

Sociometry

Sociometry: Analyzing Group Interaction

■ Sociometry

- An analytical tool for studying group interactions. It seeks to find out who people like or dislike and with whom they would or would not wish to work.
- This information can then be used to create a diagram that graphically maps the preferred social interactions obtained from interviews and questionnaires.
- Terms to be familiar with:

Social Networks

Prescribed Clusters

Coalitions

Stars

Bridges

Clusters

Emergent Clusters

Cliques

Liaisons

Isolates

- **Sociometry** is a quantitative method for measuring social relationships.
- It was developed by [psychotherapist Jacob L. Moreno](#) in his studies of the relationship between social structures and [psychological](#) well-being.

- The term sociometry relates to its [Latin etymology](#), *socius* meaning companion, and *metrum* meaning measure. Jacob Moreno defined sociometry as "the inquiry into the evolution and organization of groups and the position of individuals within them."
- Sociometric explorations reveal the hidden structures that give a group its form: the alliances, the subgroups, the hidden beliefs, the forbidden agendas, the ideological agreements, the 'stars' of the show

- The term “sociometry” has several meanings, but historically the closest association is with the work of J. L. Moreno, particularly his analysis of inter-personal relations in *Who Shall Survive?* (1934).
- Sociometry is traditionally identified with the analysis of data collected by means of the *sociometric test*—a type of questionnaire in which, roughly speaking, each member of a group is asked with which members he would most like to carry out some activity.

- sociogram, a systematic method for graphically representing individuals as points/nodes and the relationships between them as lines/arcs.
- **Sociometric description.** The patterns of expressed choices can be represented graphically in the *sociogram*, which involves the use of some geometric figure to indicate each person (for example, a circle with a name in it) and connecting lines or arrows showing the direction of the choices

- The simplest concept is that of the *unchosen*, who may be viewed as the person socially isolated by others. In the early tradition, the *isolate* is the person who makes no choices and receives none; in this sense he is totally apart from the group.
- The highly chosen person has been viewed as being in a desirable position-*sociometric star*