



Structure and Function of Social Networks

Omnipresence of social networks

«I read somewhere that everybody on this planet is separated by only six other people. Six degrees of separation. Between us and everybody else on this planet.»

Ouisa, in *Six degrees of Separation*

by John Guare

“Facebook cuts six degrees of separation to four”

By Emma Barnett, *The Telegraph*

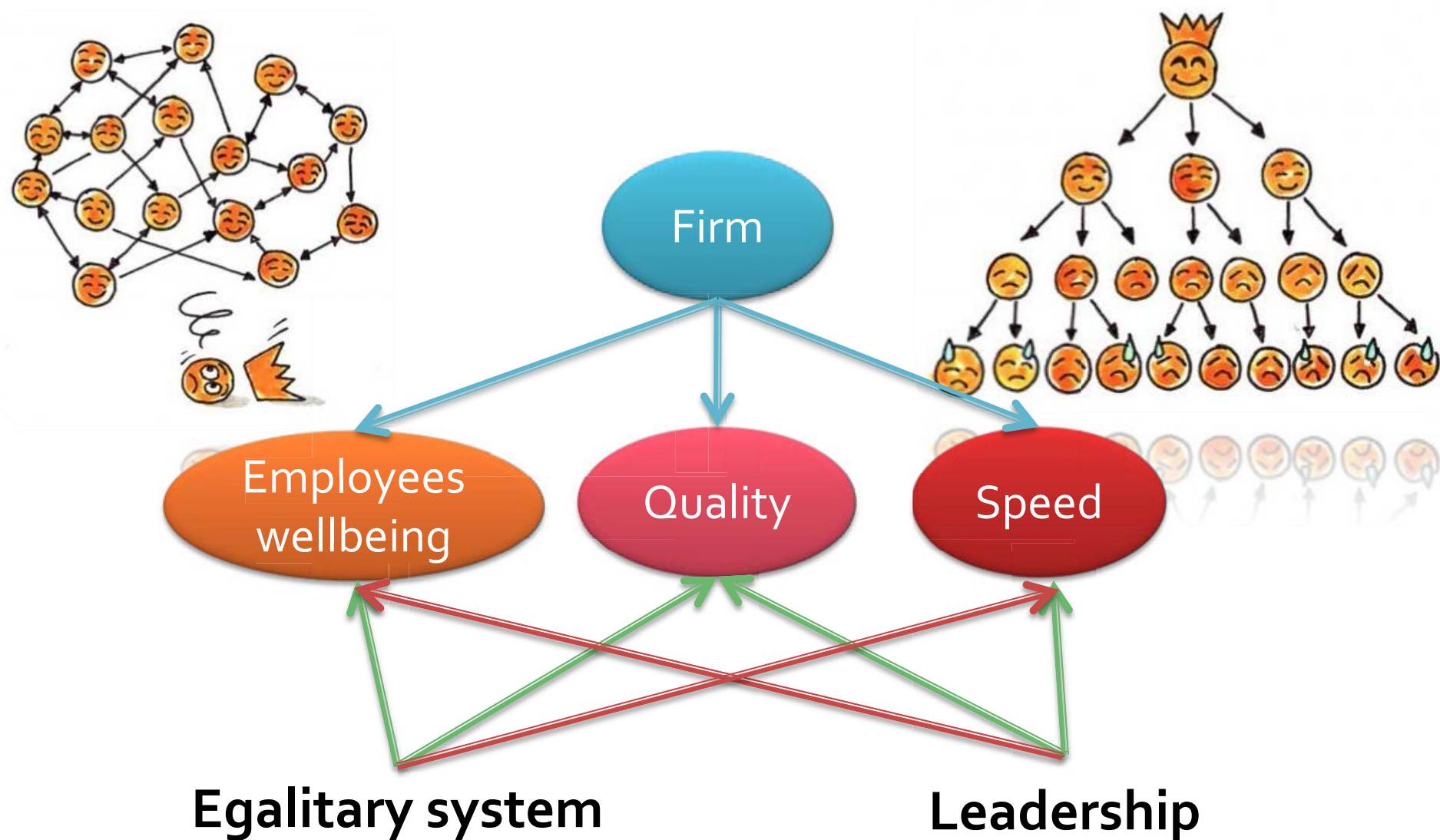
Omnipresence of social networks

Our social network, our friends or colleagues are the first source of information

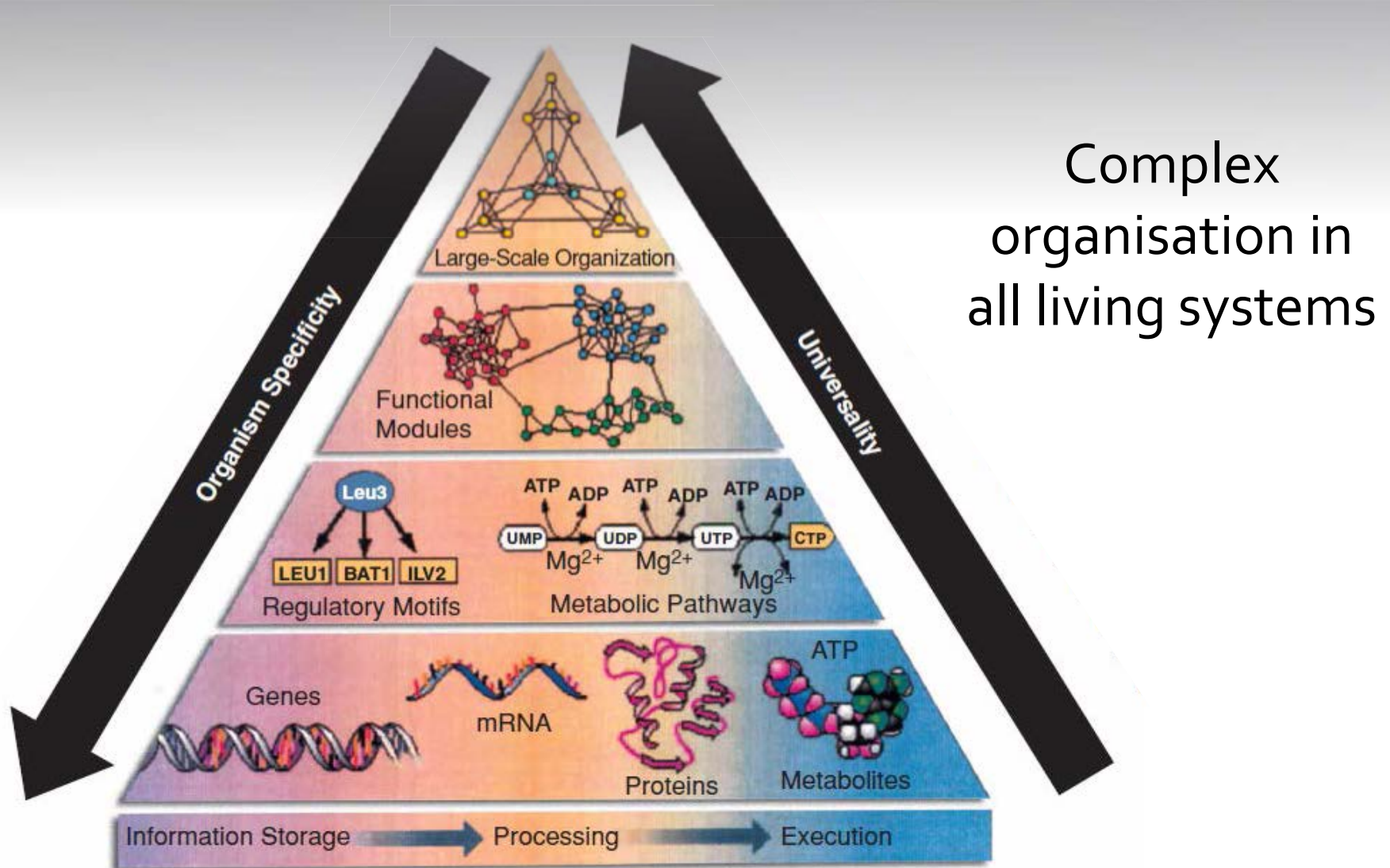
People prefer five more times asking their colleagues about an information than looking in a database

This information centre theory is also a cause for animals to live in groups and to interact

Decision efficiency according to social network



From Molecules to Ecosystems



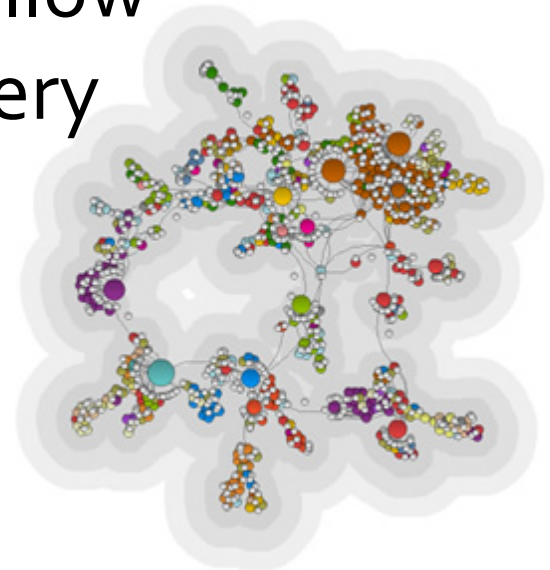
Network optimality

The background of the slide features a complex, abstract network diagram. It consists of numerous black dots of varying sizes, representing nodes, which are interconnected by a dense web of thin, grey, curved lines. The lines crisscross the entire frame, creating a chaotic yet structured pattern that suggests a highly interconnected system. The overall aesthetic is technical and modern, with a dark grey background and a lighter grey rectangular area containing the text.

The best (information) transmission
in terms of accuracy and speed
with the minimum of connections

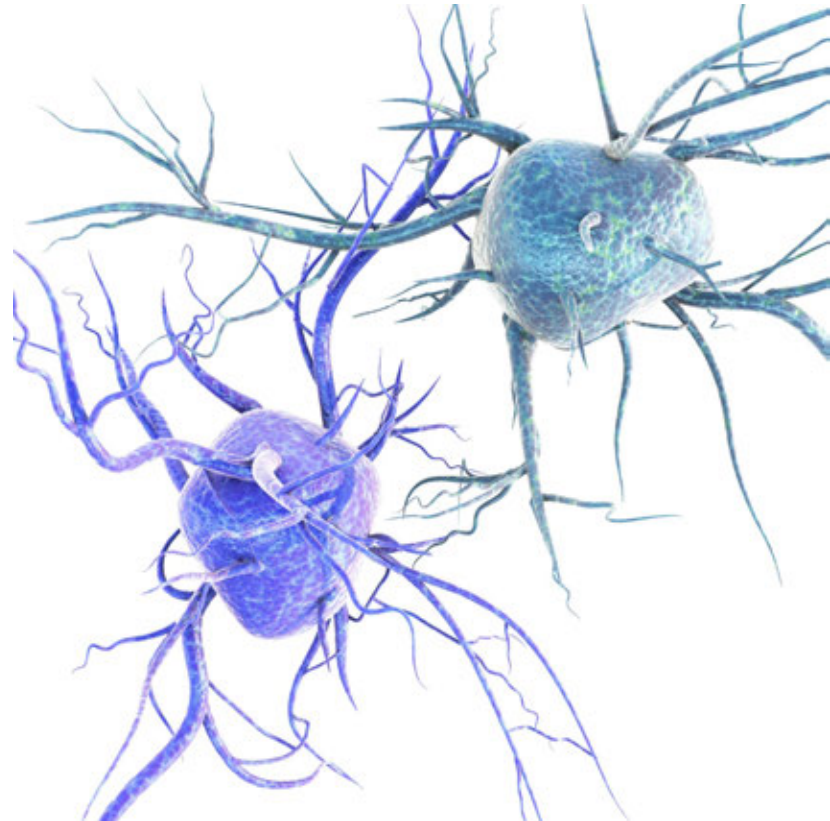
Networks optimality in genes or proteins

- Gene networks appear to be dynamically robust to mutation and changes in the environment
- Regulatory protein networks allow bacteria to adapt to almost every environment



Neural Networks

- Neural networks are efficient and behave like optimal statistical tests
- Evolutionary processes implied in the network structure

