



**VRN Webinar: Utilizing Social Network Analysis to Reduce Violent Crime
July 21, 2015
Question-and-Answer Chat**

How much training do you think is needed to prepare an entry level crime analyst for SNA?

Andrew Fox: Great question! It really does depend on the analyst and their ability to understand large data. Generally, I think an analyst could start doing SNA after just a few days of training.

Will the information collected via body cameras one day have a place in social network analysis?

Andrew Fox: They could start, but they could continue to learn SNA techniques for years.

Andrew Fox: I have not seen SNA using body cameras. We would have to think through what kind of relational data is collected as part of the body camera process.

AV Papachristos: I also have not seen SNA with body cameras. I have, however, seen studies of school kids using remote sensors (i.e., badges on name tags)

Perhaps as facial recognition advances or key word searches are done on stored video as the source of data. You would see what an officer sees day in and day out.

Thinking on the fly here -- most camera data is time and location with attached video files; so it might be used to corroborate SNA findings; though I can think of some interesting SNA using citizen complaint and use of force data, which may be linked to camera footage

Has this type of analysis brought out any concerns of "Big Brother" or "minority report?" There is strong advocacy those types of programs in CA from privacy advocates.

Also there are legal problems in CA with identifying/validating gang members?

Andrew Fox: we have not experienced the big brother response but Major McHale will discuss some of the considerations in a moment.

What software would you recommend for the sociogram analysis that would assist in the capture of the volume of data?

Andrew Fox: There are a number of free softwares available to do SNA: Gephi, ORA, Pajek, to name a few. Papachristos can also recommend some software he is working with.

AV Papachristos: Please feel free to contact me off-line and I can provide additional information on software and other training materials.

AV Papachristos: I am working with the COPS office and the National Network for Safe Communities on developing some training materials and software that we hope to make (freely) available

AV Papachristos: Still working on it. Will have a website live in the next coming weeks with additional information



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How is RMS data converted into a SNA-useable format? What could an analyst do to prepare field contact, arrest, etc. records for SNA analysis?

AV Papachristos: Great question, Steven.

AV Papachristos: From my experience, that is about 80% of the work!

AV Papachristos: In my experience (and from what I understand, Dr. Fox's as well), the key is to have TWO pieces of information if you are planning on doing INDIVIDUAL level SNA (like co-arrest).

AV Papachristos: (1) Unique INDIVIDUAL identifiers (something that allows the software to identify unique people); and . . .

AV Papachristos: (2) unique event (tie) information, such as arrest # or case # that allows the software to LINK the individuals

That is no problem identifying these parameters, we use a numeric name_ID and can associate the event to these. Thank you, I enjoyed this webinar very much!

Andrew Fox: a name id makes things much easier!