neq d} \frac{\sigma_{sd}(i)}{\sigma_{sd}} \quad (8)$$

where  $\sigma_{sd}$  is the number of shortest paths between  $s$  and  $d$ , and  $\sigma_{sd}(i)$  those passing through  $i$ . It highlights brokers or gatekeepers.

- **Closeness centrality** ( $C_C(i)$ ): reciprocal of the mean distance from a node to all others.

$$C_C(i) = \frac{n-1}{\sum_{j \neq i} d_{ij}} \quad (9)$$

Nodes with high  $C_C$  can quickly disseminate information.

- **Eigenvector centrality** ( $C_E(i)$ ): assigns importance based on being connected to other important nodes.

$$C_E(i) = \frac{1}{\kappa} \sum_{j=1}^n A_{ij} C_E(j) \quad (10)$$

where  $\kappa$  is the largest eigenvalue of the adjacency matrix  $A$ . It identifies leaders recognized by other influential members.

## Roles and Network Hierarchy

Based on these metrics, we classify network roles as follows:

- **Leaders**: nodes in the top 5% for both degree and eigenvector centrality, broadly connected and influential.
- **Brokers**: nodes in the top 5% for betweenness, key intermediaries between subgroups.
- **Peripherals**: nodes in the bottom 5% for degree, few connections and limited influence.

We further analyze the  **$k$ -core decomposition** to inspect hierarchical structure and power concentration. A  $k$ -core is a maximal subgraph where each node has degree  $\geq k$ . The *main core* corresponds to the highest  $k$  with non-empty core.

We also assess **network robustness** by comparing metrics (density, average path length,  $k$ -core) before and after removing central nodes, in order to study the structural impact of node removal.

## Attribute-based Network Analysis

Finally, to explore how ethnic background shapes internal organization, we perform **attribute-based network analyses** based on the *Birthplace* attribute.

- **Assortativity coefficient ( $r$ ) and mixing matrix:** measure homophily by birthplace.

$$r = \frac{\sum_i e_{ii} - \sum_i a_i b_i}{1 - \sum_i a_i b_i} \quad (11)$$

where  $e_{ij}$  is the fraction of edges linking group  $i$  to  $j$ , and  $a_i, b_i$  are the row and column sums of the mixing matrix.

- **Centrality by group:** comparing average degree, betweenness, and eigenvector centrality across ethnic categories reveals whether certain groups occupy more central positions.
- **Community composition and diversity:** community detection via modularity maximization; ethnic heterogeneity measured with the **Shannon Diversity Index**:

$$H = -\sum_i p_i \log(p_i) \quad (12)$$

where  $p_i$  is the proportion of members from group  $i$  within a community. Higher  $H$  values indicate more diverse communities.

- **Inter-group connectivity:** proportion of edges linking individuals of different birthplace categories — indicating cross-ethnic integration.
- **Subgraph analysis by birthplace:** evaluation of intra-group cohesion through internal density and clustering coefficient.

*Note:* Since the Italian network is disconnected, metrics such as diameter and average path length are computed on the largest connected component, including cases where central nodes are removed.

## 5.1 Italian gang

### 5.1.1 Structural analysis

Using the Library Networkx [**networkx**] from Python we studied different aspects of the italian gang network.

In figure ?? a plot of the network is shown where each node is colored according to its country label.

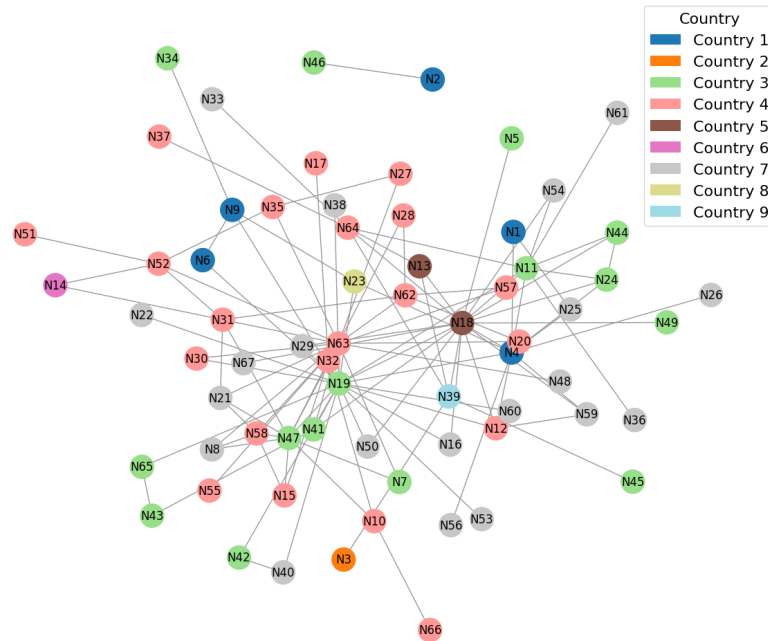


Figure 1: Italian Network graph visualization. Each node is colored according to its country label

### 5.1.2 Macro-level Cohesion and Structure

As the italian network is not connected and diameter and average path length are not defined for not connected networks, we instead calculate these metrics for the largest connected component, which has 65 nodes (out of 67).

<b>Metric</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>Interpretation (What it means)</b>
Density	0.0516	About 5% of all possible connections exist, so the network is fairly sparse.
Average Degree	3.0430	On average, each member is connected to 3 others.
Average Path Length (largest connected component)	3.012	Any two members can reach each other in about 3 "hops" on average.
Diameter (largest connected component)	6	The maximum separation between any two members is 6 "hops".
Avg. Clustering Coeff.	0.4347	Members' friends are often friends with each other—around 43% of possible "triangles" are closed—showing moderate local cohesion.
Modularity	0.5561	The network splits into well-defined communities; there are many more connections within groups than between them.