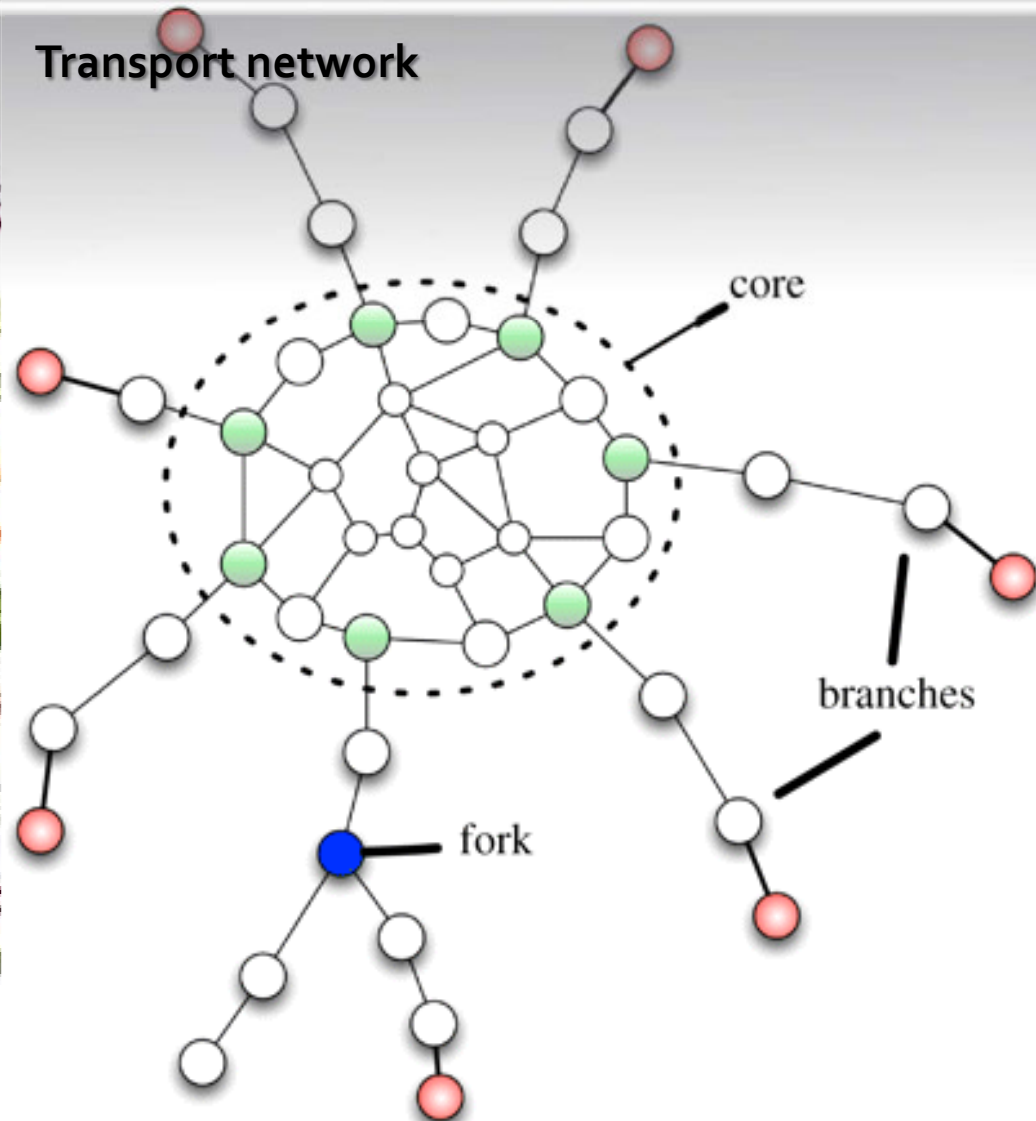


Optimality of other networks

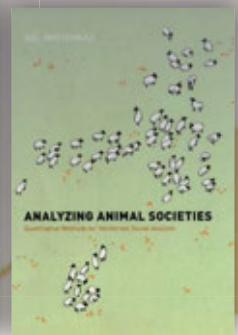
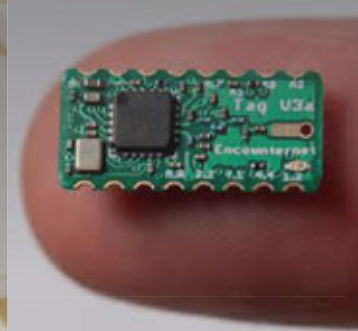
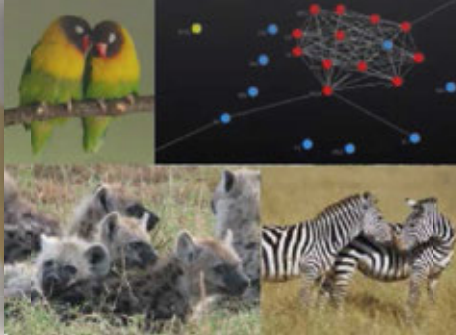
Language network



Transport network



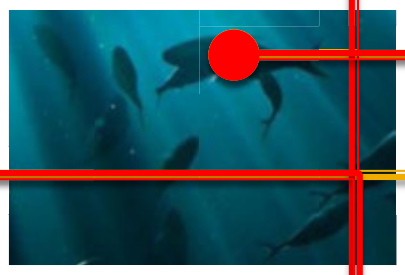
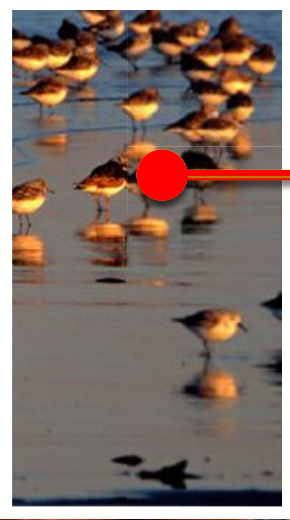
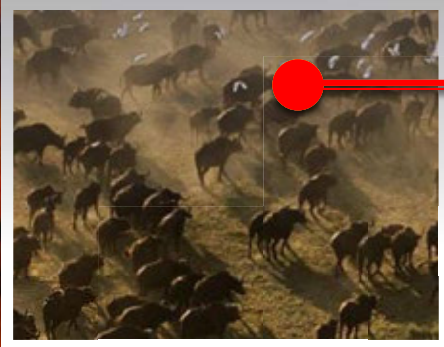
Animal social networks



Is social network somewhere somehow selected to optimize advantages to live together?



Living in groups



Advantages

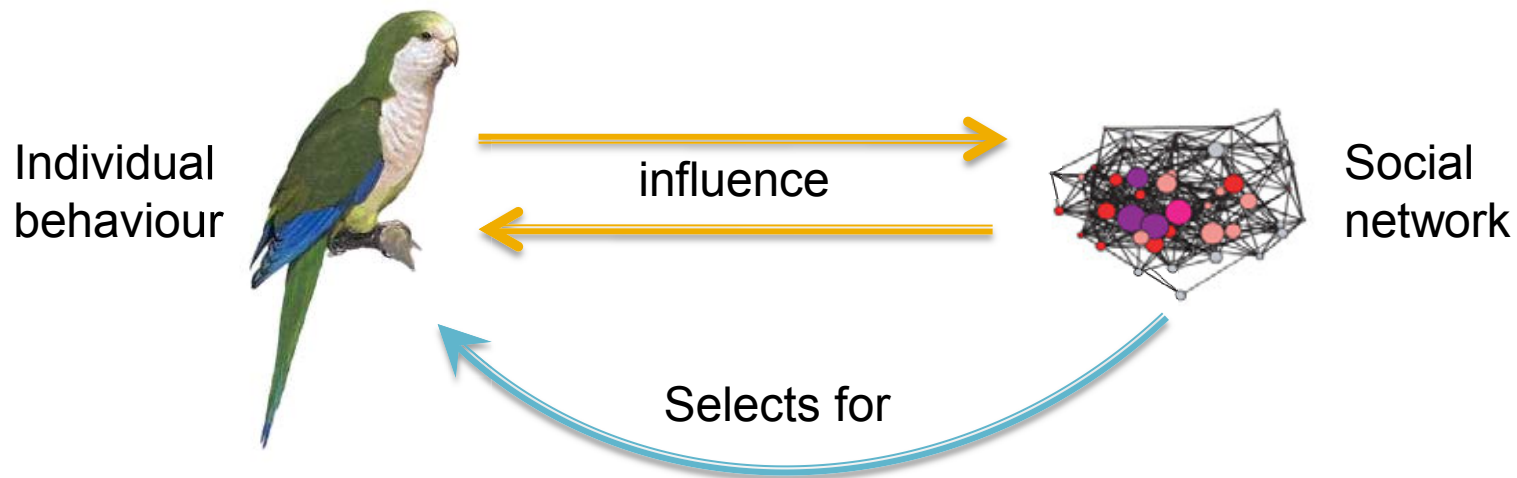
- Predation risk
- Food searching
- Reproduction

Inconveniences

- Competition, temperature
- Diseases
- Different needs

Interactions between individuals

- Animals have to maintain group cohesion and interactions to balance advantages and inconveniences of sociality
- Assortativity of associations in most social animals
- Why? Relationship between structure and functioning of networks



Influence of social network



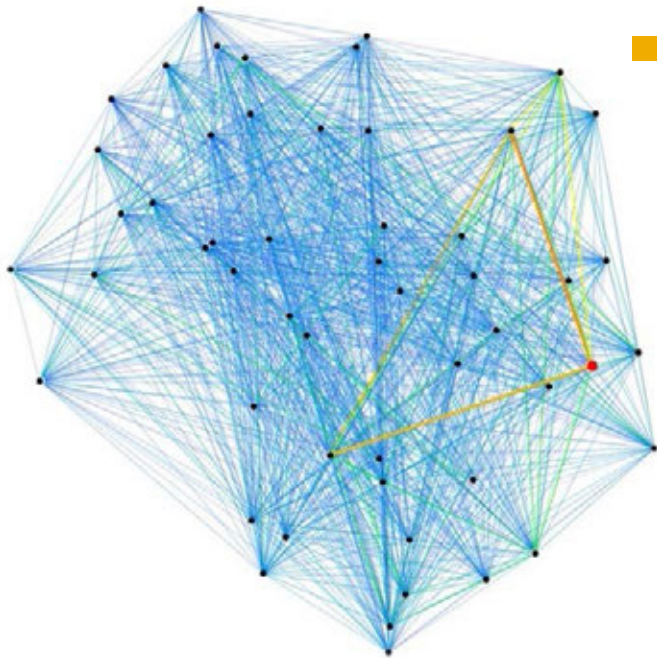
Central individuals have a higher fitness

- Silk et al. 2009: juveniles with central mothers live better
- Formica et al. 2012: central males have higher reproductive success
- Stanton and Mann 2012: central males live longer

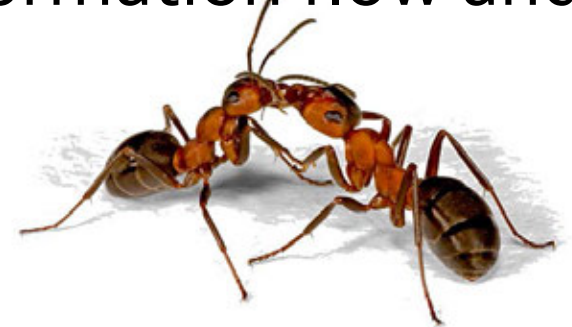


Information Processing in Social Insect Networks

- Waters and Fewell, 2012: “the network structure has been selected to maximize colony-level function rather than individual success”

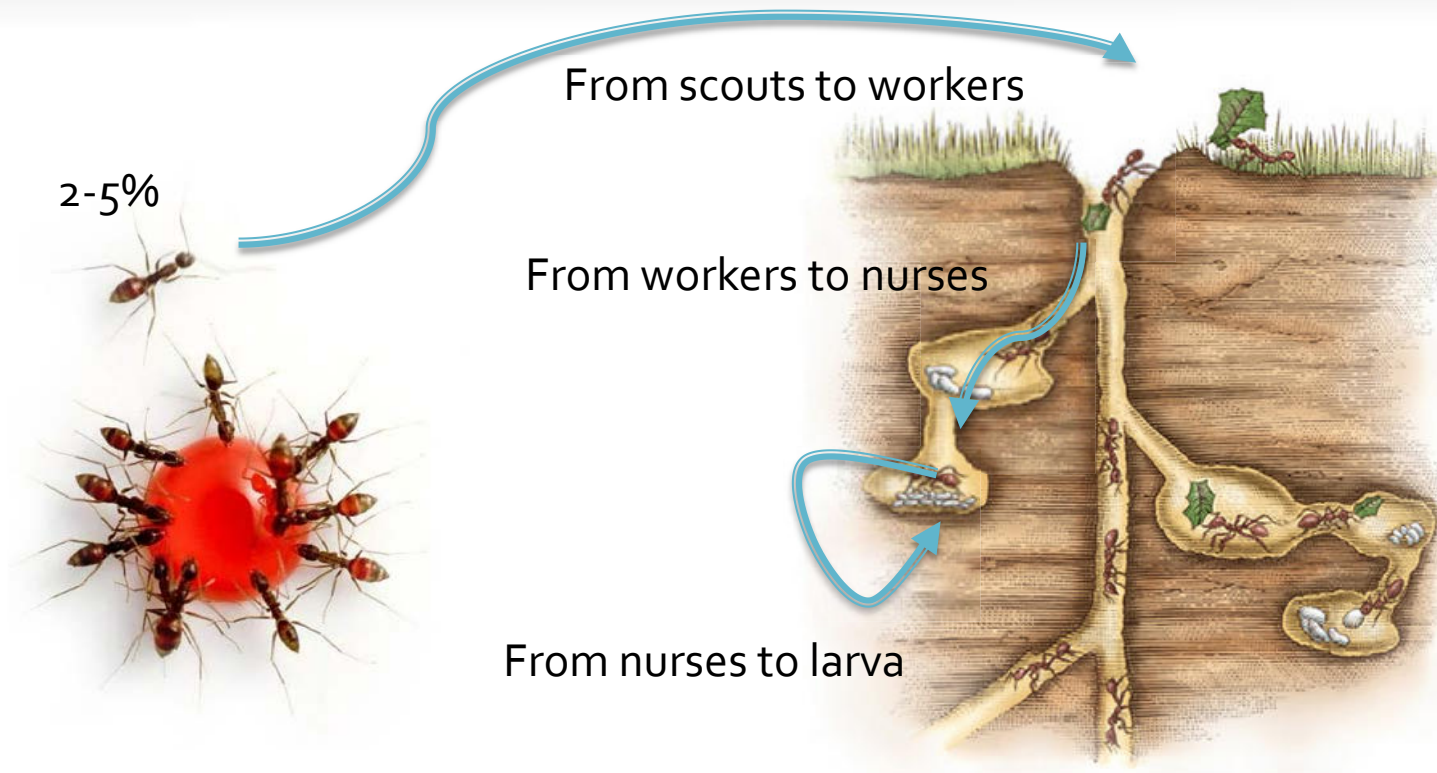


- Peter-Wollman et al. 2011: “Individual variation in connectivity creates interaction centres, which may expedite information flow and food transfer”



