UCLouvain

wfsp2200

2026

Social network research: health and society

5.00 crédits	20.0 h	Q2

Enseignants	Lorant Vincent ;
Langue d'enseignement	Anglais
Lieu du cours	Bruxelles Woluwe
Préalables	The course aims to equip students with the skills to describe and analyze social network for health or social issues. The curriculum covers the fundamentals of social network research and incorporates hands-on experience in applying social network analysis to topics in health and society. The course is taught in English. *Le(s) prérequis de cette Unité d'enseignement (UE) sont précisés à la fin de cette fiche, en regard des programmes/formations qui proposent cette UE.*
Thèmes abordés	Users and professionals from the health and social sectors initiate or maintain various formal and informal social relationships among themselves (social support, friendship, exchange, socialization, activity, etc.). These relationships result from structural and contextual properties (i.e. homophily, reciprocity, transitivity, etc.). In turn, they determine the emergence of groups and they influence the uneven distribution of resources within and between groups. Finally, they facilitate the diffusion of norms, behaviours and beliefs within and between groups. Social network research has been instrumental in explaining (health) behaviours inequalities, violence and conflict between and within groups, norms and practice dissemination, and trajectories (ie continuity of care in health care network). It may apply to individuals, small groups (such as families or classroom), organisations (company, hospital, school), or local communities.
Acquis d'apprentissage	**A la fin de cette unité d'enseignement, l'étudiant est capable de :** 1 Understand the essential relational challenges in (medical) sociology. 2 Analyze health or social issues using social network research 3 Design and collect social network data 4 Utilize software tools (R) for exploring and analyzing social graphs 5 Engage in discussions on papers related to social network analysis
Modes d'évaluation des acquis des étudiants	Assessment is based on an essay and on weekly assignments. The oral examination is devoted to the discussing your essay in relation with the course.
Méthodes d'enseignement	1. Lecture 2. Practice of the software and of data management. 3. Every week, each student briefs the group on his/her essay. 4. Weekly Assignments
Contenu	Social network research is not a method but a perspective exploring a topic through the relational lens. SNR addresses four different levels: ego, dyad, group and whole network. 1. Introduction to Medical sociology and the relevance of social network analysis 2. Key concepts in social network analysis : nodes, ties and context. 3. Design of social network analysis and data management 4. Visualization 5. Ego-level: power and social capital 6. Groups, communities and norms 7. Topology and the small world : fragmentation and separation 8. Dyadic contagion and peer-effects.

Ressources en ligne	Moodle
Bibliographie	1. Carrington, P. J. and J. Scott (2011). The SAGE handbook of social network analysis. London, SAGE. 2. Centola, D. (2011). "An experimental study of homophily in the adoption of health behavior." Science **334** (6060): 1269-1272. 3. Christakis, N. A. and J. H. Fowler (2010). Connected : the amazing power of social networks and how they shape our lives. London, HarperPress. 4. Crossley Nick, Bellotti E, et al. Social Network analysis for ego-nets. Sage, Thousand Oaks, 2015. Ebook disponible sur https://dial.uclouvain.be/ebook/object/ebook%3A154140 5. Dimaggio, P. and F. Garip (2012). "Network effects and social inequality." Annual Review of Sociology **38** : 93-118. 6. Knoke, D., et al. (2008). Social network analysis. Los Angeles, Sage Publications. 7. Oakes, J. M. and J. S. Kaufman (2006). Methods in social epidemiology. San Francisco, CA, Jossey-Bass. 8. Pescosolido BA. Of Pride and Prejudice: The role of sociology and social networks in integrating the health sciences. Journal of Health and Social Behavior. 2006;47(3):189-208. 9. Provan, K. G., et al. (2005). "The Use of Network Analysis to Strengthen Community Partnerships." Public Administration Review **65** (5): 603-613. 10. Robins, G., et al. (2007). "An introduction to exponential random graph (p *) models for social networks." Social Networks **29** (2): 173-191. 11. Robins, G. (2015). Doing social network research : network-based research design for social scientists. London, SAGE 12. Valente, T. W. (2010). Social networks and health models, methods, and applications. Oxford, Oxford University Press. 13. Valente, T. W. (2012). "Network Interventions." Science **337** (6090): 49-53. 14. Sweet D, Byng R, Webber M, Enki DG, Porter I, Larsen J, et al. Personal well-being networks, social capital and severe mental illness: exploratory study. The British journal of psychiatry 2017. 15. Bogatti S, Everett M, Johnson J, Analyzing social networks, Sage, 2013.
Autres infos	The course is restricted to 15 students.
Faculté ou entité en charge:	FSP

Programmes / formations proposant cette unité d'enseignement (UE)				
Intitulé du programme	Sigle	Crédits	Prérequis	Acquis d'apprentissage
Master [120] en sociologie	SOC2M	5		🔍
Master [120] en sciences de la santé publique	ESP2M	5	WFSP2102	🔍