### 5.1.3 Micro-level Centrality and Social Roles

These measures identify the most important nodes, allowing us to define social roles.

**Leaders** The most influential, connected, and central members.

<b>Node</b>	<b>Degree</b>	<b>Betweenness</b>	<b>Closeness</b>	<b>Eigenvector</b>
19	0.3182	0.5558	0.5397	0.4394
63	0.2879	0.3633	0.4597	0.3110
18	0.2727	0.2881	0.4563	0.3784

Table 1: Leader nodes (Degree  $\geq 0.1621$  & Eigenvector  $\geq 0.2542$ )

**Brokers** Members who act as "bridges" connecting different parts of the network.

<b>Node</b>	<b>Degree</b>	<b>Betweenness</b>	<b>Closeness</b>	<b>Eigenvector</b>
19	0.3182	0.5558	0.5397	0.4394
63	0.2879	0.3633	0.4597	0.3110
18	0.2727	0.2881	0.4563	0.3784
47	0.1515	0.1396	0.4280	0.2177

Table 2: Broker nodes (Betweenness  $\geq 0.1369$ )

**Peripheral Members** Marginal members with few connections, existing on the network's edges.

Node	Degree	Betweenness	Closeness	Eigenvector
2	0.0152	0.0000	0.0152	0.0000
3	0.0152	0.0000	0.2443	0.0132
5	0.0152	0.0000	0.3119	0.0556
17	0.0152	0.0000	0.2463	0.0141
22	0.0152	0.0000	0.3487	0.0645
26	0.0152	0.0000	0.2941	0.0384
33	0.0152	0.0000	0.2473	0.0179
34	0.0152	0.0000	0.2619	0.0140
36	0.0152	0.0000	0.2941	0.0349
37	0.0152	0.0000	0.2473	0.0179
38	0.0152	0.0000	0.3487	0.0645
45	0.0152	0.0000	0.2443	0.0132
46	0.0152	0.0000	0.0152	0.0000
48	0.0152	0.0000	0.3134	0.0457
49	0.0152	0.0000	0.3119	0.0556
51	0.0152	0.0000	0.2434	0.0117
53	0.0152	0.0000	0.3487	0.0645
55	0.0152	0.0000	0.3134	0.0457
56	0.0152	0.0000	0.2941	0.0384
60	0.0152	0.0000	0.3487	0.0645
61	0.0152	0.0000	0.2941	0.0349
66	0.0152	0.0000	0.2324	0.0069
67	0.0152	0.0000	0.3119	0.0556

Table 3: Peripheral nodes (Degree  $\leq 0.0152$ )

#### 5.1.4 Hierarchy and Vulnerability

These measures test the power structure and resilience of the network.

**K-Core Decomposition** The most densely connected "core" of the network is identified. The analysis reveals a main core with a **k-value of 3**. This core consists of **20 nodes** (out of 63). The nodes in this core are: [4, 8, 11, 12, 13, 15, 18, 19, 21, 24, 31, 32, 39, 41, 44, 47, 58, 59, 63, 64].

