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978-1-108-79190-8 — The Network Turn

Ruth Ahnert , Sebastian E. Ahnert , Catherine Nicole Coleman , Scott B. Weingart  
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Elements in Publishing and Book Culture

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*University College London*

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*University of Bristol*

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## THE NETWORK TURN

*Changing Perspectives in the Humanities*

Ruth Ahnert

*Queen Mary University of London*

Sebastian E. Ahnert

*University of Cambridge*

Catherine Nicole Coleman

*Stanford University*

Scott B. Weingart

*Carnegie Mellon University*



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University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,  
New Delhi – 110025, India

79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

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[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108791908](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108791908)

DOI: 10.1017/9781108866804

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When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781108866804

First published 2020

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

ISBN 978-1-108-79190-8 Paperback

ISSN 2514-8524 (online)

ISSN 2514-8516 (print)

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# The Network Turn

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Ruth Ahnert

*Queen Mary University of London*

Sebastian E. Ahnert

*University of Cambridge*

Catherine Nicole Coleman

*Stanford University*

Scott B. Weingart

*Carnegie Mellon University*

Author for correspondence: Ruth Ahnert, [r.r.ahnert@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:r.r.ahnert@qmul.ac.uk)

**ABSTRACT:** We live in a networked world. Online social networking platforms and the World Wide Web have changed how society thinks about connectivity. Because of the technological nature of such networks, their study has predominantly taken place within the domains of computer science and related scientific fields. But arts and humanities scholars are increasingly using the same kinds of visual and quantitative analysis to shed light on aspects of culture and society hitherto concealed. This Element contends that networks are a category of study that cuts across traditional academic barriers, uniting diverse disciplines through a shared understanding of complexity in our world. Moreover, we are at a moment in time when it is crucial that arts and humanities scholars join the critique of how large-scale network data and advanced network analysis are being harnessed for the purposes of power, surveillance, and commercial gain.

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This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core at  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/9781108866804>

KEYWORDS: network analysis, network visualisation, digital humanities,  
interdisciplinarity, complexity

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and Scott B. Weingart 2020

ISBNs: 9781108791908 (PB), 9781108866804 (OC)

ISSNs: 2514-8524 (online), 2514-8516 (print)

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