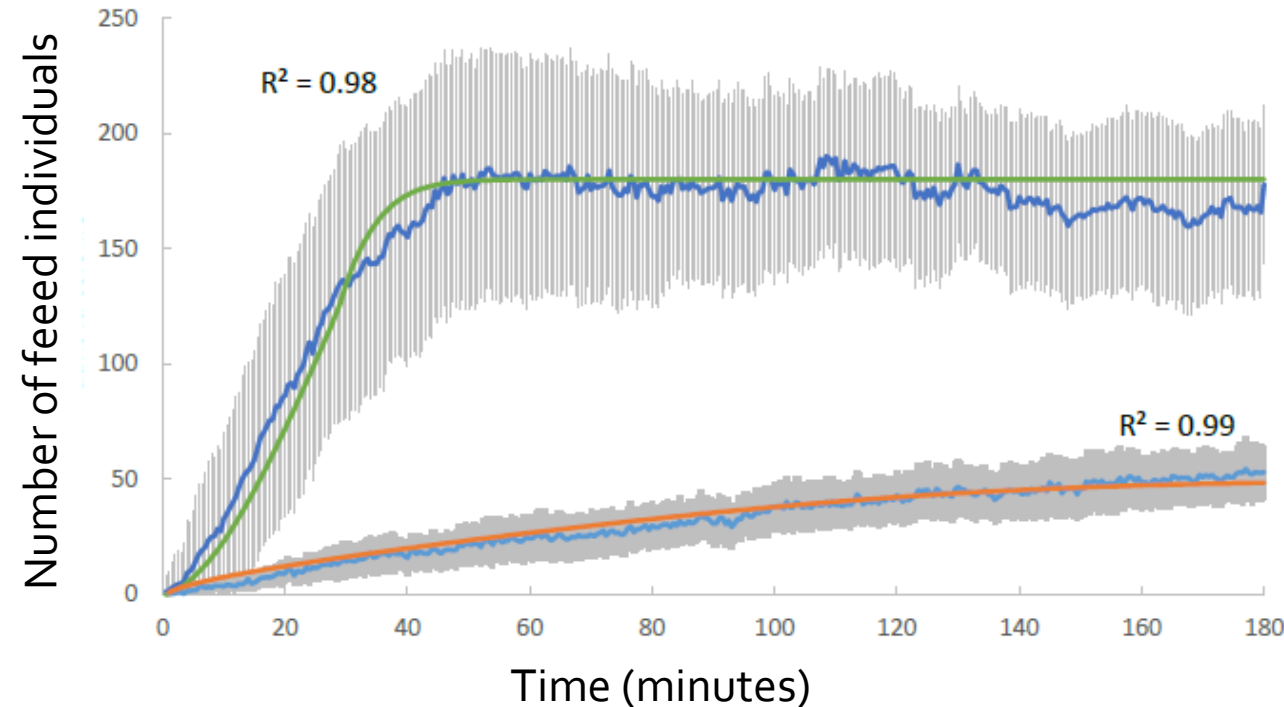
PhD project ULB + UDS

- Dynamics of food transfer in ants: a theoretical approach. Olivier Bles



PhD project ULB + UDS

- Dynamics of food transfer in ants: a theoretical approach. Olivier Bles



Up: 4 days of starving
Down: 1 day of straving

Only two parameters:

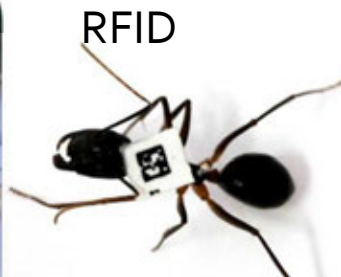
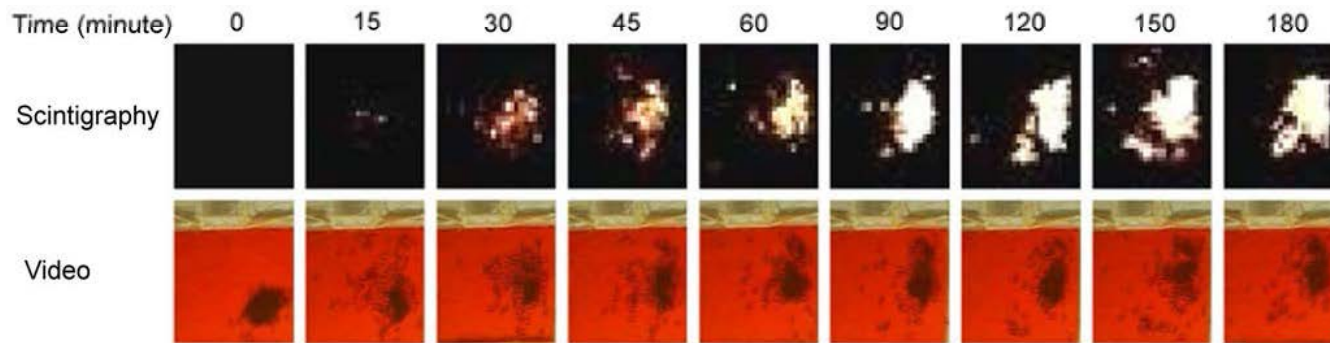
- Time to find trophallaxy partner
- Time to go outside from the nest



Bles et al. in prep

PhD project ULB + UDS

- Combination of different approaches to study interactions networks



Interaction networks of *Physarum polycephalum* in a foraging context

David Vogel & Audrey Dussutour

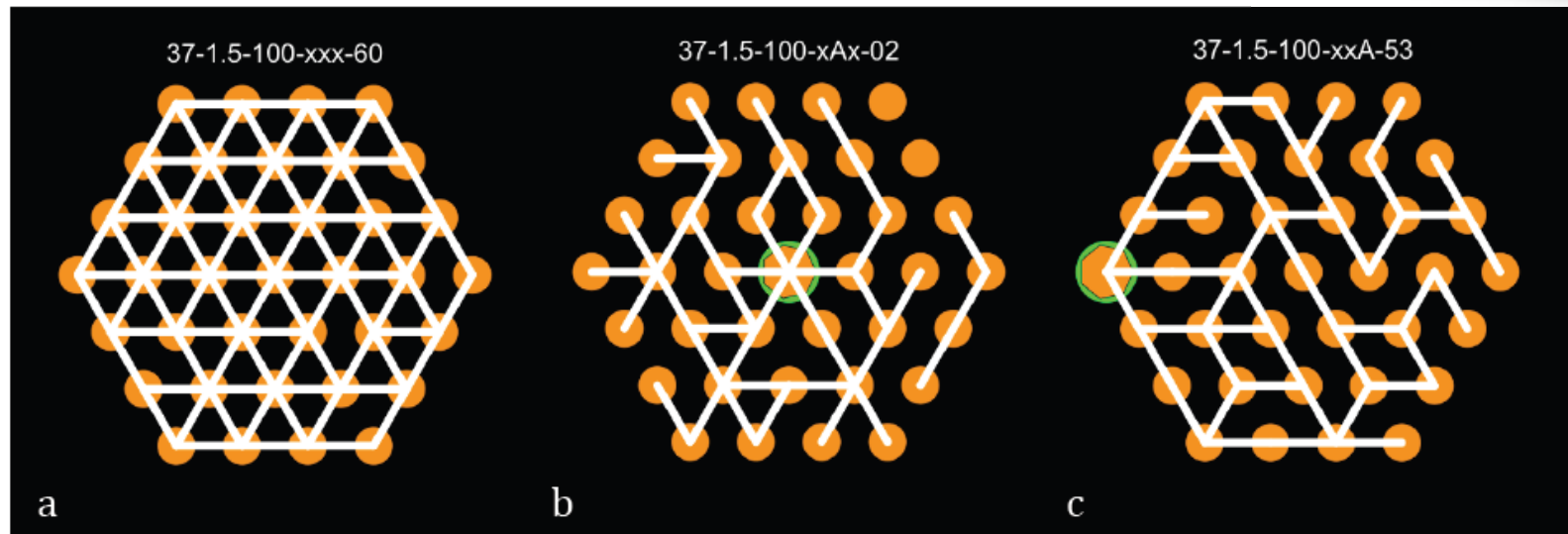
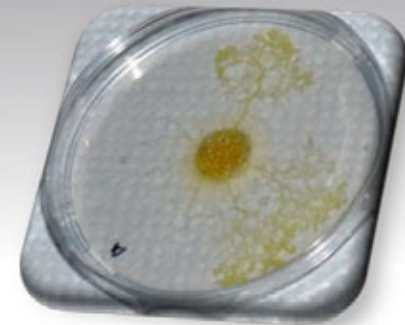


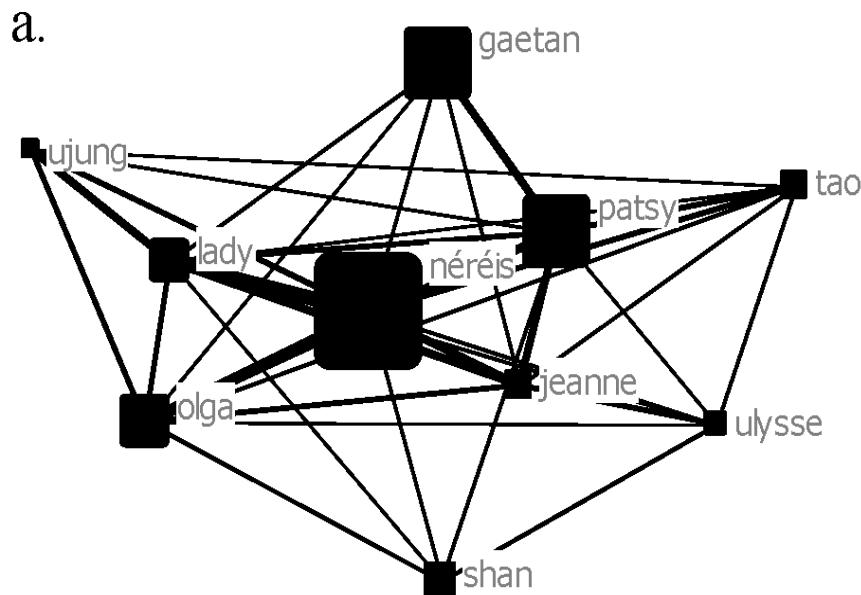
Fig.4: Examples of network topology at the end of the experiment without food source for a short distance between slime molds (1.5R) (a), with a food source in the centre (b) and with a food source at the periphery (green = oat). The orange spots represent patches of slime molds and the white lines represent the link between slime molds (edges).