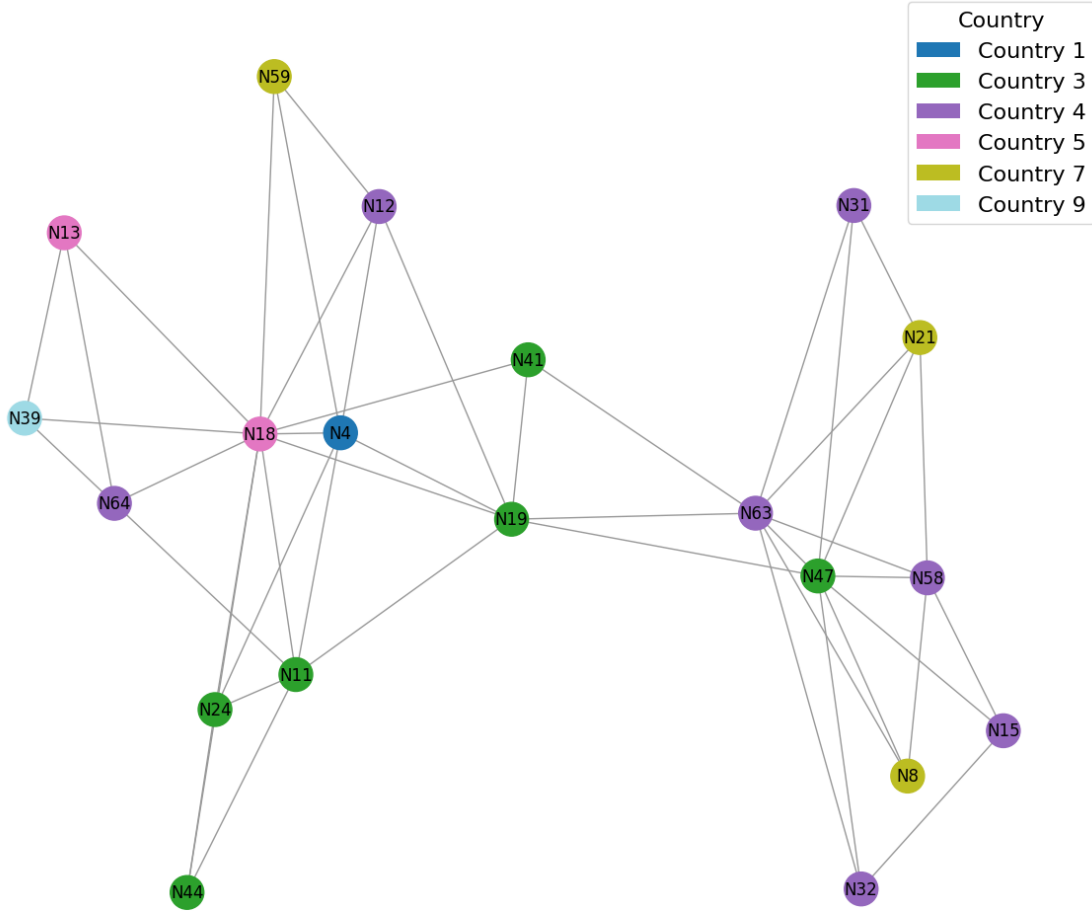


Figure 2: Core of Italian Network graph visualization.

**Vulnerability Simulation** Removing the three identified leaders (19, 63, 18) had a clear impact on the network structure. After their removal, the network broke into 18 components, and the largest connected part dropped from 65 to 24 nodes, showing a strong loss of cohesion. The density decreased from 0.0516 to **0.0288**, meaning fewer remaining connections overall. The average shortest path length increased from 3.0120 to **3.1341** (a **4.05%** rise), indicating slightly longer communication chains among the surviving nodes. Overall, the simulation shows that leader nodes play an important structural role, and removing them makes the network significantly more fragmented and less efficient.

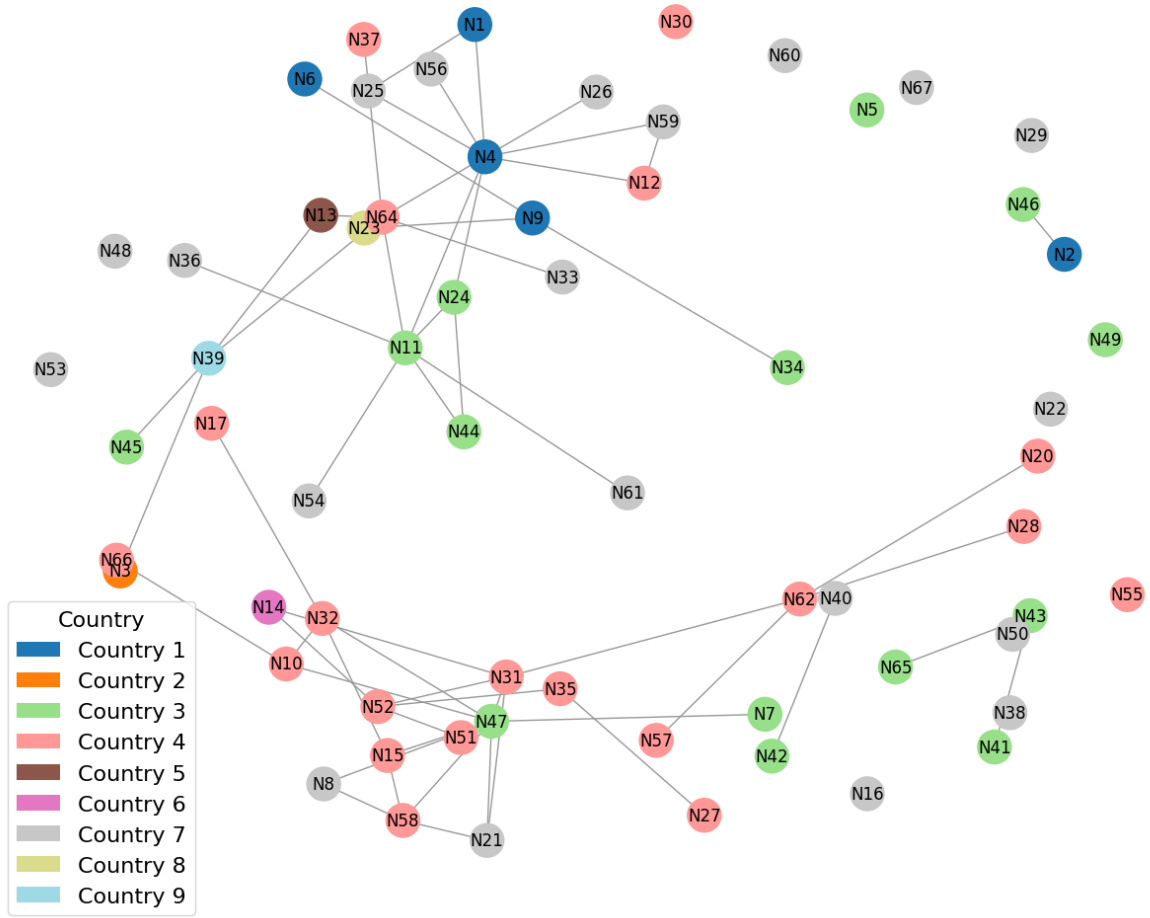


Figure 3: Italian Network sub-graph visualization without leaders.

### 5.1.5 Synthesis: Connection Between Data, Measures, and Properties

The **Italian gang network** is sparse but moderately cohesive, with clear community divisions and a defined inner core ( $k = 3$ ). Leadership is concentrated in a few nodes (19, 63, 18), supported by brokers who link subgroups. When these leaders are removed, the network becomes **fragmented**, revealing limited redundancy and a **moderate structural vulnerability** despite its local cohesion.

