Digging a vertex, finding the edges
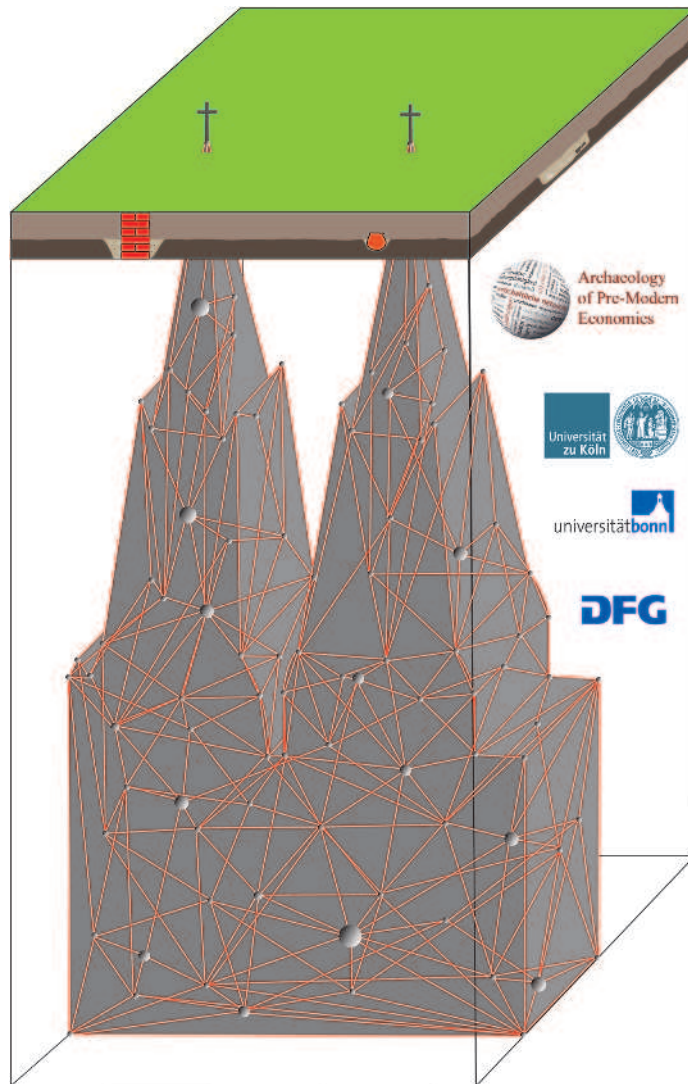
Approaches to Social Network Analysis in Archaeology

Examples from the Aegean and Mesoamerica

Archaeology of Pre-Modern Economics

Universität zu Köln

universitätbonn

DFG

International Workshop
3 – 4 July 2015
Cologne

Social Network Analysis has become increasingly attractive to the social sciences, amongst them an archaeology interested in social and economic interaction. For a long time the term "network" had been used in a metaphorical sense to characterize social, geographical, and economic relations. Current network approaches offer analytical tools for analyzing social facts by measuring contact. In studies of contemporary societies, direct observation can be used whilst a proxy approach is required in archaeology.

The two-day workshop focuses on theoretical and methodological issues, it investigates the potential of formal social network analysis in archaeology.

Archaeological case studies are from the Aegean and from Mesoamerica – two key areas of network studies in archaeology. Without historical links between both hemispheres, these areas are well suited for a comparative perspective. There are similar developments (e.g. obsidian exchange systems, the rise of rivalling state societies), and clear differences (e.g. the role of seafaring transport).

The invited speakers are eminent figures in network analysis in archaeology as well as in the archaeologies of the case study areas. They give an overview of their field of expertise, discuss methodological issues, evaluate the state of affairs and look into future developments. The speakers are introduced and their work is reviewed by respondents from the Cologne-Bonn Research Training Group.

Friday, 3rd July

09:00–09:30
Registration

09:30
Welcoming address

10:00–12:00

Tom Brughmans (Konstanz)
The potential of network science for archaeology. Illustrated through a network model of Roman tableware distribution in the Eastern Mediterranean
Respondent: Katerina Ragkou (Cologne)

Carl Knappett / Cristina Ichim (Toronto)
Sets as nets: Configuring artefacts associations as networks to reveal functional sets
Respondent: Svenja Carolin Neumann (Bonn)

12:00–13:30

Lunch break

13:30–15:30

Jessica Munson (California)
Reconstructing cultural transmission pathways with Classic Maya hieroglyphic monuments: Analytical challenges for archaeological Network science
Respondent: Marthe Gundelach (Cologne)

Gary M. Feinman / Mark Golitko / Linda M. Nicholas (Chicago)
A network analysis of pre-hispanic obsidian exchange: Implications for macro-regional dynamics and ancient economies
Respondent: Susanne Reichert (Bonn)

15:30-16:00
Break and refreshments

16:00-17:00

Mark Golitko / Gary M. Feinman / Linda M. Nicholas (Chicago)
Archaeological Network Analysis viewed through Mesoamerican Obsidian: Prospects and Challenges
Respondent: Tomáš Zachar (Cologne)

17:30-19:30

Evening Lecture

Allen W. Wilhite (Huntswill)
Network effects on trade, decision making, culture, and political structure

09:00-11:00

Geoffrey E. Braswell (San Diego)
From Vertices to Actants: Two Approaches to Network Analysis in Mesoamerican Archaeology
Respondent: Christian Mader (Bonn)

Andrew Bevan (London)
Computational, spatial and comparative approaches to socio-economic interaction in human history
Respondent: Michaela Reinfeld (Cologne)

11:00-11:30
Break and refreshments

11:30-12:30

Timothy Evans (London)
Networks and space: The effects of space on network analysis
Respondent: Tobias Gutmann (Bonn)

12:30

Final Discussion and Closing Remarks

Conference venue:
Tagungsraum 004
Seminargebäude der Universität zu Köln
Universitätsstraße 37
50931 Köln

Please register in advance (ina.borkenstein@uni-koeln.de) or come to the registration desk at the workshop.