Interaction networks of *Physarum polycephalum* in a foraging context

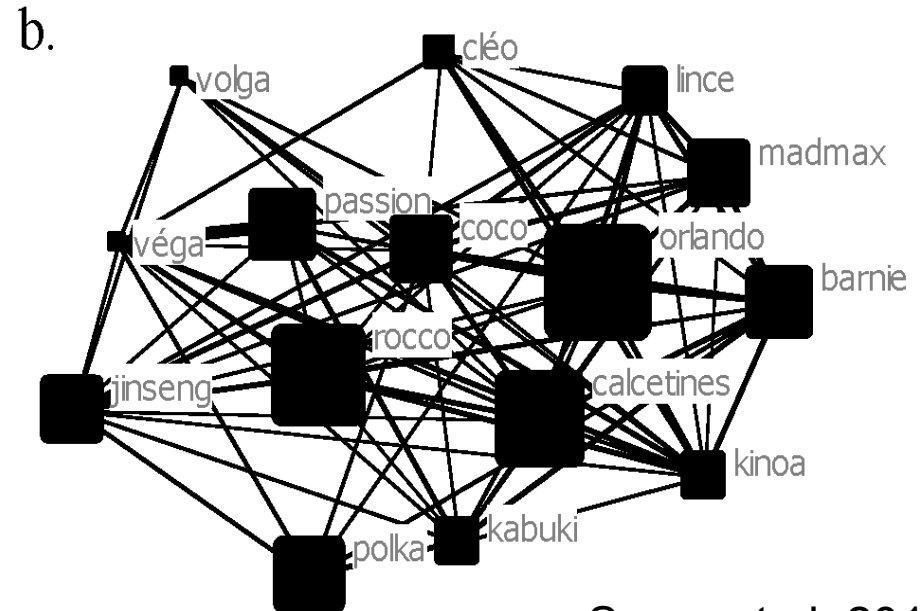
Eigenvector centrality vs. Group leadership in primates

- Size of nodes = leadership probability
- Leaders are central group members

Macaca tonkeana



Macaca mulatta



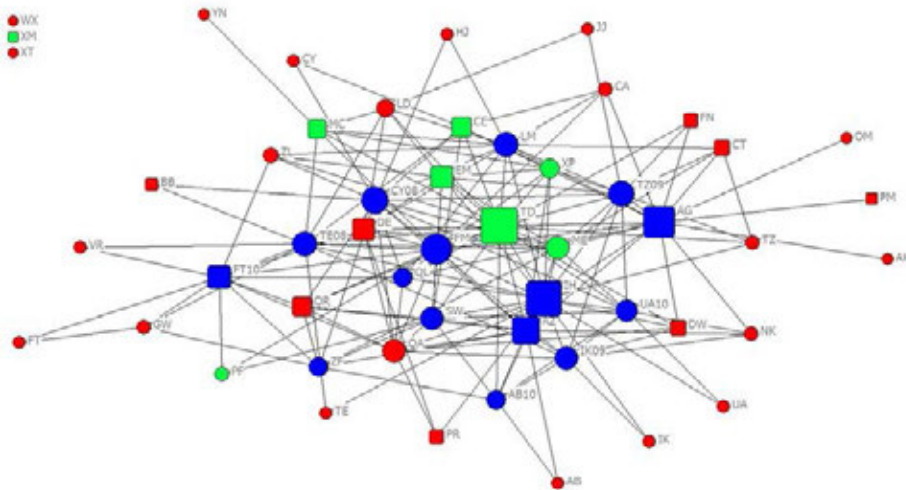
Sueur et al. 2014

Body contacts

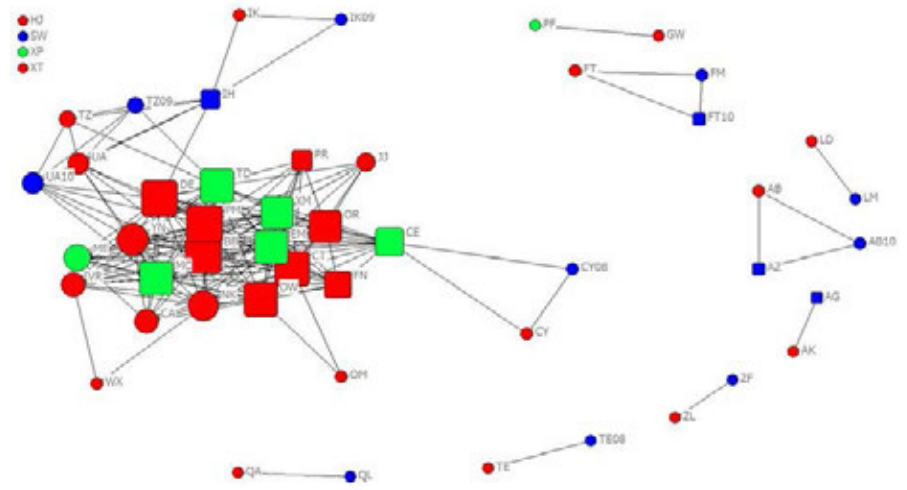
Importance of social play network for wild chimpanzees

- The social play network may allow individuals to develop the social techniques necessary to acquire a central position in a society

Social play network



Grooming network



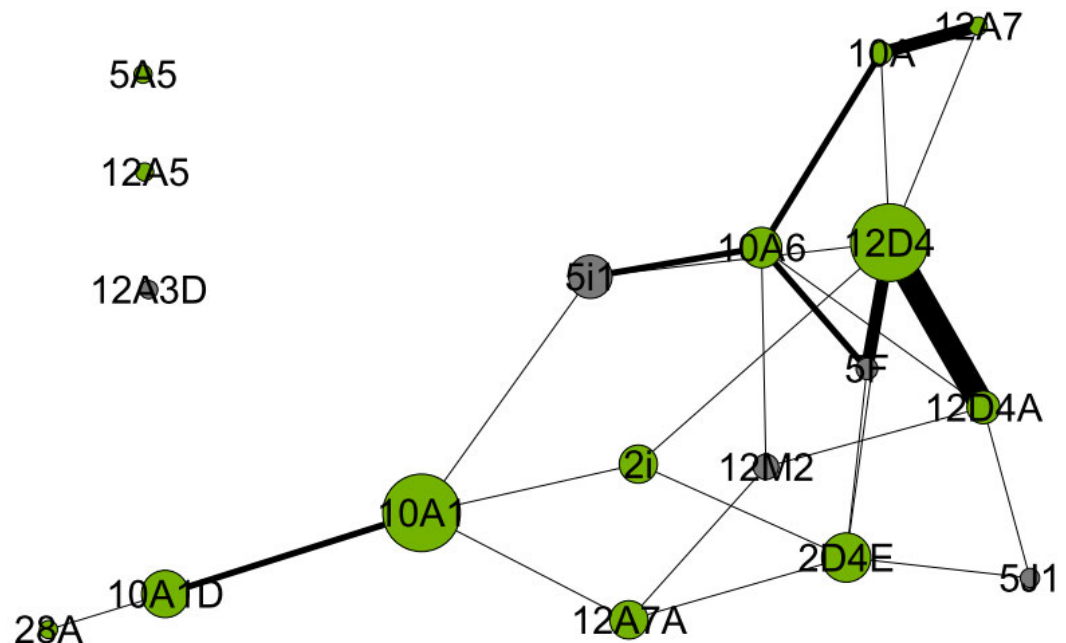
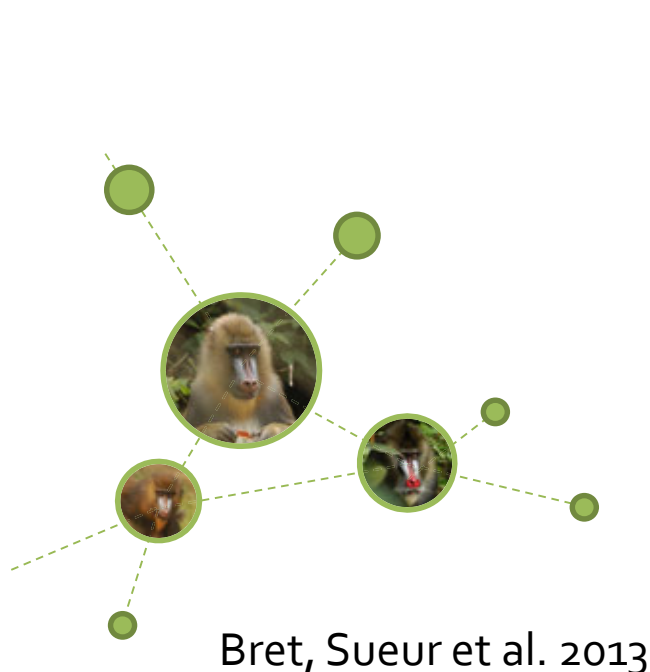
Red: adults, green: subadults, blue: juveniles

Shimada and Sueur, 2014

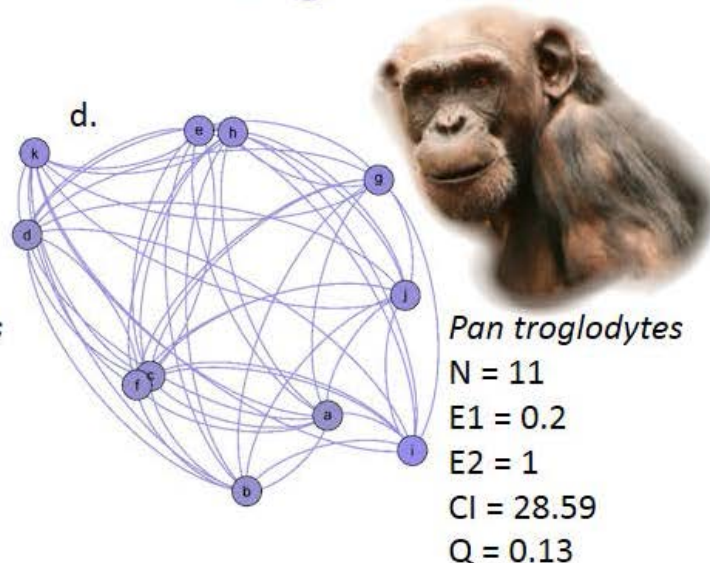
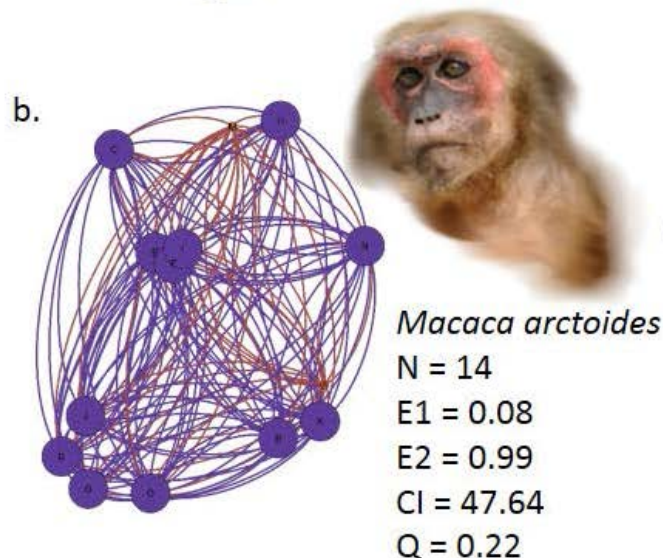
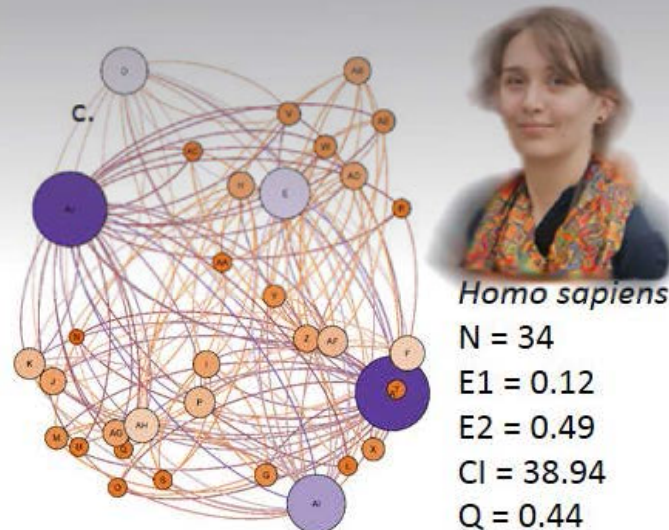
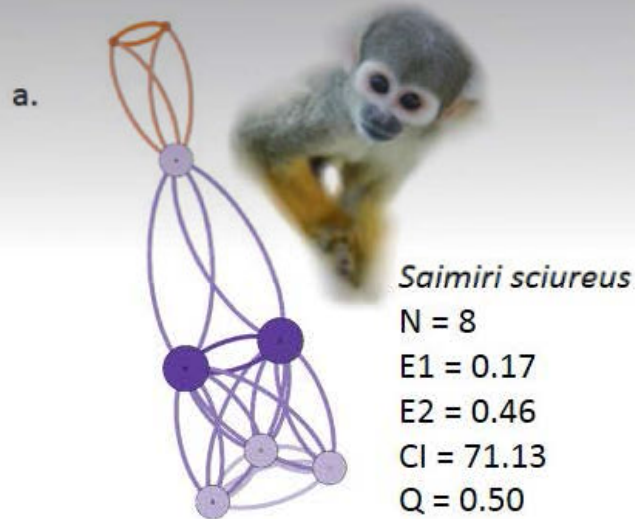
Social structure in mandrills

Central individuals, who are you?