### 5.1.6 Ethnicity analysis

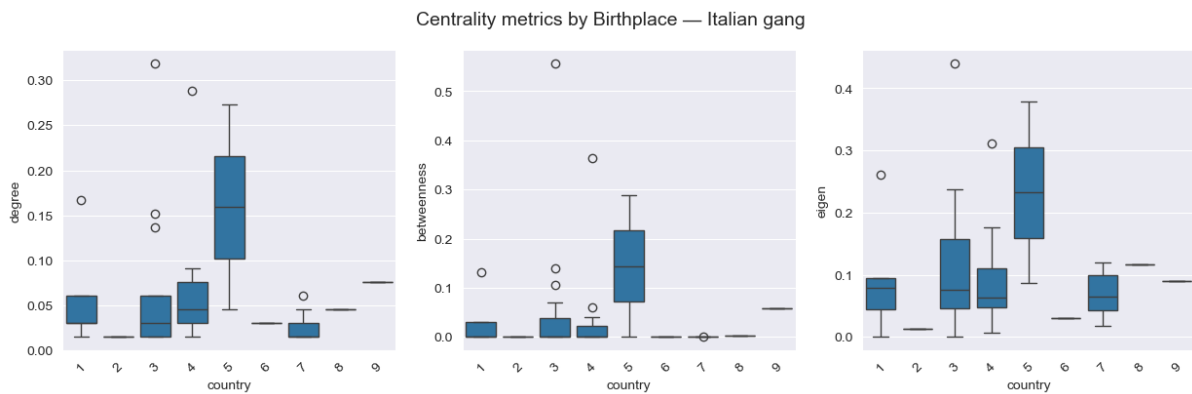
The analysis of the Italian gang network shows a **moderate tendency toward ethnic homophily**, with an assortativity coefficient of 0.150. This value suggests that individuals show a slight preference for connecting with others sharing the same *Birthplace*, though overall the network remains relatively integrated.

The **mixing matrix** confirms this trend: while several diagonal values (e.g., for groups 3, 4, and 5) are higher (indicating intra-group cohesion) many off-diagonal entries are also non-negligible. This demonstrates a considerable number of **cross-national connections**, supporting the idea of partial ethnic mixing.

Table 4: Mean centrality by Birthplace – Italian gang

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	0.018	0.000	0.031	0.004	0.004	0.000	0.022	0.009	0.000
2	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.004
3	0.031	0.000	0.096	0.053	0.031	0.000	0.061	0.004	0.004
4	0.004	0.000	0.053	0.228	0.013	0.009	0.035	0.000	0.004
5	0.004	0.000	0.031	0.013	0.009	0.000	0.026	0.000	0.009
6	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.009	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
7	0.022	0.000	0.061	0.035	0.026	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
8	0.009	0.000	0.004	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
9	0.000	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.009	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

When analyzing **centrality measures**, group 5 clearly stands out as the most central and structurally influential, with the highest mean degree (0.159), betweenness (0.144), and eigenvector centrality (0.233). Groups 3 and 9 also exhibit moderate centrality levels, suggesting participation in brokerage or connective roles. In contrast, groups such as 2, 6, and 7 show minimal centrality values, occupying peripheral positions within the network. Overall, influence appears somewhat concentrated but not monopolized by a single nationality.



The **community analysis** identified five major communities. Most of these display mixed ethnic compositions, with only one cluster (community 4) being entirely dominated by two groups (1 and 3). The mean Shannon diversity index ( $H = 1.174$ ) indicates high internal heterogeneity, suggesting that communities are composed of members from multiple national origins rather than segregated along ethnic lines.

Furthermore, 64.91% of all connections occur between individuals of different Birthplace categories, a clear indicator of **strong cross-ethnic integration**. This finding supports the interpretation that ethnic background is not a dominant organizing factor in the structure of the Italian gang.

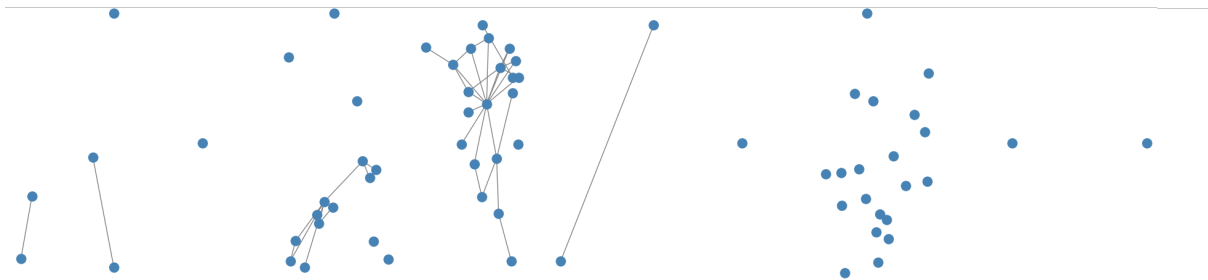
Subgraph analysis by *Birthplace* reveals additional information:

- Group 4 (21 nodes, density = 0.124) forms the largest and most internally cohesive subcommunity.

- Group **5**, although small (2 nodes), is fully interconnected (density = 1.000), representing a tightly bonded dyad.
- Other groups (6, 7, 8, 9) show limited or no internal links, implying **dependence on inter-ethnic ties** for maintaining connectivity.

