

ACQUAINTANCE NETWORKS BETWEEN RACIAL GROUPS: APPLICATION OF THE SMALL WORLD METHOD ¹

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White "starter" persons in Los Angeles were asked to generate acquaintance chains to white and Negro target persons in New York, using the "small world method." The mean number of intermediaries between starters and target persons was similar to that found in earlier studies, approximately five to six, and this remained constant over differences in race of the target person. The number of completed chains was two and one-half times as great for white targets as for Negro targets. Explanations to account for the results are discussed.