Lecture 6: Foci

Matthew Salganik

Sociology 204: Social Networks, Spring 2021
Princeton University

2/3: Social structure

Affiliation network

Bipartite
Graph

Affiliation network

Bipartite
Graph

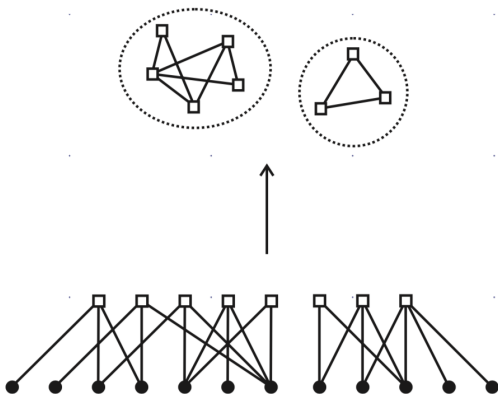► actors and movies

Affiliation network

Bipartite
Graph

► actors and movies
► scientists and papers

Affiliation network

Bipartite
Graph

- ► actors and movies
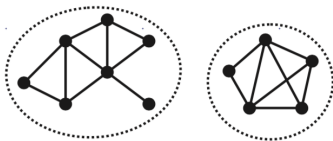- ► scientists and papers
- ► board members and boards of directors

Group Interlock
Network

Bipartite
Graph

Bipartite Graph

Actor Affiliation Network

The Focused Organization of Social Ties[1]

Scott L. Feld
State University of New York at Stony Brook

The Focused Organization of Social Ties[1]

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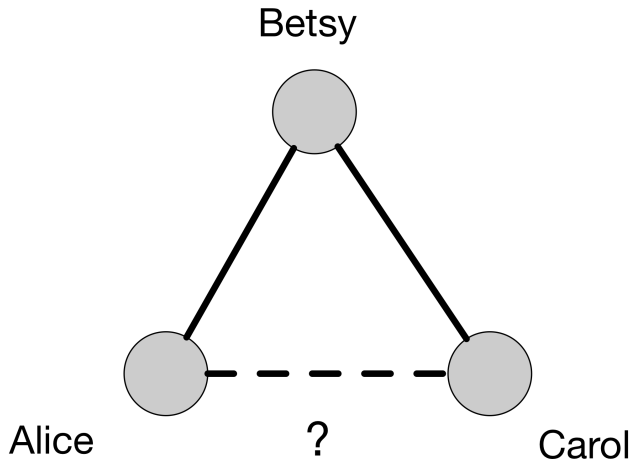
▶ you are stepping in a conversation

The Focused Organization of Social Ties[1]

Scott L. Feld
State University of New York at Stony Brook

- you are stepping in a conversation
- a very dense—but interesting—conversation

Foci: a social, psychological, or physical entity around which joint activities are organized.

Explaining triadic closure:
- ▶ balance theory vs foci
- ▶ psychology vs sociology
- ▶ agency vs structure

Roughly speaking: you don't pick your friends, your environment picks your friends for you

ALPHABET AND ATTRACTION:
AN UNOBTRUSIVE MEASURE OF THE EFFECT OF PROPINQUITY IN A FIELD SETTING[1]

MADY WECHSLER SEGAL [2]

Department of Sociology, Eastern Michigan University

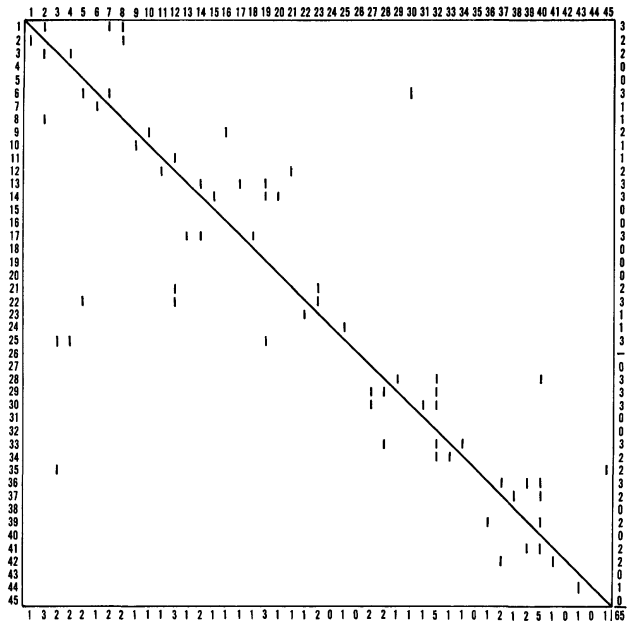FIGURE 1. Matrix of friendship choices. (Numbers across the top of the matrix indicate place in alphabetical order of *chosen*. Numbers down the left of the matrix indicate place in alpha-

RESIDENTIAL PROPINQUITY AS A FACTOR IN MARRIAGE SELECTION

JAMES H. S. BOSSARD
University of Pennsylvania

▶ study of 5,000 marriage licenses in which one or both applicant lived in Philadelphia (January - May 1931)

TABLE II

DISTRIBUTION, CUMULATIVELY OF FIVE THOUSAND MARRIAGES BY RESIDENTIAL PROPINQUITY BEFORE MARRIAGE

Number of Blocks Apart	Number of Cases	Per Cent
Same address......................	632	12.64
Within one block or less.............	859	17.18
Within two blocks or less............	1163	23.26
Within three blocks or less...........	1373	27.46
Within four blocks or less............	1528	30.56
Within five blocks or less............	1679	33.58
Within six blocks or less.............	1798	35.96
Within seven blocks or less...........	1889	37.78
Within eight blocks or less...........	1968	39.38
Within nine blocks or less............	2037	40.74
Within ten blocks or less............	2116	42.32
Within fifteen blocks or less..........	2400	48.00
Within twenty blocks or less.........	2597	51.94

▶ More than one in three couples involved a person lived within 5 blocks or less.

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▶ Bossard (1932): "Cupid may have wings, but apparently they are not adapted for long flights."

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- ▶ What do foci have to do with Facebook and Google+?