- Two central females (dominant one and oldest one) allowing group cohesion and fast information transmission

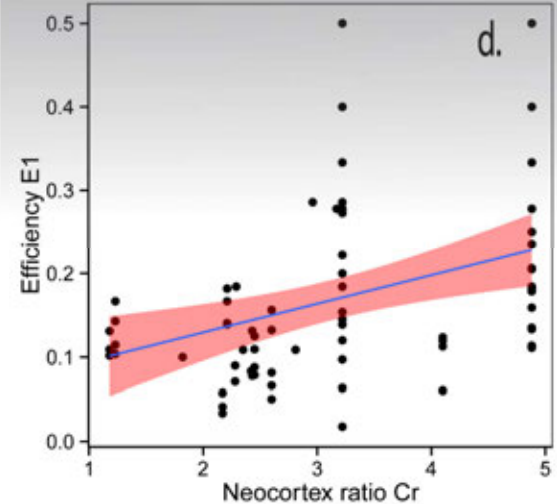
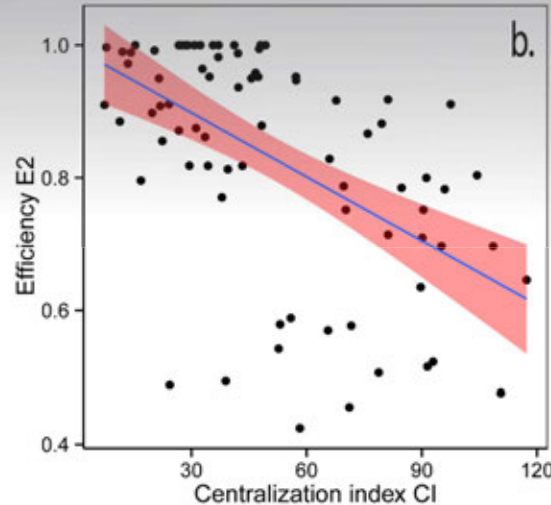
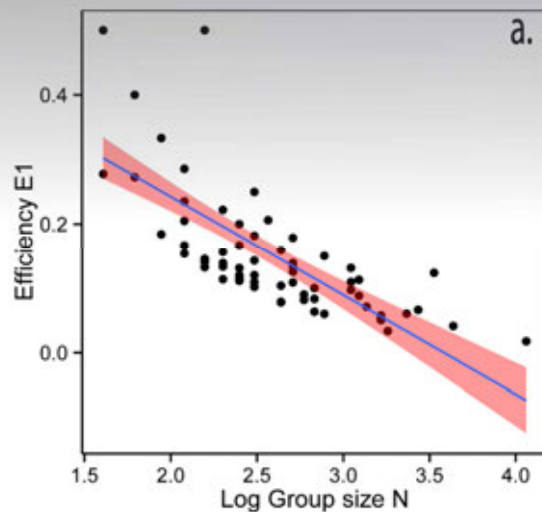


Social network in primates: smart and tolerant species have more efficient networks

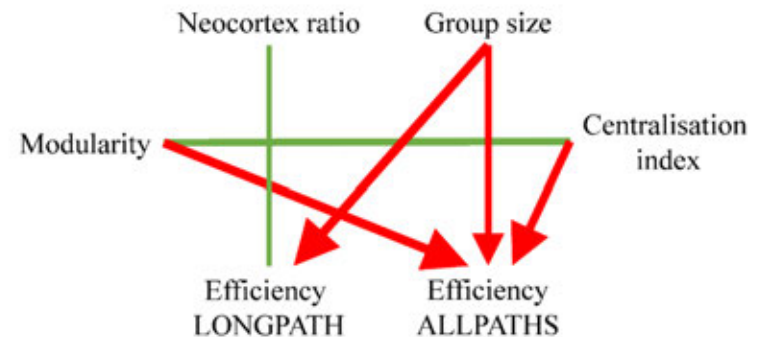


Pasquaretta,..., Sueur.
 Submitted

Social network in primates: smart and tolerant species have more efficient networks



Evolutionary processes
implied in social network
optimality



Online social network size is reflected in human brain structure

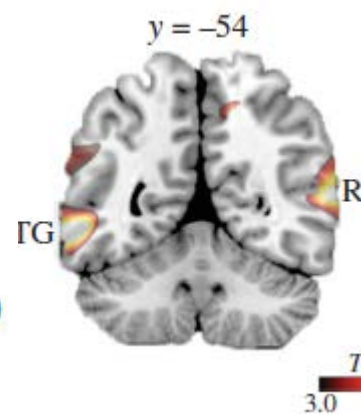
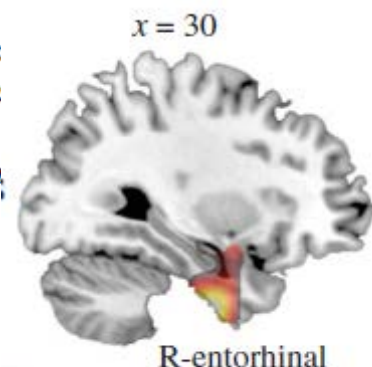
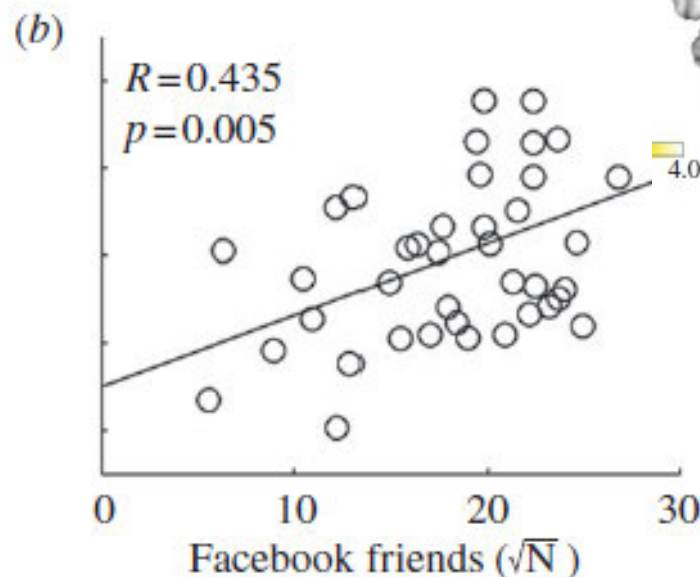
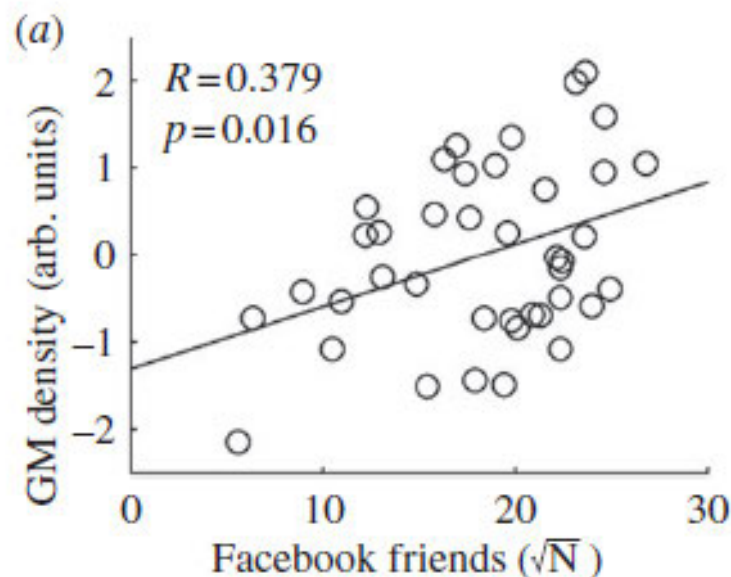
R. Kanai^{1,*}, B. Bahrami^{1,2,3,4}, R. Roylance⁵ and G. Rees^{1,2}

¹*UCL Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, 17 Queen Square, London WC1N 3AR, UK*

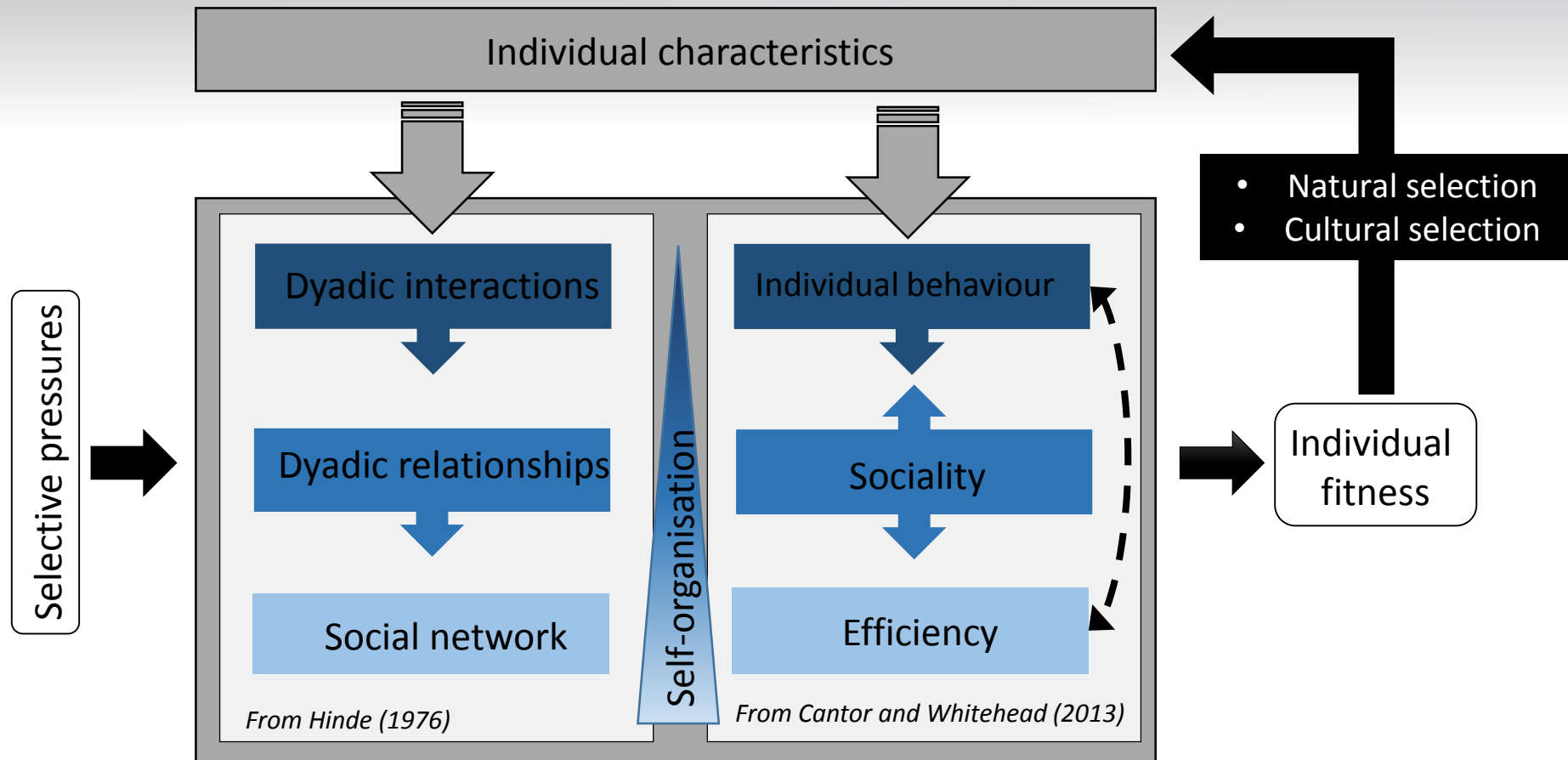
²*Wellcome Trust Centre for Neuroimaging, University College London, 12 Queen Square, London WC1N 3BG, UK*

³*Interacting Minds Project, Institute of Anthropology, Archaeology, Linguistic Aarhus University and* ⁴*Centre of Functionally Integrative Neuroscience, Aarhus Univer. Norrebrogade 44, Building 10 G, 8000 Aarhus, Denmark*

⁵*Institute of Cancer, Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry, Charterh, London EC1M 6RO, UK*

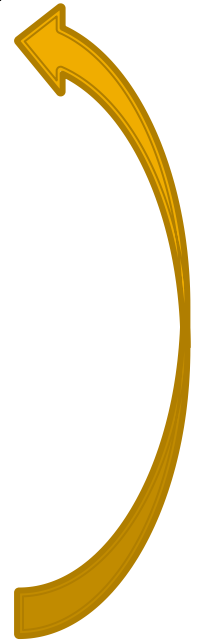


Evolution and Selection of social networks



Evolution and Selection of social networks

- By a combined effect of self-organisation and cultural selection, social networks may evolve to increase all group members' fitness
- However, inside the group, individuals having higher cognitive abilities through genetic advantages have higher fitness
- This leads to increase network efficiency



Perspectives

- Does social network influence positively or negatively other social phenomena?

