

THE NETWORK STRUCTURE OF POLICE MISCONDUCT

PROJECT

The discourse around police misconduct often pivots on whether such behaviors are driven by a few “bad apples” or larger systematic or institutional problems. The truth is likely somewhere in the middle. Whether criminal offending or corporate malfeasance, deviant behavior is a learned behavior and is influenced by the structure and content of social networks. Police misconduct is no exception and is most likely learned through informal relationships and interactions between officers. Indeed, on the first day “on the job,” police officers often hear some iteration of the idea: “Forget what they taught you in the police academy, I’m going to show you how *real* policing works.”

This hack is part of larger project aimed at understanding how social networks among police officers in Chicago are structured and might influence subsequent misconduct. Understanding how networks influence misconduct might provide a way to proactively identify officers who will be associated with more serious allegations, including shootings, and design interventions efforts accordingly.

PARTNERS

The Policy Lab ~ Yale’s new policy-research “maker’s space” for students, faculty, and policy makers.

The Justice Collaboratory ~ The Collaboratory brings together scholars of diverse theoretical and methodological orientations to work on issues related to institutional reform and policy innovation and advancement.

The Invisible Institute ~ is a journalistic production company based on the south-side of Chicago whose mission is to enhance the capacity of citizens to hold public institutions accountable.

Roman Rivera ~ A Masters student in Public Policy at the University of Chicago working with the Invisible Institute

Bocar Ba ~ A Ph.D. student in Public Policy at the University of Chicago working on issues of police accountability.

THE DATA

Data for this project come from [The Invisible Institute](#) which has been tracking police complaint data in the city of Chicago. Data on more than 56,000 complaints are openly available to the public in an impressive web interface through the [Citizen’s Police Data Project](#). Data for this project will come directly from the Data Project. For sake of the hack, hackers can start working with these cleaned (sub)datasets:

- [Example Complaint Data](#)
- [Example Officer Data](#)

THE HACK

The purpose of this Hack is to develop an interactive ego-map for officers that can be added to the [Citizen’s Police Data Project](#). The current Data Portal contains [detailed geographic and time information](#) on each officer, including “co-accused” officers The Hack is to develop an “ego-network” visualization tool for the Portal. Each ego-network would include all of the ties to unique individuals in an officer’s complaint history and the ties among them (as in Figure 1). Ideally, such an interface would be interactive, with clickable nodes displaying more detailed officer information, and perhaps with nodes given different colors based on some officer attribute

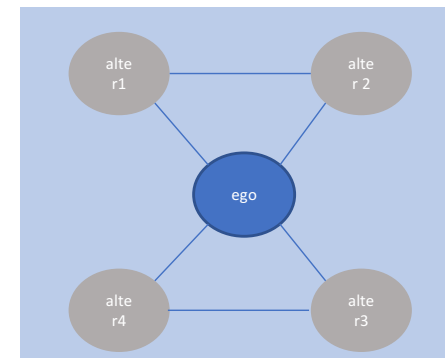


Figure 1. Ego network of one officer (Ego) and the ties among four fellow co-accused officers. Nodes = unique officers. Ties = instances of co-accusations