

Network Science in Archaeology

Network Science in Archaeology provides the first comprehensive guide to a field of research that has firmly established itself within archaeological practice in recent years. Network science methods are commonly used to explore big archaeological datasets and are essential for the formal study of past relational phenomena: social networks, transport systems, communication, and exchange. The volume offers a step-by-step description of network science methods and explores its theoretical foundations and applications in archaeological research, which are elaborately illustrated with archaeological examples. It also covers a vast range of network science techniques that can enhance archaeological research, including network data collection and management, exploratory network analysis, sampling issues and sensitivity analysis, spatial networks, and network visualization. An essential reference handbook for both beginning and experienced archaeological network researchers, the volume includes boxes with definitions, boxed examples, exercises, and online supplementary learning and teaching materials.

Tom Brughmans is Associate Professor of Classical Archaeology at the Centre for Urban Network Evolutions (UrbNet), Aarhus University. His research explores how social networks connected people throughout history, how large integrated economies like the Roman Empire could function for centuries, and how expansive communication systems using fire and smoke-signaling worked.

Matthew A. Peeples is Associate Professor of Anthropology in the School of Human Evolution and Social Change, and Director of the Center for Archaeology and Society at Arizona State University. His research focuses on integrating archaeological data with methods and models from the broader social sciences to address questions regarding the nature of human social networks over the long term.

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CONTENTS

<i>List of Tables</i>	<i>page</i> viii
<i>List of Boxes</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	x
<i>Introduction to the Online Resources Associated with This Book</i>	xii
1 Introducing Network Science for Archaeology	1
1.1 What Are Networks and What Is Network Science?	1
1.2 Where Does Network Science Fit in Archaeology?	11
1.3 Trends in Archaeological Network Research	16
1.4 How to Read This Book	20
1.5 Summary	23
Further Reading	24
2 Putting Network Science to Work in Archaeological Research	26
2.1 Introduction	26
2.2 Approaches to Networks in Archaeology	27
2.3 Material Culture Networks	28
2.4 Movement Networks	36
2.5 Spatial Proximity Networks	42
2.6 Visibility Networks	44
2.7 Applications Many and Varied	47
2.8 Datasets and Exercises	52
2.9 Summary	62
Further Reading	62
3 Network Data	64
3.1 What Are Network Data?	64
3.2 Network Data Formats	67
3.3 Types of Networks	72
3.4 Longitudinal Network Data	92
3.5 Best Practice Guidelines	97
3.6 Summary	98
Further Reading	99
Exercises	99

vi CONTENTS

4	Exploratory Network Analysis	103
4.1	What Is Exploratory Network Analysis?	103
4.2	Which Analytical Method Should I Use?	104
4.3	How Do I Interpret My Analytical Results?	105
4.4	Exploratory Network Analysis Methods	107
4.5	Don't Stop Here!	143
4.6	Summary	145
	Further Reading	146
	Exercises	146
5	Quantifying Uncertainty in Archaeological Networks	149
5.1	Error and Uncertainty in Networks and Beyond	149
5.2	Missing or Poor Quality Information in Archaeological Networks	155
5.3	A General Approach to Uncertainty for Archaeological Network Data	162
5.4	Coping with Uncertainty	186
5.5	Summary	188
	Further Reading	189
	Exercises	190
6	Network Visualization	193
6.1	A Picture Is Worth a Thousand Words	193
6.2	Node Placement and Graph Layout	200
6.3	Visualizing Node and Edge Properties and Attributes	209
6.4	Visualizing Communities and Groups	220
6.5	Visualizing Networks through Time	225
6.6	Interactive Visualizations	230
6.7	Case Study: Visualizing Networks in the US Southwest	231
6.8	Summary	234
	Further Reading	235
	Exercises	236
7	Spatial Networks and Networks in Space	237
7.1	What Are Spatial Networks?	237
7.2	Archaeological Spatial Networks	239
7.3	Planar Networks	241
7.4	Exploratory Network Methods Designed for Spatial Networks	244
7.5	Spatial Network Models	246
7.6	Case Studies	254
7.7	Summary	259
	Further Reading	260
	Exercises	261
8	Uniting Theory and Method for Archaeological Network Research	263
8.1	The Potential of Relational Thinking in Archaeology	264
8.2	Developing a Trajectory of Archaeological Network Research	266

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Tom Brughmans , Matthew A. Peeples
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CONTENTS vii

8.3	Relational Theories Here, There, and Everywhere	271
8.4	Onward and Upward	280
<i>Appendix A Answers for Exercises</i>		281
<i>Appendix B Software</i>		291
<i>Glossary and Graph Theoretic Notation</i>		294
<i>References</i>		311
<i>Index</i>		344

TABLES

2.1	An overview of the use of network data in archaeology	<i>page 30</i>
4.1	The top three scoring settlements according to degree, closeness, betweenness and eigenvector centrality (a) for the basic Roman road network (Fig. 4.13a) and the inclusion of isolates in this network, (b) within a 50-kilometer buffer, and (c) by connecting them to the nearest neighbor in the basic network	142

BOXES

2.1 Ceramic similarity networks for design and technological style in the southern Appalachian region	<i>page</i> 34
2.2 Space syntax approaches to a city neighborhood in Roman Ostia	40
2.3 Architectural inscriptions and stone monuments in the Maya region	48
4.1 Exponential random graph models (ERGMs)	117
5.1 Explanation of Spearman’s ρ	161
5.2 Boxplots	169
6.1 Be kind to the color blind!	210
7.1 Space matters	239
7.2 A model of settlement hierarchy in Bronze Age Crete	253

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INTRODUCTION TO THE ONLINE RESOURCES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS BOOK

This book provides a detailed introduction to the concept of network research in archaeology as well as a guide to many specific network data management and analytical methods and models. The text of the book itself has been designed to stand alone and can be read and used without reference to any other external resources. We realize that many readers may want more guidance to help them get started doing actual analyses. To meet this need, we have created an elaborate Online Companion to the book (Peeples and Brughmans, 2022), which provides downloadable archaeological network datasets and an extensive Markdown document for the R programming language (R Core Team, 2021). This R Markdown document goes through examples of network data management and basic analysis techniques for all of the common methods and models covered in the book and also provides unique custom tools designed for more complex analyses such as assessments of uncertainty. Along with this, the Online Companion also contains all of the code and descriptions necessary to replicate the analyses in this book in R (or in a few cases, other software) as well as code needed to recreate data-based figures. The HTML version of the Online Companion is available at <https://archnetworks.net> and the raw R Markdown document and associated data, images, and code are also available on GitHub: <https://github.com/mpeeples2008/ArchNetSci>. These resources will be periodically updated by the authors and also include a public feedback function to allow users to ask questions, contribute data or methods, and develop resources for classroom teaching or self-teaching. We hope to build a community of active archaeological network researchers around these resources.