Table 5: Subgraph-level statistics by Birthplace – Italian gang

Country	Nodes	Edges	Density	Clustering
1	5	2	0.200	0.000
2	1	0	0.000	0.000
3	15	11	0.105	0.156
4	21	26	0.124	0.294
5	2	1	1.000	0.000
6	1	0	0.000	0.000
7	20	0	0.000	0.000
8	1	0	0.000	0.000
9	1	0	0.000	0.000



In summary, the Italian gang exhibits **moderate homophily but high overall integration**, with collaboration patterns largely transcending national divisions. Ethnicity appears to play a **secondary role** in shaping relational dynamics.

## 5.2 London gang

### 5.2.1 Structural analysis

This section will report the results of the metrics mentioned in ?? regarding the London gang network 54 nodes, 315 edges.

In figure ?? a plot of the network is shown where each node is colored according to its birthplace label.

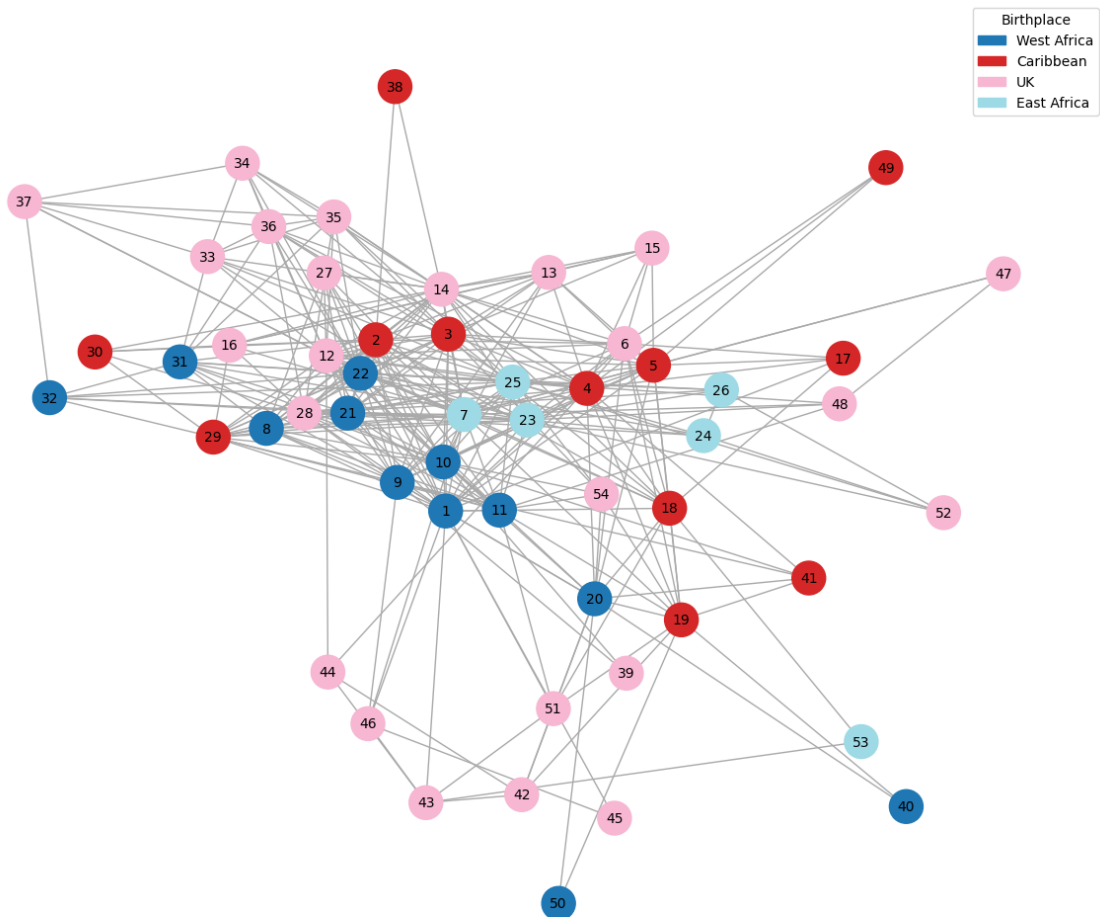


Figure 4: London Network graph visualization. Each node is colored according to its birthplace label

### 5.2.2 Macro-level Cohesion and Structure

These measures assess the overall "connectedness" and efficiency of the network as a whole.

<b>Metric</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>Interpretation (What it means)</b>
Density	0.2201	The network is extremely dense and highly interconnected.
Average Degree	11.67	On average, each member is connected to almost 12 others.
Average Path Length	2.05	Any two members can reach each other in just 2 "hops" on average.
Diameter	4	The maximum separation between any two members is 4 "hops".
Avg. Clustering Coeff.	0.6331	The network is rich in tightly-knit local subgroups (cliques).
Modularity	0.2665	The network operates as a single, cohesive bloc; it is not fragmented into separate factions.

### 5.2.3 Micro-level Centrality and Social Roles

These measures identify the most important nodes, allowing us to define social roles.

