



Who is really in charge? Connecting Graph Theory to Social Network Analysis

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Heineman Ecumenical and Cultural Center**

Have you ever wondered who is really in charge? Who is at the center of whatever is trending? Who influences policy decisions? Who motivates groups that bring about change?

Leaders, whether in business, government, or education, are interested in who is at the heart of all that is happening, whether those individuals be trendsetters, revolutionaries or superspreaders of a contagious disease.

In this talk, we provide a brief introduction to network analysis and to the graph theory tools and techniques for detecting the key actors within a social network. With these tools, we will show how to find out who was really in charge among the revolutionaries prior to the American Revolution as well as among the individuals behind 9/11. We will offer examples of projects where students may discover who is in charge by applying graph theory and computational tools to analyze social networks.

Image Source: http://carelebelanger.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/bigstock_Social_media_concept_21099296.jpg

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<https://www.framingham.edu/faculty/smabrouk/preskenis/annual/fifteenth.htm>