In Japanese macaques, females central to the grooming network exhibit higher species richness and intensity of infection by parasites. *MacIntosh A. et al 2012*

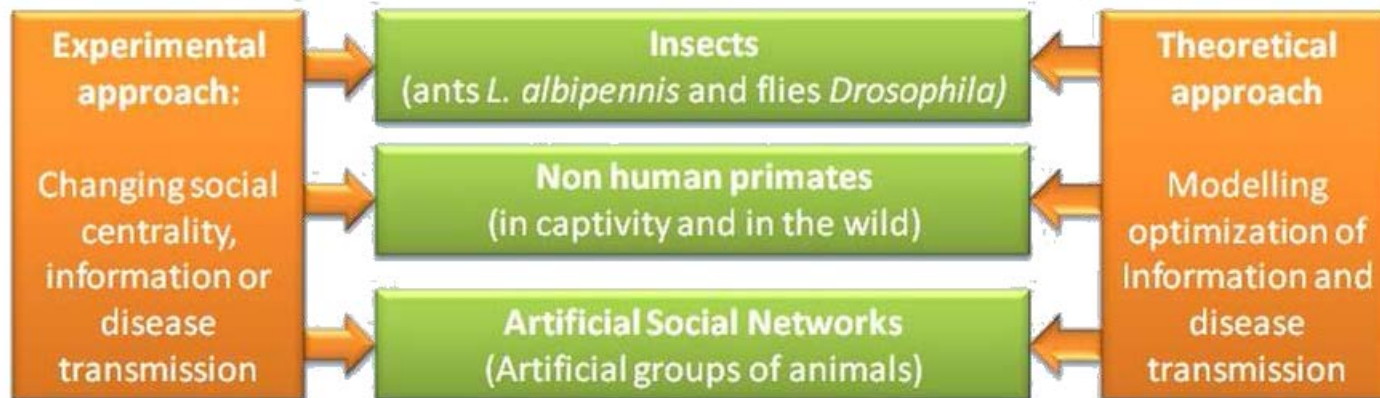


- How is this social network a trade-off between different variables?

Research plan

Objective 1:
influence of social
network on information
transmission

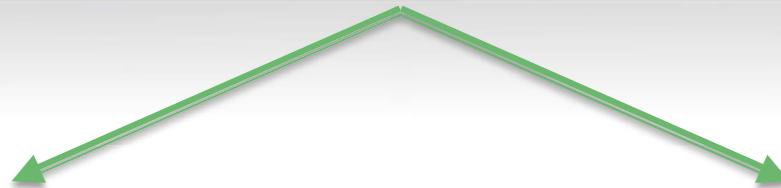
Objective 2:
influence of social
network on disease
transmission



Objective 3:
Social network as a trade-
off between information
and disease transmission

Social network as information and health trade-off in primates

Simultaneous experiments
on individual network centrality



Parasite transmission

- Feces
- PEPS (pseudoectoparasites)

Information transmission

- Social learning through new foraging techniques boxes

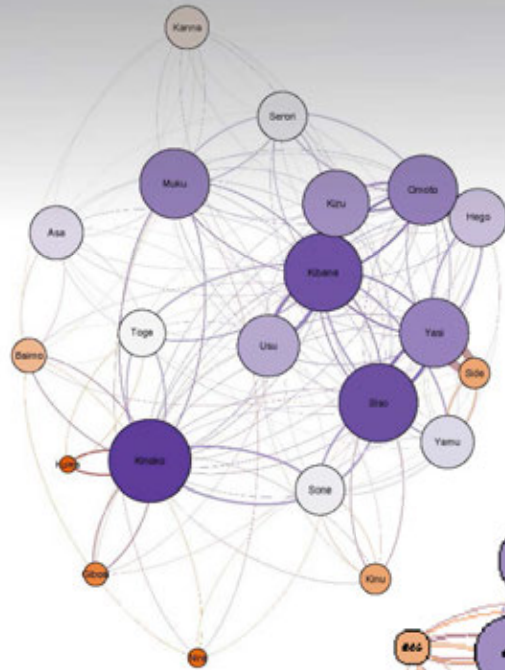


Social network as information and health trade-off

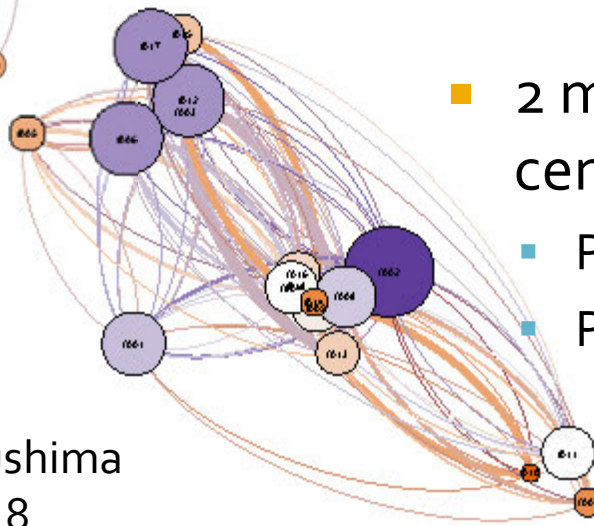
Simulations of transmission



Simulations of transmission



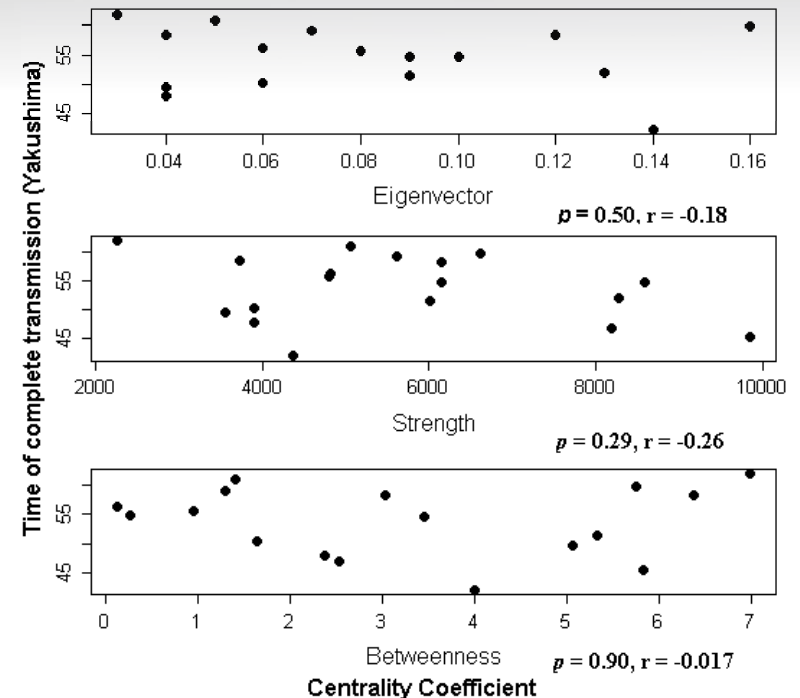
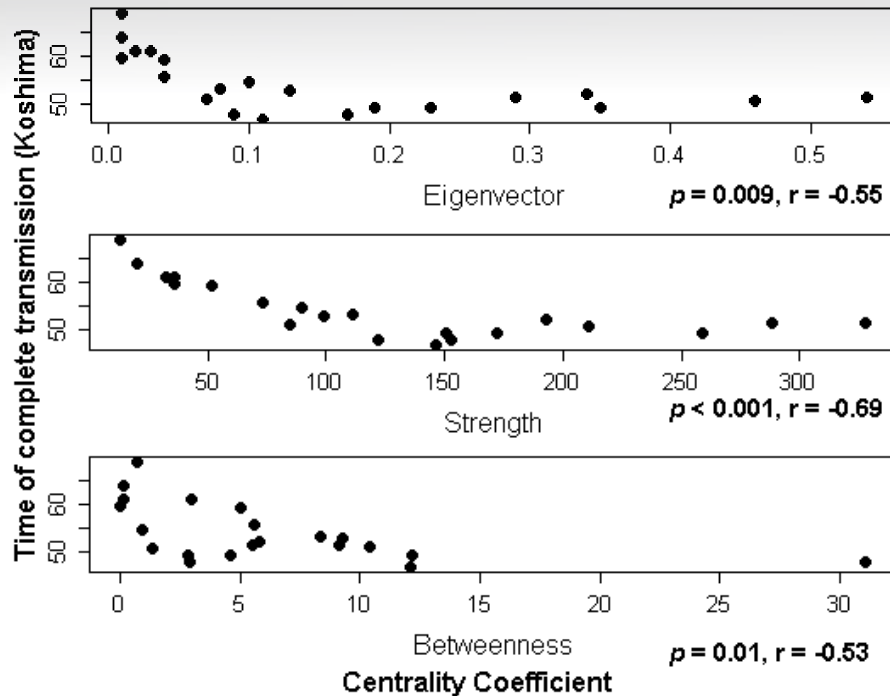
Koshima
N = 21



Yakushima
N = 18

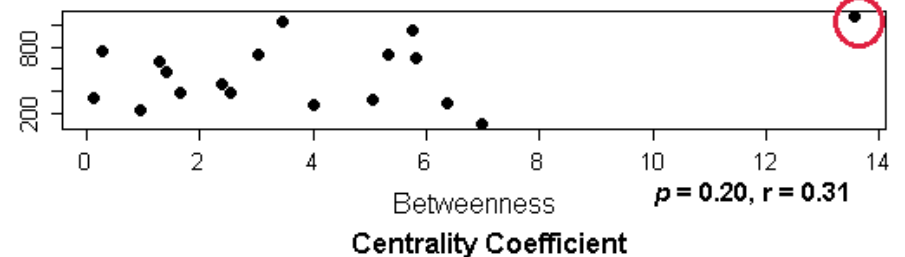
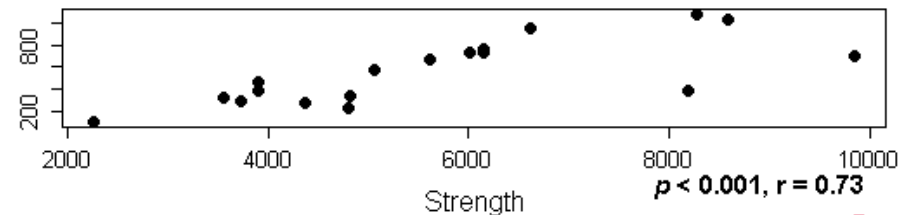
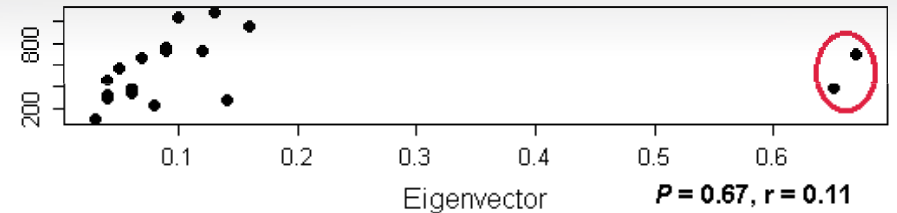
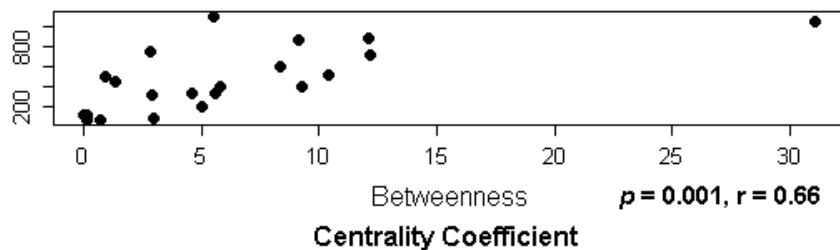
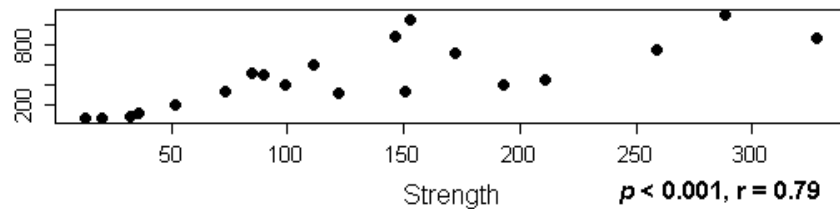
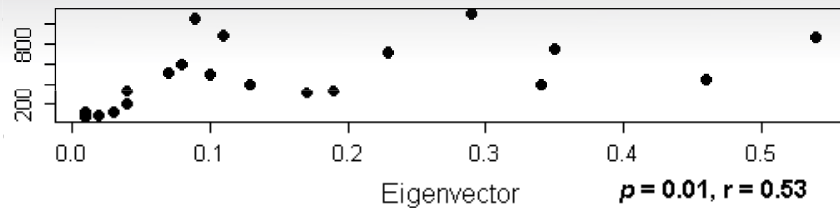
- Grooming data implemented in a model of information/disease transmission
- Probability of diffusion depends on social networks (graph-based simulation approach)
- 2 measures according to network centralities
 - Probability to transmit info/disease
 - Probability to be informed/infected

