

3rd January, 2025

INSNA Sunbelt 2025 Conference
Paris, June 23 – 29

Final List of Accepted Online Organized Sessions (by order of submission)

Only a few sessions will be offered online (without hybrid setup). Please browse this document using thematic keywords or names of session organizers. Once you know in which session you wish to present, please use Conftool (<https://www.conftool.pro/sunbelt2025/index.php?page=login>) to submit your title, abstract, and keywords to this session. If you do not find the right online organized session, please submit to the session called “Other *please indicate your topic in a remark to the organizer at the bottom of your submission”. Conference organizers will then create new sessions based on presentation proposals submitted to this “Other” category, or assign your proposal to the closest possible existing session.

Organizational Networks

Spyros Angelopoulos, Francesca Pallotti, Olaf Rank, Paola Zappa

The networked nature of organizations creates a complex ecosystem where individuals, groups, units, and other organizations are entangled. Such an entanglement shapes organizations in a dynamic way and affects their outcomes at multiple levels. This session aims to bring together studies on organizational networks addressing antecedents, dynamics, cross-level processes, and outcomes. Submissions can refer, but are not limited, to the following areas of research:

- Micro-foundations of organizational networks: How individual characteristics and cognitions affect the emergence of network structures and how these network structures affect individuals.
- Dynamics of organizational networks: How network structures at various levels co-evolve and affect one another, as well as organizational processes and outcomes.
- Time-dependence in organizational networks: How organizational networks at various levels change at different paces over time.
- Overlap and interplay between social and other kinds of networks within and across organizational settings: How organizational networks are affected by the affiliation of individuals, or organizations to events or contexts.
- Organizational networks and the future of work: How new technologies (e.g., digital platforms, Artificial Intelligence, Virtual Reality) and new forms of organizing (e.g., distributed, boundaryless, and hybrid organizations) shape, support or hinder organizational networks.

We welcome both theoretical and empirical contributions addressing various aspects and implications of organizational networks research.

New Frontiers in Understanding Inequality and Development: Social Network Research and Methods in Low- and Middle-Income Settings

Shao-Tzu Yu

The digital revolution has created unprecedented opportunities for social network researchers to examine both theoretical and practical implications of how networked relationships shape socioeconomic and health outcomes. This shift in data collection methods opens new research possibilities in previously hard-to-reach populations and understand critical development challenges, particularly among populations in remote and lower-income settings. This session

aims to bring together innovative social network scholarship conducted in low- and middle-income settings to advance discussions on both direct and indirect approaches to network data collection and analysis in these contexts. We will particularly focus on how these methodological advances contribute to our understanding of pressing challenges in developing regions, including poverty, food security, climate change, and wealth inequality.

Scientific Collaboration Networks: data collection and quality, methods, models, and empirical application

Luka Kronegger, Dominika Czerniawska, Alejandro Espinosa Rada, Domenico De Stefano, Viviana Amati, Marjan Cugmas, Susanna Zaccarin

Scientific collaboration networks have been a main area of interest to social network researchers for the study of socio-cognitive ties by investigating scientific inequalities, the formation of different morphological network structures (such as paradigmatic groups, specialties, or invisible colleges), knowledge production, their interrelation and impact on public policies, among others. While most of the research often uses the formal channels of communication of science as a proxy of social ties (e.g., through the usage of co-authorship, citations, or thesis supervision), there is an increased interest in gathering more data by considering the informal channels of communication in science through classical research methods from the social science (e.g., surveys, interviews, ethnographies, secondary documents) or the expansion of established or new and more sophisticated large-scale data to understand the inner workings of science and knowledge (e.g., Web of Science, Scopus, Dimensions, SciSciNet) and their intertwines in the contemporary society. In this session, we are interested in expanding and moving beyond bibliometrics towards a more comprehensive social network approach for the study of scientific networks to discuss data quality and data collection, new methods, and models for the study of the structure of scientific collaboration networks as well as their evolution over time. We also welcome empirical applications in the field, including but not limited to :

- local and global scientific networks,
- policy-driven change in scientific collaboration,
- politically driven shift in science and knowledge production,
- addressing global challenges through scientific collaborations and consortia.