**Leaders** The most influential, connected, and central members.

<b>Node</b>	<b>Degree</b>	<b>Betweenness</b>	<b>Closeness</b>	<b>Eigenvector</b>
1	0.4717	0.1087	0.6543	0.2367
7	0.4717	0.0755	0.6543	0.2433
12	0.4717	0.0596	0.6386	0.2494

Table 6: Leader nodes (Degree  $\geq 0.4594$  & Eigenvector  $\geq 0.2357$ )

**Brokers** Members who act as "bridges" connecting different parts of the network.

<b>Node</b>	<b>Degree</b>	<b>Betweenness</b>	<b>Closeness</b>	<b>Eigenvector</b>
1	0.4717	0.1087	0.6543	0.2367
7	0.4717	0.0755	0.6543	0.2433
4	0.3962	0.0725	0.6163	0.1747

Table 7: Broker nodes (Betweenness  $\geq 0.0670$ )

**Peripheral Members** Marginal members with few connections, existing on the network's edges.

<b>Node</b>	<b>Degree</b>	<b>Betweenness</b>	<b>Closeness</b>	<b>Eigenvector</b>
38	0.0377	0.0000	0.4109	0.0256
39	0.0377	0.0000	0.3926	0.0258
40	0.0377	0.0000	0.3557	0.0107
45	0.0377	0.0000	0.4015	0.0164
50	0.0377	0.0000	0.3557	0.0107
53	0.0377	0.0003	0.3681	0.0088

Table 8: Peripheral nodes (Degree  $\leq 0.0377$ )

### 5.2.4 Hierarchy and Vulnerability

These measures test the power structure and resilience of the network.

**K-Core Decomposition** The most densely connected "core" of the network is identified. The analysis reveals a main core with a **k-value of 11**. This core consists of **13 nodes** (out of 54). The nodes in this core are: [1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 21, 22, 23, 25, 29].

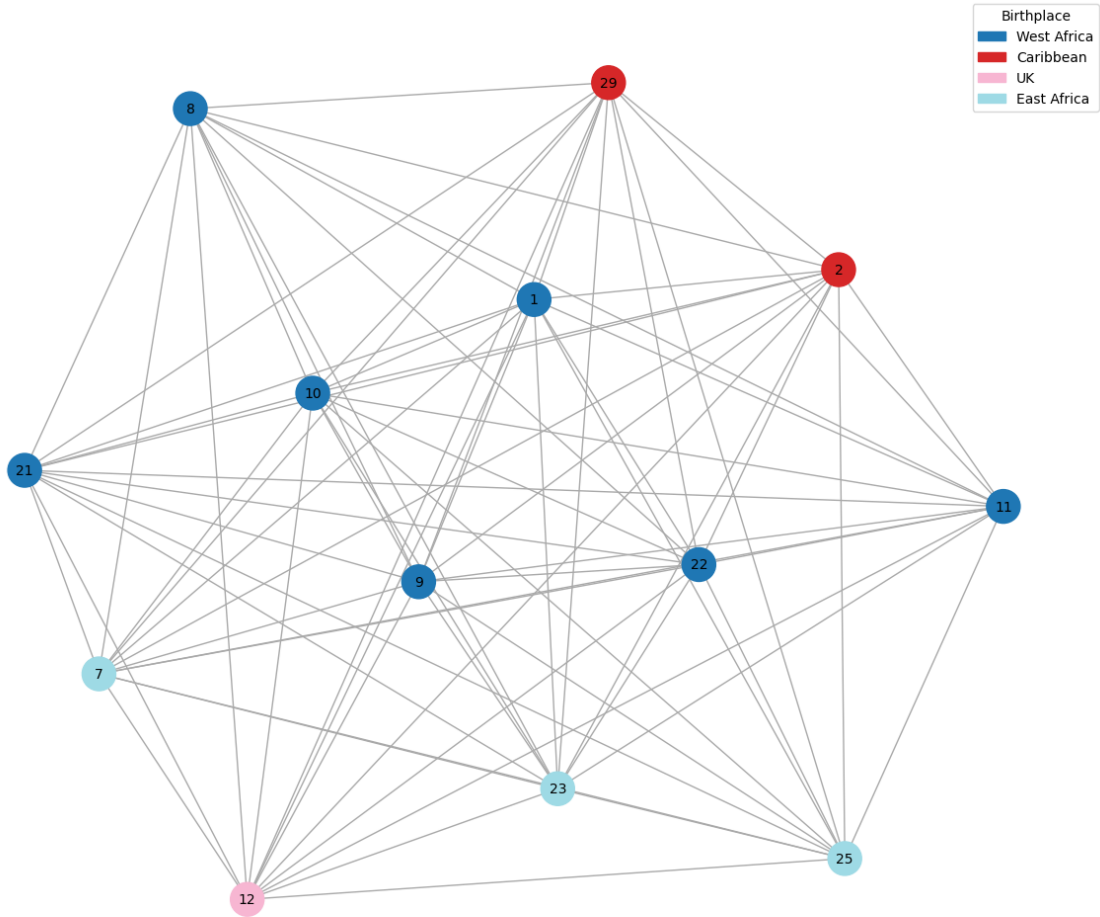


Figure 5: Core of London Network graph visualization.

**Vulnerability Simulation** We simulated the removal of the identified leaders (Nodes 1, 7, 12), representing a **5.56% reduction in nodes**, and recalculated cohesion metrics. This measure connects roles (leaders) to cohesion (robustness). The results show the network is **extremely robust**: removing the top 3 leaders did not fragment the network (it remained connected). The network density was reduced to **0.1906**, and the average path length increased to **2.2180** (an **8.00%** increase). The high density and clustering create redundancy, making the network resilient to targeted attacks.

