Structural analysis in the social sciences 4

*Political networks: the structural perspective*
Structural analysis in the social sciences
Mark Granovetter, editor

Other books in the series
Ronald Breiger, editor, *Social Mobility and Social Structure*
Mark S. Mizruchi and Michael Schwartz, editors, *Intercorporate Relations: The Structural Analysis of Business*
Barry Wellman and S. D. Berkowitz, editors, *Social Structures: A Network Approach*

The series Structural Analysis in the Social Sciences presents approaches that explain social behavior and institutions by reference to relations among such concrete social entities as persons and organizations. This contrasts with at least four other popular strategies: (1) reductionist attempts to explain by a focus on individuals alone; (2) explanations stressing the causal primacy of such abstract concepts as ideas, values, mental harmonies and cognitive maps (thus, “structuralism” on the Continent should be distinguished from structural analysis in the present sense); (3) technological and material determinism; and (4) explanations using “variables” as the main analytic concepts (as in the “structural equation” models that dominated much 1970s sociology), where the “structure” is that connecting variables rather than actual social entities.

The “social network” approach is an important example of the strategy of structural analysis; the series also draws on social science theory and research that is not framed explicitly in network terms, but stresses the importance of relations rather than the atomization of reductionism or the determinism of ideas, technology, or material conditions. Though the structural perspective has become extremely popular and influential in all the social sciences, it does not have a coherent identity, and no series yet pulls together such work under a single rubric. By bringing the achievements of structurally oriented scholars to a wider public, the series hopes to encourage the use of this very fruitful approach.

Mark Granovetter
Political Networks
The Structural Perspective

David Knoke
University of Minnesota
To Roberta and Kathryn
Contents

List of tables and figures viii
Preface ix
Acknowledgments xi
1 Politics in structural perspective 1
2 Voting and political participation 29
3 Social movements (written with Nancy Wisely) 57
4 Organizational power (written with Naomi J. Kaufman) 85
5 Community power structures 119
6 Elites in the nation state 149
7 International relations (written with Jodi Burmeister-May) 175
8 Toward a structural political economy 203
Appendix: Some fundamentals of network analysis 235
References 241
Index 283
Tables and figures

Tables
2.1 Characteristics of ego political networks 51
2.2 Multiple classification analyses of political activities by ego networks: deviations from dependent variable means 53
7.1 Exports among twelve nations in 1980 188
7.2 Military and political treaties (1980) 197
7.3 Block images for trade and treaty relations 200
8.1 Micro-structural to macro-structural relations 204

Figures
1.1 Types of power as combinations of influence and domination 5
2.1 Three hypothetical ego networks 40
2.2 Hypothetical egocentric networks of varying political form and content 49
4.1 Hierarchical authority structure in a department store 92
4.2 Informal communication structure in a department store 94
5.1 Condensed digraph of elite informal social relations in Alteusdadt 131
5.2 Community affairs discussion network in Alteusdadt, smallest space analysis 132
5.3 Hypothetical oppositional models 135
5.4 Ideal types of brokerage roles 145
6.1 Communication distances among fourteen labor policy clusters 166
6.2 Legislative event collective actors in U.S. labor policy domain 170
7.1 Spatial distances in world system of trade and treaty relations 198
A.1 Directed-graph and matrix representations of hypothetical political discussion network 237
Preface

Structural analysis in its contemporary form is less that two decades old. In that time it has matured from an intellectual social movement to an established specialty spanning several traditional disciplines. Steadily expanding literatures employing the network perspective on social behavior have accumulated. A set of interdisciplinary journals and regular professional meetings in the United States and Europe provide the critical mass to sustain this collective enterprise. Several generations of scholars are concurrently consolidating theoretical and empirical research advances using sophisticated structural analysis concepts, data, and principles. The aim of this book is to enhance the appreciation of structural analysis for improving our knowledge of political phenomena at all levels from primary groups to the world system. The primary audience is other serious scholars who study power with various intellectual tools. We do not assume a great familiarity with sophisticated mathematical techniques, although a brief appendix of technical terms is provided. Rather, we seek to convince our readers at the conceptual level of comprehension and leave to their own discretion how much quantitative depth they wish to acquire from numerous network methodology primers. By making detailed examinations of the roots of structural analysis, its ties to and divergences from alternative theoretical and methodological perspectives, and its contributions to political research, my coauthors and I hope to persuade the members of a wider intellectual community that the network approach to power has much to offer them.