The dynamics of Social Networks, Structural Holes, Social Capital and Leadership within the context of Higher Educational Institution (HEI)

Hermenio Jr Cabusog, Jean Irene Galdo, Hartzel Flores, Kristine Jay Cabusog, Ryan Sayson, Sherly Mae Sajulga, Christine Tenorio

Social network analysis (SNA) brings a powerful lens to examine relationships within the context of higher educational institutions (HEI). By focusing on the structure and dynamics of social ties, SNA shed lights on how individuals and organizations leverage their networks to achieve institutional goals. According to Bourdieu (1984) the fields of higher educational institution is so competitive when it comes to acquiring various forms of capital. Thus, the study focused on presenting the dynamics of the relationships of resource social capital and structural holes within various social networks and its effect on leadership.

To answer the questions of the relationships, effects and the model best fit of the variables on resource social capital, structural holes, social network and leadership the research employs the regression models and structural equation modelling (SEM) to best demonstrate the results of the study. Results indicate that resource social capital, social network and structural holes has effects on the perceived leadership characteristics of the personnels within the context of the

higher educational institutions. That, the best fit model supports established theories on social capital, social network analysis, structural holes and leadership. This result will shade light on how followers and leaders will take their part within networks of relationship as they manage to take hold their resource social capital, take advantage of the opportunities brought by the structural holes and maintain their part in their respective social networks. For the HEI leaders the study will provide them insights of their positions in their respective fields and how they can influence better to bring their organizations in achieving their respective institutional goals.

Artificial Intelligence for Resilience of Complex Networks

JISHA MARIYAM JOHN, DIVYA SINDHU LEKHA

Understanding resilience and sustainability of complex networks has become imperative in many fields. Signaling extinction of species in ecosystems, blackouts of power grids in engineering, designing vaccination strategies to enhance population immunity, and preventing the spread of fake news are a few among them. For studying the resilience of complex networks, we need to focus on factors such as the network structure, the network dynamics, failure mechanism and the network robustness measures, which are used to quantify the structural changes. Such studies seek to identify key determinants of network resilience and different strategies to enhance robustness. The findings will have implications for improving the reliability of critical systems, from communication networks to biological pathways.

This session invites contributions that attempt to explain mechanisms underlying the resilience and robustness of complex networks, focusing on how structural features, dynamic processes, and perturbations impact network stability.

Both theoretical and empirical research are welcome, with a particular (but not restricted) interest in papers leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) techniques for modeling, analysis, and prediction of network resilience, as well as AI-driven insights into the design of robust and adaptive networks across domains such as biology, social systems, and technology.

Social Networks and Religion

David Eagle, Craig Rawlings

This session explores the dynamic interplay between social networks and religion, offering a platform for examining how religious beliefs, practices, and institutions are shaped by and, in turn, shape social networks. Social networks provide critical insights into how religious ideologies disseminate, how communities of faith maintain cohesion, how religious hierarchies maintain themselves, and how religious leaders navigate their professional lives. This session invites research that examines the structures, processes, and implications of these interactions. Particular attention will be given to diverse methodological approaches, including qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods research. We welcome papers illuminating religious phenomena from social network dynamics and social network phenomena from religious dynamics.

Papers in this session could address (but are not limited by) pressing questions such as: How do religious affiliations influence network formation? How do social networks mediate the transmission of religious norms, values, and practices? What role do religious leaders play in network bridging or fragmentation? How do digital and virtual networks reshape traditional patterns of religious engagement? We are especially interested in papers illuminating these connections and offering insights into their implications for broader societal patterns of inclusion, cohesion, and conflict.

The Social Networks of Culture and the Cultural Bases of Social Networks

Shan Shi

This session explores the intersection of culture and social networks, focusing on how cultural phenomena both shape and are shaped by social networks. We invite research examining the role of culture in network formation and maintenance, the cultural dynamics within networks, and how networks influence the creation and diffusion of cultural products. We welcome contributions from various disciplines, including sociology, business, anthropology, and communication studies. The session will feature both theoretical and empirical research.

We encourage studies across different scales, from large-scale creative industries to more localised networks. Topics may include:

- The influence of social networks on the production and dissemination of cultural products within creative industries, such as film, music, art, and digital media.
- How social networks within communities, organisations, and peer groups facilitate or constrain cultural practices and innovation.
- The impact of cultural norms, values, and practices on the functioning of social networks in diverse contexts.

This session aims to foster interdisciplinary dialogue that enhances our understanding of how social networks and culture co-evolve, shaping individual experiences and broader societal change.