

Network

A collection of definitions, meanings, ...

Note: This compilation, mostly, includes quotes from relevant articles from the free online encyclopaedia Wikipedia in English. All references cited in these quotations (original numbering) can be found in the respective Wikipedia article. Quotes from the German version of the free online encyclopaedia Wikipedia have been translated into English for the purpose of the INCREASE project. This also applies to other non-English language sources.

Social Network

“A social network is a social structure made up of a set of social actors (such as individuals or organizations), sets of dyadic ties, and other social interactions between actors. The social network perspective provides a set of methods for analysing the structure of whole social entities as well as a variety of theories explaining the patterns observed in these structures.^[1] The study of these structures uses social network analysis to identify local and global patterns, locate influential entities, and examine network dynamics.”

“Social networks and the analysis of them is an inherently interdisciplinary academic field which emerged from social psychology, sociology, statistics, and graph theory. (...) Social network analysis is now one of the major paradigms in contemporary sociology, and is also employed in a number of other social and formal sciences. Together with other complex networks, it forms part of the nascent field of network science.”^{[4][5]}

“The social network is a theoretical construct useful in the social sciences to study relationships between individuals, groups, organizations, or even entire societies (social units, see differentiation). The term is used to describe a social structure determined by such interactions. The ties through which any given social unit connects represent the convergence of the various social contacts of that unit.”

Levels of analysis: In general, social networks are self-organizing, emergent, and complex, such that a globally coherent pattern appears from the local interaction of the elements that make up the system.^{[32][33]} These patterns become more apparent as network size increases. However, a global network analysis^[34] of, for example, all interpersonal relationships in the world is not feasible and is likely to contain so much information as to be uninformative. Practical limitations of computing power, ethics and participant recruitment and payment also limit the scope of a social network analysis.^{[35][36]} The nuances of a local system may be lost in a large network analysis, hence the quality of information may be more important than its scale for understanding network properties. Thus, social networks are analysed at the scale relevant to the researcher's theoretical question. Although levels of analysis are not necessarily mutually exclusive, there are three general levels into which networks may fall: micro-level, meso-level, and macro-level.

(Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_network) [17.8.2016]

“The quality of an individual's **social network** is another founding component of resilience (...). The network may include friends, family, neighbours or community support. Resilience is a complex phenomenon that arises both from within and from without. It is a combination of what an individual does from within for himself and of what others do for him from without.

For example, individuals in contact with a child who has been neglected or abused can substitute for incompetent or absent relatives. The social network of adults who have been raped, assaulted, or who have survived a war or a natural disaster can be constructive in providing a channel for communication and empathetic understanding in moments of distress. This type of support helps the adult rebuild confidence in human relations. A good listener who is attuned to the adult's suffering gives him some of the energy he needs to rebuild himself.

The **acceptance** of a person who has been damaged by those with whom he is in contact is an essential element to all interpersonal reconstruction. As Rogers indicated, this person should find herself unconditionally accepted as he is and welcomed without judgment or doubt (...) Interventions by helping relationship professionals or a peer counselling networks of people or families who also experienced the same situation, can generate a positive outcome. These can provide understanding without judging the individual."

Source: Phaneuf, Margot (2007): Resilience: Abstract Concept or Survival Skill? (download: http://www.prendresoin.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Resilience_abstract_concept.pdf) [7.11.2016]

Network poverty

Network poverty stands for "a lack of social relationships, social activities and contacts, especially with friends." It is characterised by a low network density. The effects of network poverty include "loneliness and frustration" and the "lack of opportunities to develop and utilise skills."

"Temporary network poverty can have external and temporary causes, including as a result of a change of residence. A longer form can be caused by psychological problems, especially commitment issues, but also by language deficits, social exclusion and economic poverty. If network poverty has mainly (mostly unconscious) psychological causes, psychotherapy may help those affected to positively influence the causes of their situations."

(Source: <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Netzwerkarmut>) [17.8.2016]

Personal Network

"A **personal network** is the set of human contacts known to an individual, with whom that individual would expect to interact at intervals to support a given set of activities. In other words, a personal network is a group of caring, dedicated people who are committed to maintain a relationship with a person in order to support a given set of activities. Having a strong personal network requires being connected to a network of resources for mutual development and growth."

"Personal networking is the practice of developing and maintaining a personal network, which is usually undertaken over an extended period."

(Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Personal_network) [17.8.2016]

"(...) the new network organizations contract out any business function, that can be done better or more cheaply. In essence, managers in network structures spend most of their time coordinating and controlling external relations (...)."

(Source:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organizational_structure#Organizational_circle:_moving_block_to_flat) [01.12.2016]