Each substantive chapter focuses on key relational dimensions of political power in a different social institution. After presenting existing alternative approaches, we show how structural principles can be applied to illuminate unexplained features of the phenomena. Recent empirical research writings are reviewed for contributions, and some illustrative analyses of previously unpublished data are presented to demonstrate the power of network power analysis. “Looking Forward” sections at the end of each chapter offer agendas for theory construction and research projects that could make significant contributions to knowledge. Our hope is that both old hands and new converts to the structural analysis perspective will
Preface

pursue these topics and others of their own devising, thereby advancing the frontiers of our collective understanding.

University of Minnesota
August 1989
Acknowledgments

Anyone who analyzes structural relations for a living realizes how much we owe to other people for ideas, inspiration, and support. This book is no exception, as I have acquired over the years a large network of colleagues who have shaped my perceptions of social theory and research. I have benefited in multiple ways from their advice, papers, articles, book reviews, conference sessions, editorial work, research assistance, data and computer programs, collaboration, criticism, encouragement, and emotional support. I hope I have reciprocated, if not in kind, then in complement. I have never attempted to diagram my egocentric intellectual network for fear that the ramifying threads beyond the first-order zone would be a tangled, indecipherable web. So out of expedience, I merely list here all the direct contacts that I can recall over the years who contributed in some form or another to my development as a network scholar. I praise them all for their unstinting efforts to raise the standards of scholarship to new heights: Mark Abrahamson, Howard Aldrich, Duane Alwin, Steve Berkowitz, Lawrence Bobo, Richard Braungart, Frank Burleigh, Jodi Burmeister-May, Paul Burstein, Ronald Burt, Elisabeth Clemens, James Coleman, Hilda Daniels, James Davis, Bonnie Erickson, Harmut Esser, Roberto Fernandez, William Form, Joseph Galaskiewicz, Mark Granovetter, Miguel Guilarte, Thomas Gutberbock, Robert Huckfeldt, Hans Hummell, Naomi J. Kaufman, Arne Kalleberg, Edward Kick, Young-Hak Kim, Bert Klandermans, James Kuukkinski, Edward Laumann, Joel Levine, Doug McAdam, Bernard McMullan, J. Miller McPherson, Peter Marsden, Joanne Miller, Nicholas Mullins, Norman Nie, Franz Pappi, Bernice Pescosolido, Walter Powell, David Prensky, Larry Raffalovich, David Rogers, Kay Lehman Schlozman, Thomas Scott, W. Richard Scott, Thomas Smith, Lynn Smith-Lovin, Wolfgang Sodeur, Joe Spaeth, Susan Stephens, Frans Stokman, Sheldon Stryker, Ad Teulings, Michael Useem, Jan van den Bos, Sidney Verba, Stanley Wasserman, David Whetten, Barry Wellman, Douglas White, Harrison White, Robert White, Nancy Wisely, James Wood, Christine Wright-Ibak and many anonymous referees and reviewers. I also thank the following organizations for providing financial support and facilities at various data collection, analysis, and writing phases of projects reported herein: the National Science Foundation,
Acknowledgments

the National Institute of Mental Health, the Russell Sage Foundation, the Fulbright Commission, the General Social Survey at the National Opinion Research Center, the University of Chicago, Indiana University, the University of Minnesota, Christian Albrechts University zu Kiel, and the Cambridge University Press. Finally, but far from least, the continuing bonds with Joann and Margaret are inseparable from the quality of work and love.

Grateful acknowledgment is made for permission to reprint the following quotations:


From Peter M. Blau and W. Richard Scott, 1962. Formal Organizations, permission granted by Peter Blau.


From Edward O. Laumann and David Knake, 1987. The Organizational State: A Perspective on National Energy and Health Domains, permission granted by the University of Wisconsin Press.

Acknowledgments


From Howard E. Aldrich, 1979. Organizations and Environments, permission granted by Howard E. Aldrich.


xiv  Acknowledgments

