

Organisational Networks in Healthcare

Theory and Analysis



SYLLABUS

VU Amsterdam Summer School

22-26 July 2024



Any general questions for the Summer School support team? Contact amsterdamsummerschool@vu.nl.

Course Details

You can recycle the information that can be found on the webpage to fill in the following sections. Please bear in mind that the syllabus is a key element of the course that helps students to decide whether this course is appropriate for them and can really help them when deciding to join. Make sure to be as detailed as possible.

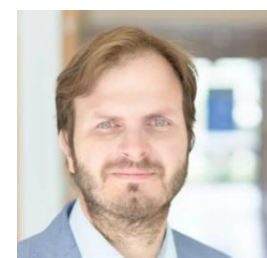
Title	Organisational Networks in Healthcare: Theory and Analysis
Coordinator(s)	Dr. Galina van der Weert and dr. ir. Tijs van den Broek
Other lecturers	
Study credits	2 ECTS
Form(s) of tuition	On campus
Approximate contact hours	30
Approximate self-study hours	26

Teaching staff (in order of appearance)

Galina van der Weert is assistant professor at VU Amsterdam in the fields of organizational networks, healthcare and social network analysis. She has a master's degree in both Public Administration and Organizational Psychology from the Radboud University Nijmegen. She defended her dissertation 'Imperfect Integration: Governing Collaboration Through Networks in Healthcare, in 2024. Her research interests include interorganizational networks in healthcare; modes of governance; network archetypes; and social networks. Currently she is involved in research projects concerning the organization of integrated care arrangements and in bachelor- and master level courses at VU Amsterdam's Talma institute.



Tijs van den Broek is assistant professor at VU Amsterdam in the fields of social network theory & analysis, social media, corporate social responsibility, and social movements. He has a master's degree in both Industrial Engineering & Management and Psychology (cum laude) from the University of Twente, and defended his dissertation 'When Slacktivism Matters' cum laude at the same university. His research interests are social network analysis, online forms of organizing (e.g. slacktivism), online polarization, social evaluation of organizations (e.g. legitimacy and authenticity), corporate social responsibility & activism, and governance of data collaborations.



Course description

Healthcare is currently faced with a myriad of issues. An aging population requires more complex healthcare provision. For example, people live longer with chronic conditions that require treatment, while at the same time innovations in technology and medical sciences increase opportunities for diagnosis and treatment, requiring professionals from a variety of disciplines to be involved. This increased complexity challenges the affordability, accessibility, and quality of healthcare. As a response, more collaboration is required within and between healthcare organizations. Indeed, policymakers increasingly urge organizations to form collaborative networks to solve the complexities related to these developments in healthcare. However, it is difficult for policymakers to monitor the quality and functioning of these collaborative networks. This is problematic because these collaborative networks often do not achieve their goals.

A certain form of governance is necessary to align goals, stimulate activities, and prevent or solve conflicts. But what form of governance is most fitting under what conditions? And how do governance and structure affect collaboration (and v.v.)? To strategize a network for success, it is necessary to know about the strategy for healthcare networks and how to form an effective mode of governance.

In this course, you will learn how knowledge of strategy and governance in networks as well as designing social science research on inter-organizational networks can provide rich insights into the collaboration in intra- and interorganizational networks. Our setting is in healthcare because nowhere are organizational networks as prevalent - and as versatile - as in healthcare.

This course teaches basis skills in R and RStudio, concerning the packages xUcinet and iGraph for analysis and visualization of organizational networks in healthcare.

Learning objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand current theories (and their history) on strategy in networks;
- Design a social science research approach to collect (e.g. observation, interviews or surveys), analyze and report data on healthcare networks;
- Assess bottlenecks in the functioning of a network, related to its network structure, based on reflection with scientific theories;
- Apply organizational theory on networks and collaboration in a healthcare context.

Assignments and Assessment

Group assignment (preliminary description)

In this group assignment (maximum of four members), you will develop a research proposal based on organizational and network theory, and research design. This research proposal includes:

- A practical introduction to the topic (e.g. an inter-organizational network in healthcare that faces challenges);
- the relevant theoretical concepts from organizational and network theory;
- the relevant theories and perhaps theories that are at odds with the theoretical framework you chose;
- a precise problem statement that result in a research question and perhaps sub questions;
- a description why the research question is important and its societal and scientific relevance;
- a research design that builds on network analysis, outlining the research context, measurement, data collection and analysis.
- A brief discussion of the limitations (e.g. potential biases) and risks of the research design.

The proposal is no longer than five pages (2500 words), excluding the reference list.

Formal requirements:

- Assignments should be typed in Arial or Calibri, 11 pt, 1.5 line spacing. Use page numbers. Always mention your names, title of the proposal, the name of the summer school course, your e-mail addresses and a word count.
- Use APA style for references or the style that is required in the field.
- Written in clear and correct English.
- Plagiarism is absolutely not allowed. For more information:
<https://vu.nl/en/employee/social-sciences-getting-started/academic-misconduct-fss>

Provisional reading list

- Borgatti, S. P., Everett, M. G., Johnson, J. C., & Agneessens, F. (2022). *Analyzing social networks using R*. Sage.
- Borgatti, S. P., & Foster, P. C. (2003). The network paradigm in organizational research: A review and typology. *Journal of management*, 29(6), 991-1013.
- Borgatti, S. P., Mehra, A., Brass, D. J., & Labianca, G. (2009). Network analysis in the social sciences. *Science*, 323(5916), 892-895.
- Kenis, P., & Provan, K. G. (2009). Towards an exogenous theory of public network performance. *Public administration*, 87(3), 440-456.
- Kilduff, M., & Brass, D. J. (2010). Organizational social network research: Core ideas and key debates. *Academy of management annals*, 4(1), 317-357.
- Powell, W. W. (2011). Neither market nor hierarchy. *Sociology of Organizations: Structures and Relationships*, 30.
- Sheaff, R., & Schofield, J. (2016). Inter-organizational networks in health care. *The Oxford handbook of health care management*, 434-458.
- Tasselli, S., & Sancino, A. (2023). Leaders' Networking Behaviours in a Time of Crisis: A Qualitative Study on the Frontline against COVID-19. *Journal of Management Studies*, 60(1), 120-173.

- Van der Weert, G., Burzynska, K., & Knoben, J. (2022). An integrative perspective on interorganizational multilevel healthcare networks: a systematic literature review. *BMC health services research*, 22(1), 1-17.

Course Schedule

Monday July 22

- Plenary lecture (10:00-11:30)
- Practical: R introduction & import network data & form work groups (11:30-12:30)
- Practical: work groups start group assignment, make a plan (13:00-14:00)
- Plenary: case description (14:00-15:00)

Tuesday July 23

- Plenary lecture (9:00-10:30)
- Practical: group work (10:45-12:15)
- Group work support (12:15-12:45)
- Excursion (13:30-18:00)

Wednesday July 24

- Plenary lecture (9:00-10:30)
- Practical: network analysis in R/xUcinet (10:45-11:45)
- Group work support (11:45-12:30)

Thursday July 25

- Plenary lecture (9:00-10:30)
- Practical: group work on assignments (10:45-12:15)
- Group work support (12:15-12:45 hr)
- Plenary lecture (13:30-15:00)
- Group work (15:15-16:45)

Friday July 26

- Presentations by students per group (9:00-12:30)
- Plenary: Feedback and suggestions for assignments (13:00-14:30)

