

## **RSS01.E2 Applied Social Network Analysis detailed program**

In this class, you will learn about the power and limitations of a scientific research framework to, quite literally, change the world.

It will be an intense intellectual challenge that starts before this course and hopefully lasts a long time after.

Through the assigned readings, you will be challenged to rethink how the world works and connect the previously known dots in a different way. You will struggle through the process of working with imperfect data and software. And, most importantly, you will be challenged to put your research into perspective – to think about ways in which you can make it better, more visible, and actionable.

The presence of ample data sources, types, and volumes transforms Social Network Analysis into a powerful workhouse for relational data. Integrating Social Network Analysis with Mixed Method expands the scope and the depth of analysis along with handy practical interpretations, an option appealing to both social scientists, as well as relevant parties in the field. Familiarity and ability in dealing with data pre-processing and data wrangling is indeed pivotal. Therefore, the course is highly personalized to each participant's research project.

We will work with you on your specific research interests, data, and objectives.

We will discuss these with the entire cohort, in groups, as well as individually. You are thus encouraged to bring your own data and work through each level of analysis throughout the week together. If you do not yet have data, that is fine.

We provide interesting data, and you can work on research design and the plan for data collection.

We designed the course for an interdisciplinary cohort of participants.

We will cover three new things for most who attend:

- (1) problem perspective and jargon
- (2) data and software
- (3) analytic techniques and interpretation of results.

Here is what to expect from this learning experience:

### **Pre-course:**

- Interdisciplinary readings (network science, social network analysis, political network analysis, organizational network analysis, policy network analysis)
- Software fundamentals (tutorials of R and Gephi)

### **Course:**

- Day 1 – Social Network Analysis & Network Data – Past, Present and Future
- Day 2 – Insights at the Network Level – Understanding Complex Ecosystems
- Day 3 – Insights at the Community Level – Understanding Groups and Group Dynamics
- Day 4 – Insights at the Individual Level – Understanding Key Actors, Their Potential and Limitations
- Day 5 – Causality in Networks – Intro to Inferential Network Analysis & Impact Assessment

### **Post-course:**

- Feeling overwhelmed, excited, and developing a passion for networks 😊