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Networks and Organizations Guest Editors' Foreword

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This special issue ('Networks and Organizations') is dedicated to a set of selected papers that were presented at the 1st edition of the Social Network Environments Conference (SoNetE) held in Bucharest, between May 27 and May 31, 2013, and organized by the Department of Sociology (University of Bucharest) and Department of International Relations and European Integration (National University of Political Studies and Public Administration)[1]. The four papers, included in this issue, either present specific theories within the wide field of social networks or report empirical findings produced by applied social network analysis to specific research topics.

Before briefly presenting the above mentioned selected papers, we would like to special thank Pamela Emanuelson (North Dakota State University) for her willing to give us an excellent detailed presentation of the Elementary Theory, a theory which 'infers interests from conditions of social structure and uses that information to predict interaction outcomes' (Emanuelson, this issue). In her discourse about the Elementary Theory, Pamela Emanuelson reviews how the theory models social structure and the seven conditions of structure (i.e. exclusion, inclusion, null, inclusion-null, inclusion-exclusion, hierarchy/mobility and ordering) known to affect one type of human

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activity, the exercise of power. Furthermore, Pamela Emanuelson ends up with a brief presentation of the recent theoretical developments of the Elementary Theory.

Moreover, we wish to express our appreciation to Yamilette Chacon (University of South Carolina) and Paula Tufiș (University of Bucharest) for their valuable support in putting forth this special IRSR volume.

Turning to the papers included in this volume, we start our presentation with the paper signed by Eliza-Olivia Lungu, Ana-Maria Zamfir and Cristina Mocanu. This paper explores the early career mobility of the Romanian higher education graduates using the network analysis approach. Within their research design, the nodes are represented by occupations (3 digits groups according to ISCO 88), while the links represent movements of individuals from one job to another. Considering that the occupations are related to each other via transferable skills, the authors visualize paths of mobility and calculate network indicators in order to understand models of connectivity between occupations. Exploiting a dataset on working histories of higher education graduates from Romania during their early career, the three authors aimed at providing a novel evidence on the fact that individuals move according to certain career pathways and that the entrance occupation influence their subsequent career.

The paper by Balazs Telegdy addresses the problem of identifying the central and peripheral actors in two ethnically homogenous high-school classes and explores the differences between positive and negative tie networks in terms of structural characteristics. The author used density and centrality indicators to investigate if negative networks are the inverse of positive networks, when using relational data collected from the same group of individuals. Balazs Telegdy reports that there is no definite answer whether those persons who are on the periphery of a positive network will also be on the periphery of the negative network as well. However, he argues that negative networks are highly polarized in comparison with positive networks.

The paper by Tudor Rat propose a possible future development of KPP-1 algorithm constructed by Borgatti (2003). The author argues that, after removing key-players via the application of KPP-1 algorithm, the remaining fragmented networks are not expected, theoretically, to decrease their operational capacity. Put it differently, the remaining nodes might be expected whether to act as relational *magnets* (developing new ties) or as *leeches* (attaching themselves to other nodes). Rat suggests that KPP-1 algorithm could be developed as to indicate to what degree a specific node might act as a magnet or as a leech.

The paper by Cristina Posastiuc discusses how structural conduciveness could be measured as an index by looking at certain social network metrics such as k-core analysis or density. The author builds her view on the Social Strain Theory (or Value-Added Theory), according to which special types of collective behavior (e.g. mass protests) emerge if certain conditions co-occur: good structural conduciveness of the group, a pre-existing structural strain, a formed generalized belief, the appearance of

precipitating factors, a grass-roots or top-down mobilization for the action and the already formed perception that the social control instruments are no longer in the hands of authorities.

In the end, we would like to stress two additional contributions to this special issue: the brief overview that Marian-Gabriel Hâncean gives to the current state of the social network analysis within Romanian sociology community and the short presentation of social network analysis software packages made by Ioana Apostolato.

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Note

[1] See: sonete.sas.unibuc.ro. Retrieved: October 22, 2013.