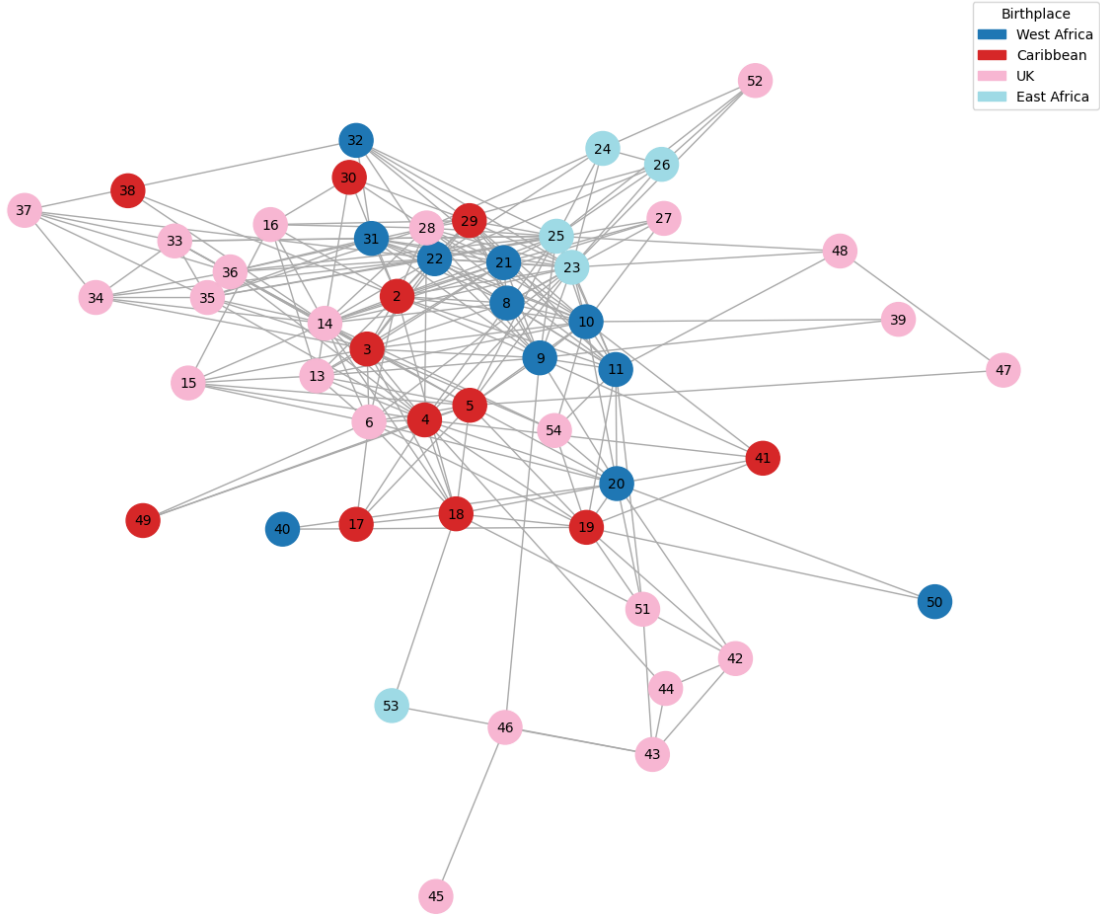


Figure 6: London Network sub-graph visualization without leaders.

### 5.2.5 Synthesis: Connection Between Data, Measures, and Properties

The **properties** are what we discovered: a "small-world" network (path length 2.05), highly cohesive (density 0.22), locally clustered (clustering 0.63), but undivided (modularity 0.26). It possesses a clear hierarchy (k-core 11) and defined social roles (Leaders 1, 7, 12), all of which combine to make it exceptionally **robust**.

### 5.2.6 Ethnicity analysis

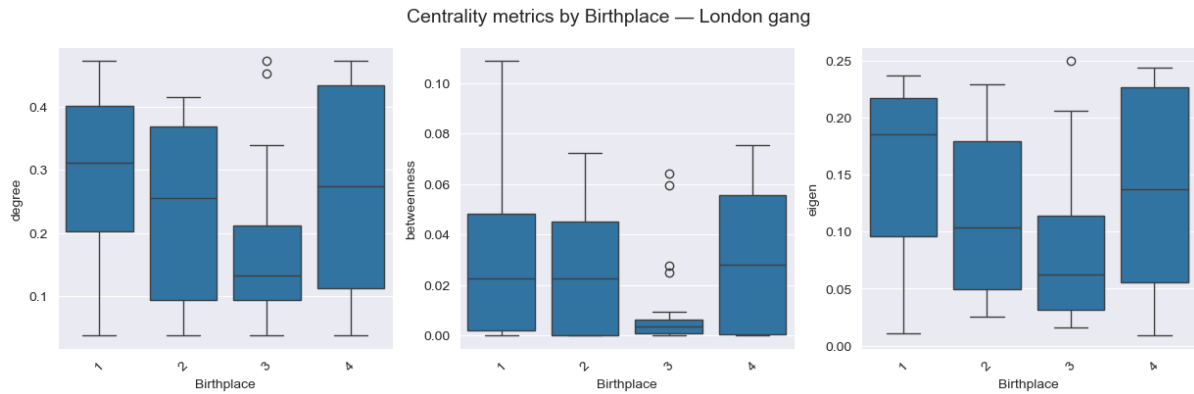
The analysis of the London gang network shows a **weak but positive tendency toward ethnic homophily**, with an assortativity coefficient of 0.113. This indicates that individuals display a mild preference for forming ties with others sharing the same *Birthplace*, although the overall network remains relatively integrated.

The **mixing matrix** confirms this observation: diagonal values (particularly for groups 1 and 3) are slightly higher, indicating intra-group cohesion, while off-diagonal entries remain substantial. This balance highlights the presence of numerous **cross-ethnic connections** within the gang's structure.