Probability to transmit info/disease



Probability to be informed/infected

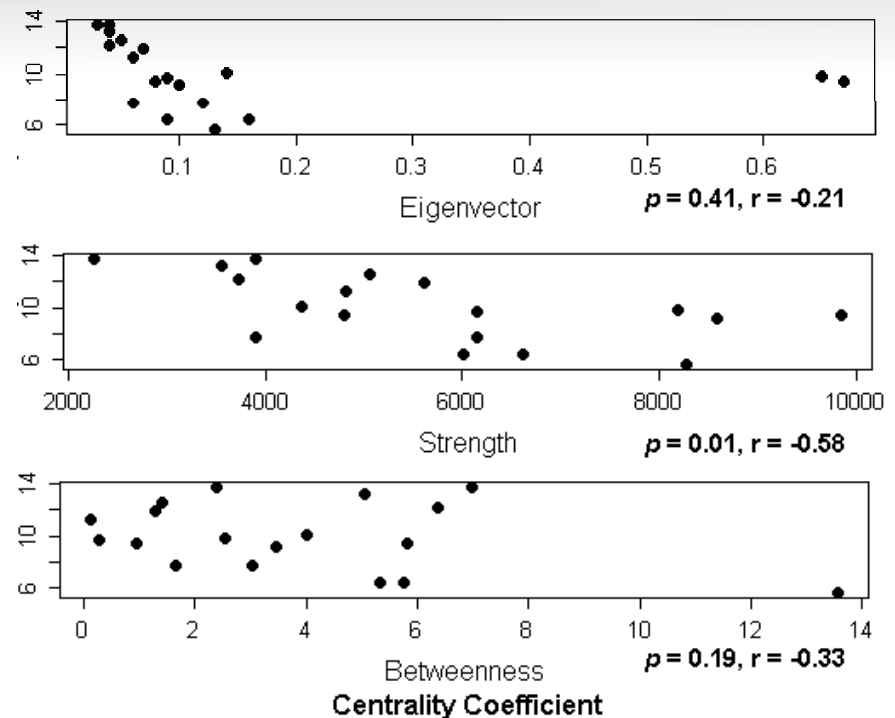
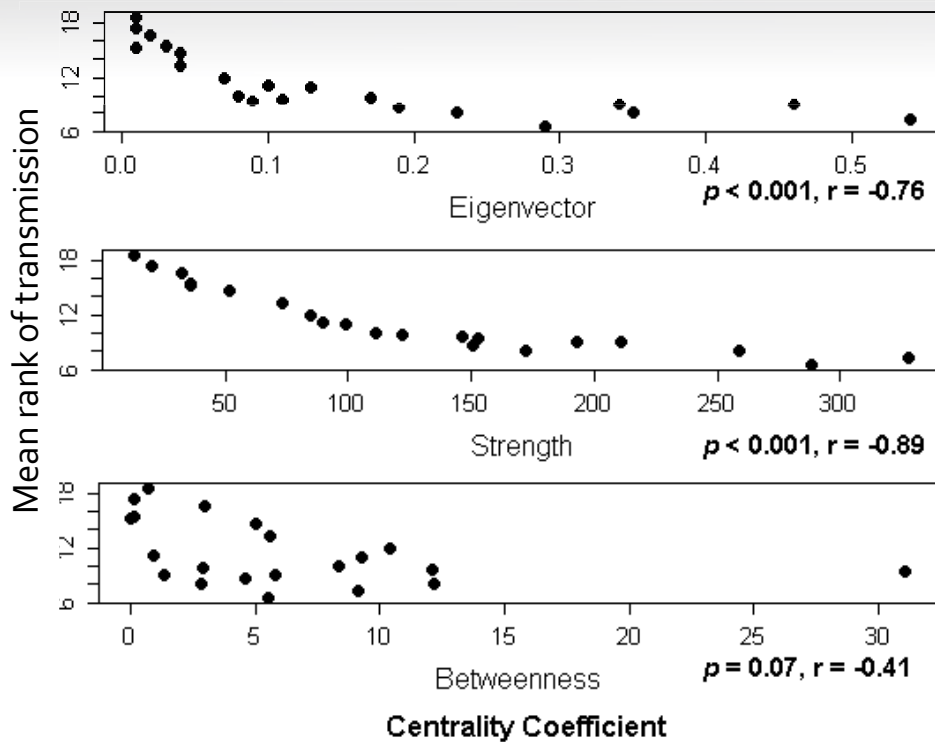
Probability to be informed/infected



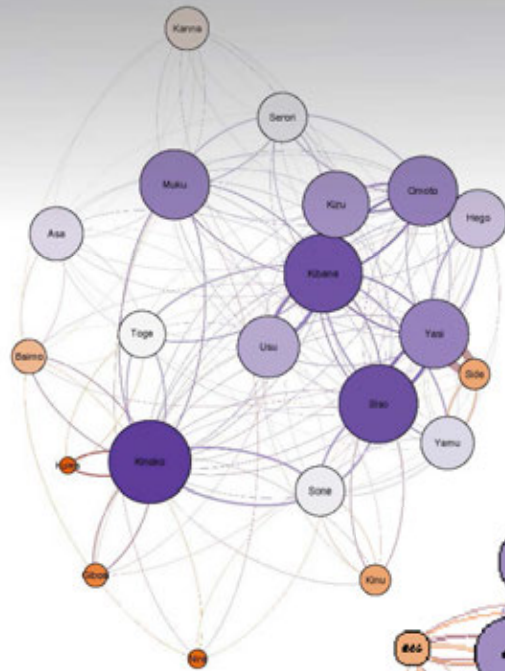
Probability to be informed/infected

Koshima group

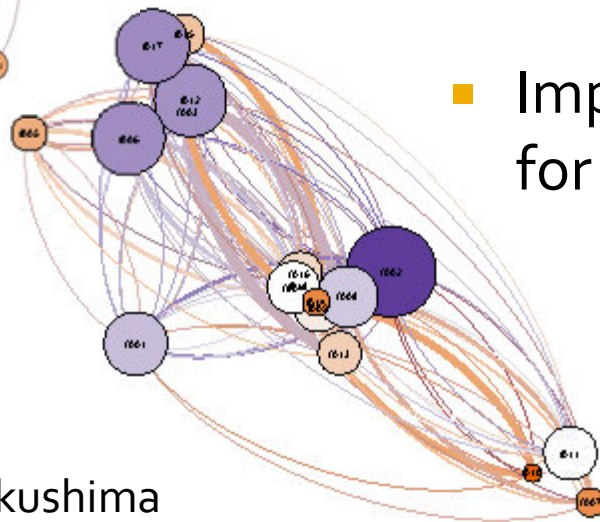
Yakushima group



Conclusion on the two groups



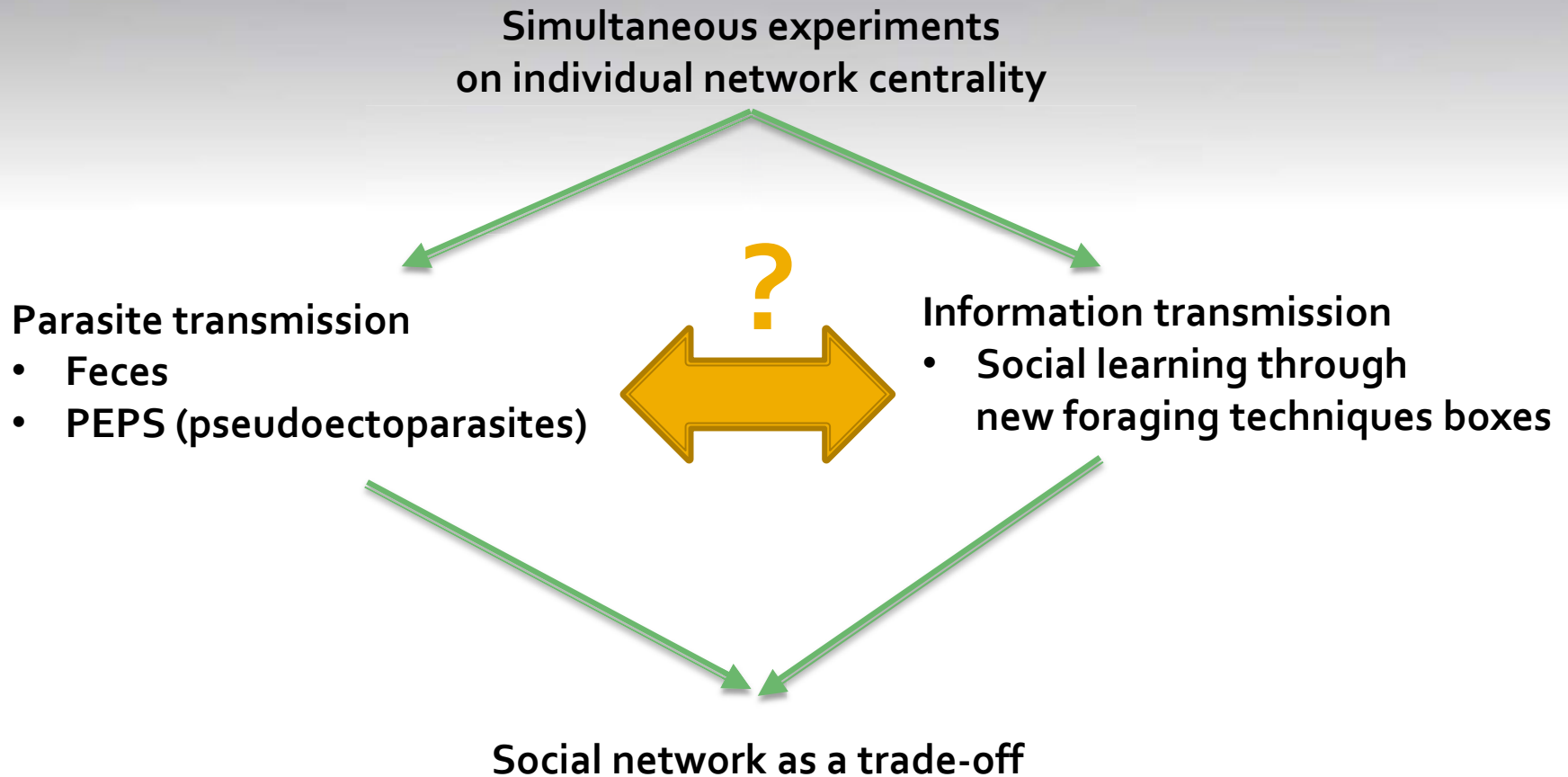
Koshima



Yakushima

- Same group size (18 vs.21)
- Different social network (density and distribution of centralities)
- Different transmission at the individual and at the group level
- Importance of network efficiency for all group members' fitness

Social network as information and health trade-off



In ants and fruitflies?

Simultaneous experiments
on individual network centrality

Disease transmission

- Ants: poison and antidote
- Fruitflies: N/A



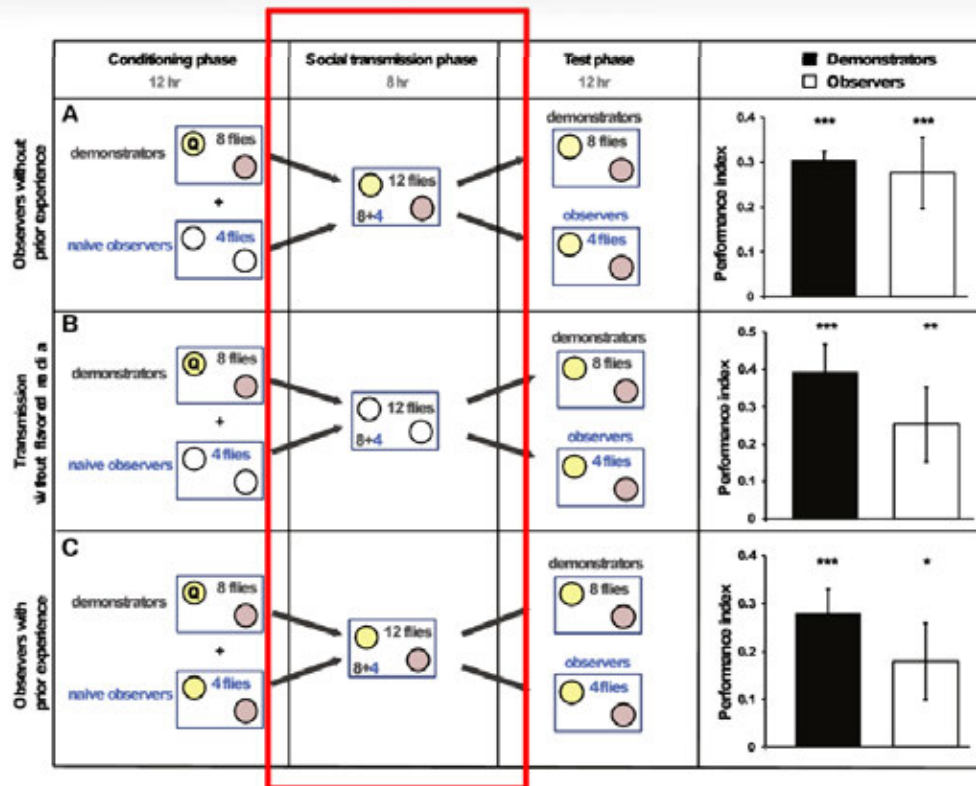
Information transmission

- Tests of preferences
- manipulating supports of communication
 - Ants: via glue on the abdomen or inhibitors to avoid pheromone transmission
 - Fruitflies: hydrocarbon profile

