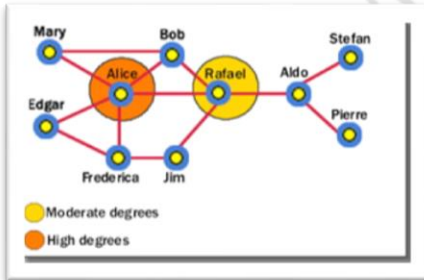


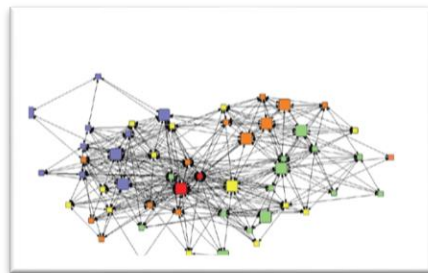


Social Network Analysis of REACCH Collaboration

David Meyer, Boise State University



The challenge REACCH PNA participants have is not merely to collaborate, but to integrate our efforts in a way that helps us achieve REACCH PNA project goals. Given that our task is to solve problems whose solutions are beyond of the scope of a single discipline or research practice, how do we know the "right" level of cross-disciplinary integration?



The social network analysis (SNA) project objective is to assess the degree to which the multiple scientific disciplines within REACCH PNA are working together. Two measures, degree centrality (a measure of how many direct relations an individual has within a network) and betweenness centrality (a measure of a person's position within a network in terms of their ability to make connections to other pairs or groups in a network) will be used to identify the integration quality among individuals and groups active within the REACCH PNA social network. These result can be used alone to visually represent our integration efforts and in conjunction with other assessment activities, including qualitative interviews, quantitative surveys, and structured discussions.

Pictures shown, from top to bottom, are:

- 1) Sample SNA graph highlighting degree centrality and betweenness centrality
- 2) Sample SNA graph highlighting the communication patterns between different academic disciplines

Some of the questions that may be addresses using this approach include:

- How well do our communication patterns and relationships match and support the project's goal?
- How balanced is the weaving of disciplines or fields of expertise?
- Who are the primary "information brokers" that link otherwise separate groups?
- Can we build more efficient communication patters within and across objective teams?

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