Table 9: Mixing matrix (proportion of connections between Birthplace groups) – London gang

	1	2	3	4
1	0.111	0.060	0.076	0.041
2	0.060	0.073	0.076	0.025
3	0.076	0.076	0.146	0.043
4	0.041	0.025	0.043	0.025

When analyzing **centrality measures**, groups 1 and 4 emerge as the most central and structurally influential, with the highest mean degrees (0.286 and 0.267 respectively) and eigenvector centralities (0.152 and 0.135). Group 2 follows closely, while group 3 (despite being the largest) exhibits the lowest centrality values, suggesting a more peripheral or clustered role. This pattern implies that influence and connectivity are distributed across multiple ethnic groups, rather than concentrated in a single one.



The **community analysis** identified four main communities, each with different degrees of ethnic diversity. Community 0 displays a relatively balanced composition (1: 38%, 2: 10%, 3: 29%, 4: 24%), while community 1 is dominated by groups 2 and 3. Communities 2 and 3 are less diverse, with community 2 almost entirely composed of group 3 members. The mean Shannon diversity index ( $H = 0.886$ ) indicates moderate internal diversity, slightly lower than in the Italian network.

Table 10: Community composition by Birthplace – London gang

Community	1	2	3	4
0	0.38	0.10	0.29	0.24
1	0.20	0.35	0.40	0.05
2	0.00	0.14	0.86	0.00
3	0.00	0.33	0.67	0.00

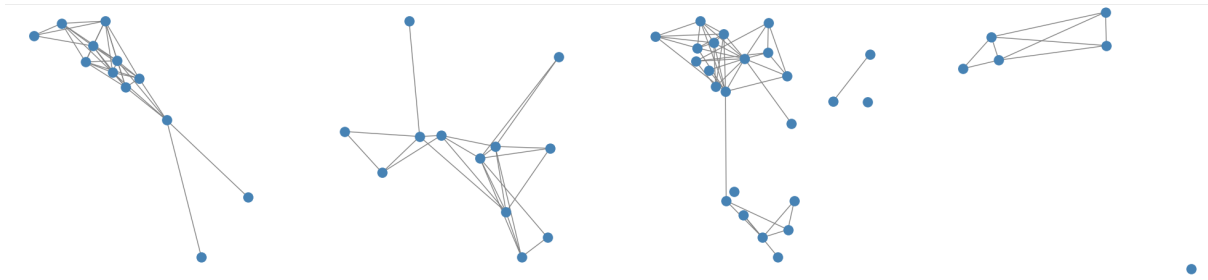
Furthermore, 64.44% of all connections occur between individuals of different *Birthplace* categories, demonstrating a high degree of cross-ethnic integration. As in the Italian case, national origin does not appear to be a key organizing principle in the network's structure.

Subgraph analysis by *Birthplace* provides additional insight:

- Groups **1** and **4** exhibit the highest internal density (0.530 and 0.533 respectively) and clustering, indicating strong intra-group cohesion.
- Group **3**, while the largest (24 nodes), has a lower internal density (0.167), suggesting looser internal connectivity and a more outward orientation.
- Group **2** shows intermediate density (0.348) and clustering, forming connections both internally and across groups.

Table 11: Subgraph-level statistics by Birthplace – London gang

Birthplace	Nodes	Edges	Density	Clustering
1	12	35	0.530	0.658
2	12	23	0.348	0.636
3	24	46	0.167	0.506
4	6	8	0.533	0.722



In summary, the London gang network displays slightly lower diversity but comparable integration when compared to the Italian case. While certain groups form cohesive internal clusters, the overall structure is characterized by extensive cross-ethnic linkage and distributed influence across national backgrounds. Ethnicity, therefore, plays only a minor role in shaping the gang's internal connectivity patterns.

## 5.3 Comparison

### General structural metrics

Centrality Metric	Italian Network	London Network
Density	0.0516	
Average Degree	3.0430	
Diameter	6	
Average Path Length	3.012	
Average Clustering Coefficient	0.4347	
Number of communities	5	
Modularity Score	0.5561	

### Centrality Metrics

Centrality Metric	Italian Network		London Network	
	Top 3 nodes	Value	Top 3 nodes	Value
Degree Centrality	19	0.3182		
	63	0.2879		
	18	0.2727		
Betweenness Centrality	19	0.5558		
	63	0.3633		
	18	0.2881		
Closeness Centrality	19	0.5397		
	63	0.4597		
	18	0.4563		
Eigenvector Centrality	19	0.4394		
	18	0.3784		
	63	0.3110		

### Roles and Vulnerability

		Italian Network	London Network
Leaders		19, 63, 18, 4	
Brokers		19, 63, 18, 47	
Peripheral		2, 3, 5, 17, 22, 26, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, 45, 46, 48, 49, 51, 53, 55, 56, 60, 61, 66, 67	
Main core	k	3	
	Number of nodes	20 (out of 67)	
	Nodes in the core	4, 8, 11, 12, 13, 15, 18, 19, 21, 24, 31, 32, 39, 41, 44, 47, 58, 59, 63, 64	
	Nodes	24 (64 remaining)	
After Removal	Number of components	18	
	Average shortest path length	3.1341	
	density	0.1014	
	Node reduction	64.18%	
	Increase in average path	4.05%	

## **6 Conclusion**

Qualitative analysis of the quantitative findings of the study.

## 7 Critique

Do you think your work solves the problem presented above? To which extent (completely, what parts)? Why? What could you have done differently to answer your research problems (e.g., gather data with additional information, build your model differently, apply alternative measures)?