

Contents

<i>Abstract</i>	v
<i>List of Figures</i>	viii
<i>List of Tables</i>	viii
1. Introduction	1
2. About Network Analysis	4
2.1. Data Sets in Network Analysis.....	4
2.2. Applications of Network Analysis.....	6
2.3. Properties of Actors within a Network.....	6
2.3.1. Centrality.....	7
2.3.2. Membership in Subgroups.....	8
2.4. Properties of Social Networks.....	9
2.4.1. Centralization and Density.....	9
2.4.2. Scale-free Networks – Lessons from Other Sciences.....	10
3. Methodological Problems in Network Analysis	13
3.1. Literature Discussion.....	13
3.1.1. Validity in Network Analysis.....	13
3.1.2. Data Collection Problems.....	15
3.1.3. Informant Accuracy.....	17
3.1.4. Network Sampling.....	20
3.1.5. Attack and Error Vulnerability of Networks.....	25
3.2. Starting Point of My Work.....	27
4. Problems with Transformation and Size Reduction of Data Sets	29
4.1. Validity and Reliability.....	29
4.2. Network-Analytical Measures.....	31
4.3. Size Reduction and Transformation Processes.....	31
4.3.1. Random and Biased Nonresponse.....	32
4.3.2. Random Sampling.....	35
4.3.3. Forgetting.....	36
4.3.4. Removing Unimportant Actors.....	36
4.3.5. Symmetrization.....	39
4.3.6. Dichotomization.....	40
4.3.7. Collapsing Actors.....	41
4.4. Influencing Factors.....	42
4.4.1. The Size of a Network.....	42
4.4.2. The Density of a Network.....	43
4.4.3. The Centralization of a Network.....	45
4.4.4. The Extent of Transformation or Size Reduction.....	48

5. Simulating Transformation and Size Reduction.....	49
5.1. Methodology.....	49
5.1.1. Constraints on the Choice of Data Sets.....	50
5.1.2. The Software.....	52
5.1.3. Preparatory Steps.....	53
5.1.4. Simulation of Transformation Processes.....	55
5.1.5. Simulation of Nonresponse.....	56
5.1.6. Simulation of Sampling and Forgetting.....	57
5.1.7. Simulation of the Removal of Unimportant Actors.....	57
5.1.8. Judging Validity and Reliability.....	59
5.1.9. Shortcomings and Limitations.....	61
5.2. Results.....	62
5.2.1. Symmetrization.....	62
5.2.2. Dichotomization.....	64
5.2.3. Collapsing Actors.....	66
5.2.4. Forgetting.....	67
5.2.5. Random Sampling.....	69
5.2.6. Random Nonresponse.....	72
5.2.7. Biased Nonresponse.....	76
5.2.8. Removing Unimportant Actors.....	79
5.3. Comparison to Other Studies.....	81
6. Conclusion.....	84
<i>Bibliography.....</i>	<i>87</i>
<i>List of Data Sets.....</i>	<i>90</i>
<i>List of Software.....</i>	<i>90</i>