Social network analysis is very exciting work. Indeed, interest in the field has grown exponentially since the 1970s. For social scientists, network analysis represents a novel way of thinking about society as comprising a web of network linkages. Network analysis scrutinizes the interpersonal level. It is based on the understanding that societies are not merely "imagined communities" but social structures made up of person-to-person connections. There are two aspects to social network analysis - the theoretical and methodological. Network datasets are different from conventional (e.g., cross-sectional) datasets, thereby call for a different approach to analysis. In this two-day seminar, we examine ego-centric (or personal) networks and learn ways of collecting and describing their main characteristics. The course uses STATA and introduces students to tie-wise and net-size datasets. The skills acquired in the course will be useful particularly for researchers and practitioners in the fields of community relations."

Course Outline

- The theoretical bases of social network analysis, focusing on “personal networks”
- How to manage personal network data
- How to collect personal network data using “name generators” and “position generators”
- How to measure personal networks in terms of their network size, network composition and network diversity (e.g. by gender, race and class)
- How to measure personal networks in terms of access to occupational categories
- Analyzing “whole networks” and their associated measures

Who Should Attend

This course is designed for professionals, undergraduates and postgraduate students, data analysts and quantitative researchers working in applied environments and who need to gain insights from social network analysis.

Prerequisites

Participants should have some prior experience with using statistical software packages such as STATA, SAS or SPSS.

Enquiries

Contact CFPR at:
Tel: (65) 6601 4987 / 6601 4959
Email: cfpr@nus.edu.sg
Website: www.fas.nus.edu.sg/cfpr

Dr. Vincent Chua is Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at the National University of Singapore and steering committee member of the Centre for Family and Population Research. He got his PhD from the University of Toronto. His research areas are in social networks and social capital, education and ethnic stratification. His work has appeared in publications such as Social Networks, Social Science Research, Sociological Perspectives, Current Sociology, and International Studies in Sociology of Education, Comparative Sociology, Asian Ethnicity and the Sage Handbook of Social Network Analysis. In 2013, he won a teaching award in NUS.