

A Network Analysis of the Evolution of Personal Research Networks Among IMP Researchers.

Pierangela Morlacchi,
9.3 WH, CriSPS,
School of Management,
University of Bath,
Claverton Down,
Bath, BA2 7AY
Tel. +44-1225-323152,
E-mail: mnppm@bath.ac.uk

Ian Wilkinson,
UWS Nepean

Louise Young,
UTS

Abstract

One aspect of the sociology of research that has received some attention over the years is the cooperation between individual researchers in the form of invisible colleges.

One way in which this a phenomenon has been investigated is via co-citation analysis which show the links between researchers in terms of which ones are cited in the same articles. Another way of addressing this issue is in terms of the more direct links between people reflected in the joint authorship of papers. This more directly reflects research communities stemming from various factors including: Professor-Student, Institution, propinquity, research interests and methods, etc.

In this paper we use the history of IMP conferences to examine the direct and indirect links between researchers and to identify subgroups within the IMP community and how they evolve over time. Using the techniques of Network Structure Analysis we develop measures of the role and centrality of various people in the IMP community and correlate this with other characteristics of the individual researcher. The results show the broad patterns in scale and structure of relations within the IMP research community over time from its beginning in 1984 to 1999.

References

Carley, K. and Hummon, N. (1993) Scientific influence among social networkers, *Social Networks*, 15, 71-108.

Ford D. (Ed.) (1997) *Understanding Business Markets*, Dryden Press, London, UK.

Liebeskind, J.P., Oliver, A. L., Zucker, L. and Brewer, M. (1996) Social Networks, Learning, and Flexibility: Sourcing Scientific Knowledge in New Biotechnology Firms, *Organization Science*, 7, 4, 428-443.

Merton, R. (1973) *The Sociology of Science*, University of Chicago Press, Chicago, IL.

Wasserman, S. and Faust, K. (1994) *Social Network Analysis. Methods and Applications*, Cambridge University Press.