Social network as a trade-off

Social network analysis of information transmission in *Drosophila*

- Ovoposition site choice of Naive individuals is influenced by interactions with previous trained individuals

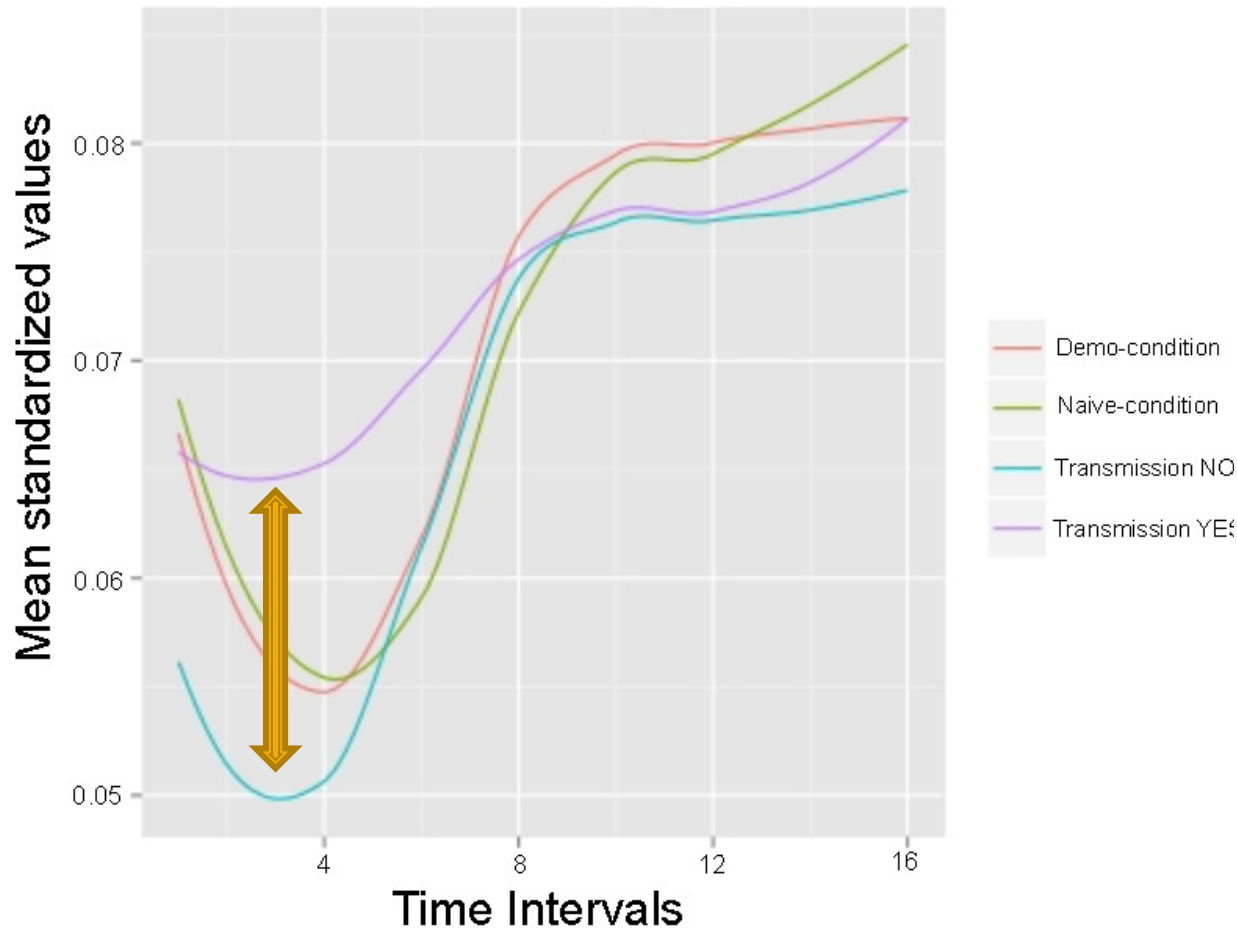


NO previous personal INFO

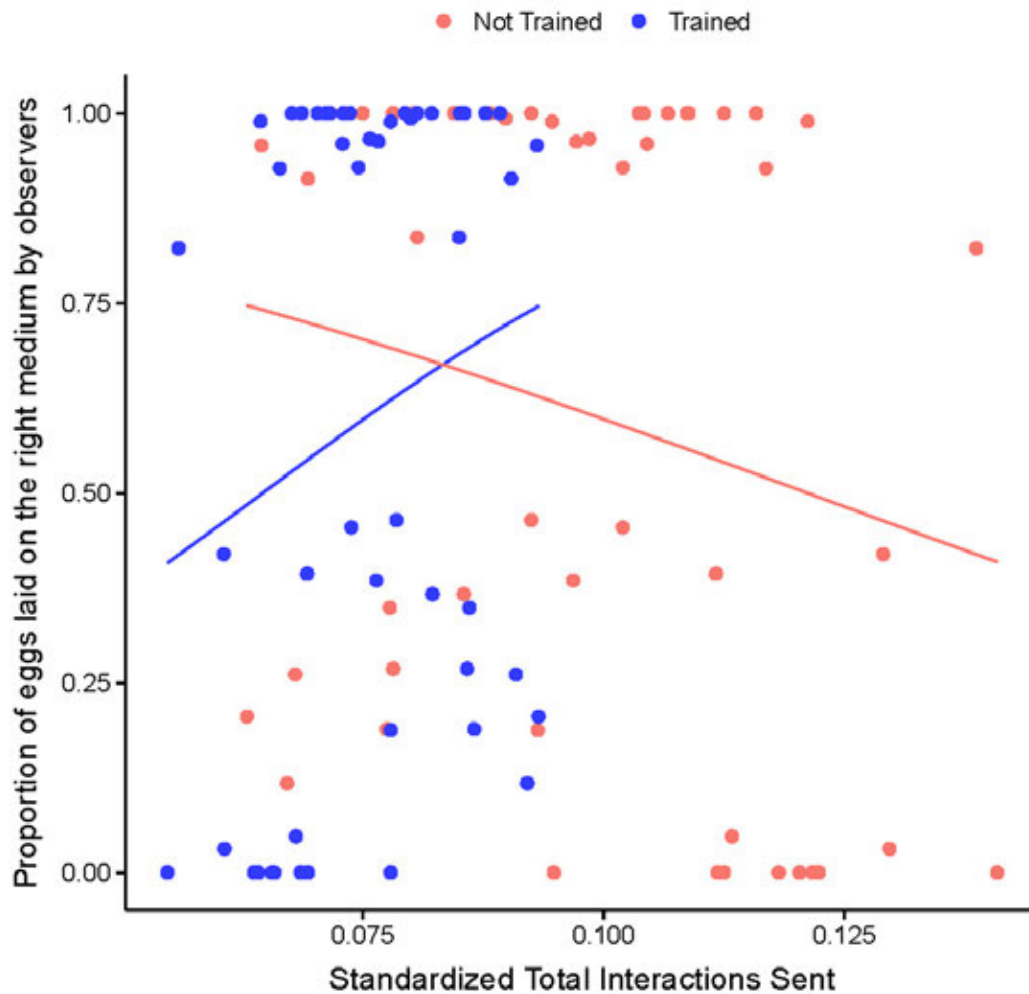
Previous personal INFO



Contacts sent by Trained Individuals



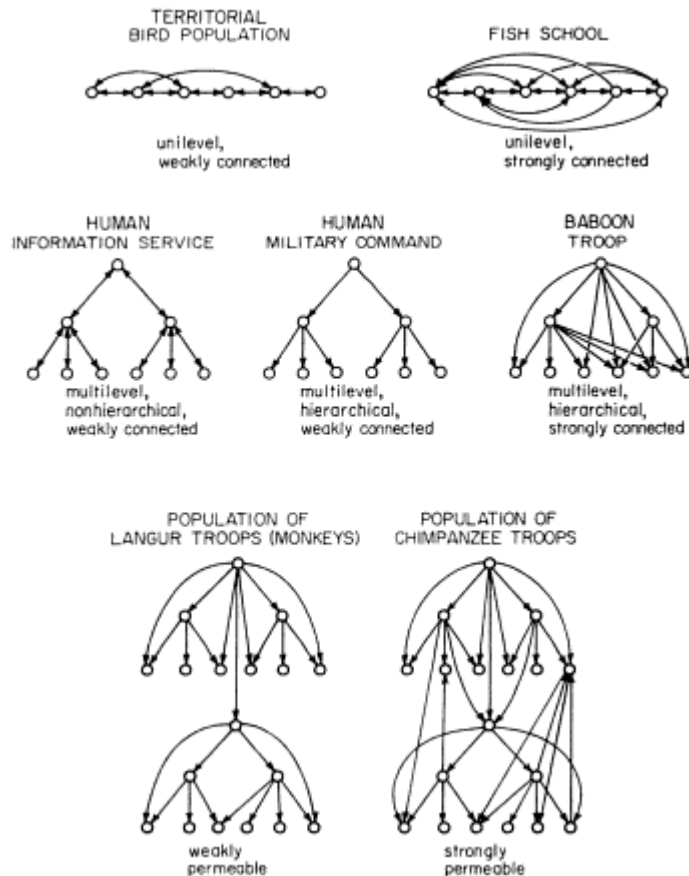
Demonstrators (trained individuals) need to be active and to contact naïve individuals in order to observe an information transmission



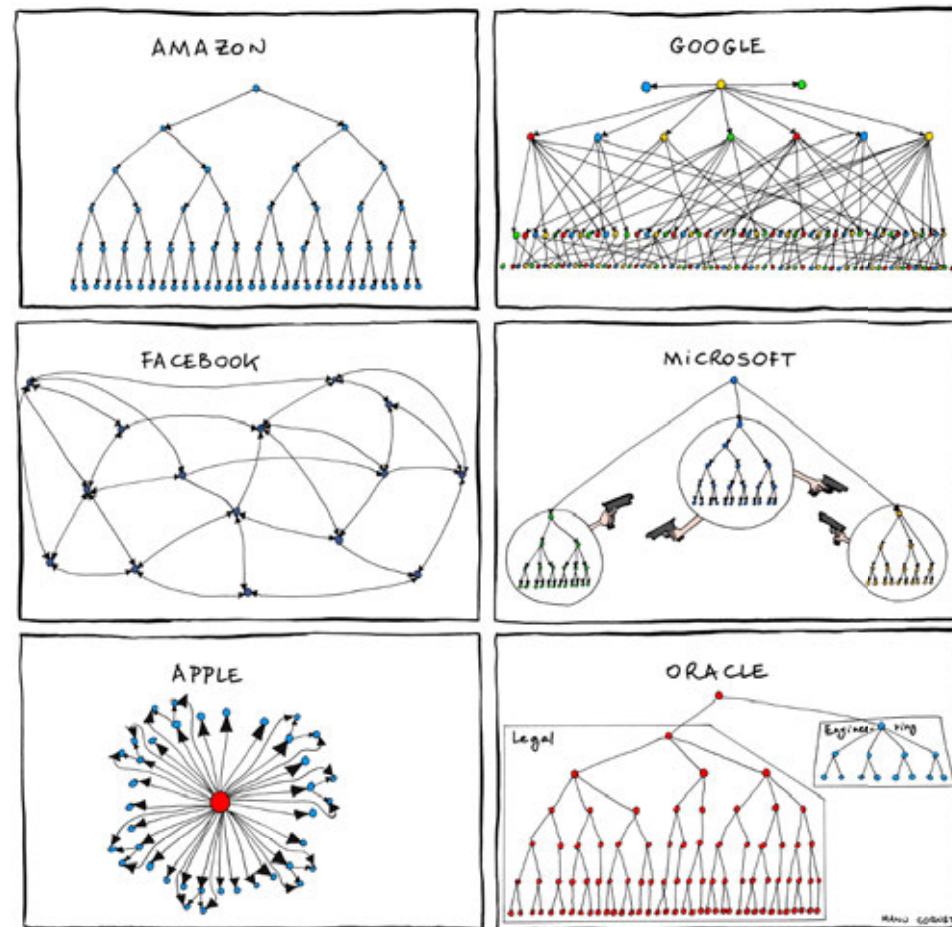
Whilst naïve individuals gain information (more eggs with more contacts), demonstrators (trained individuals) lose information (less eggs with more contacts)

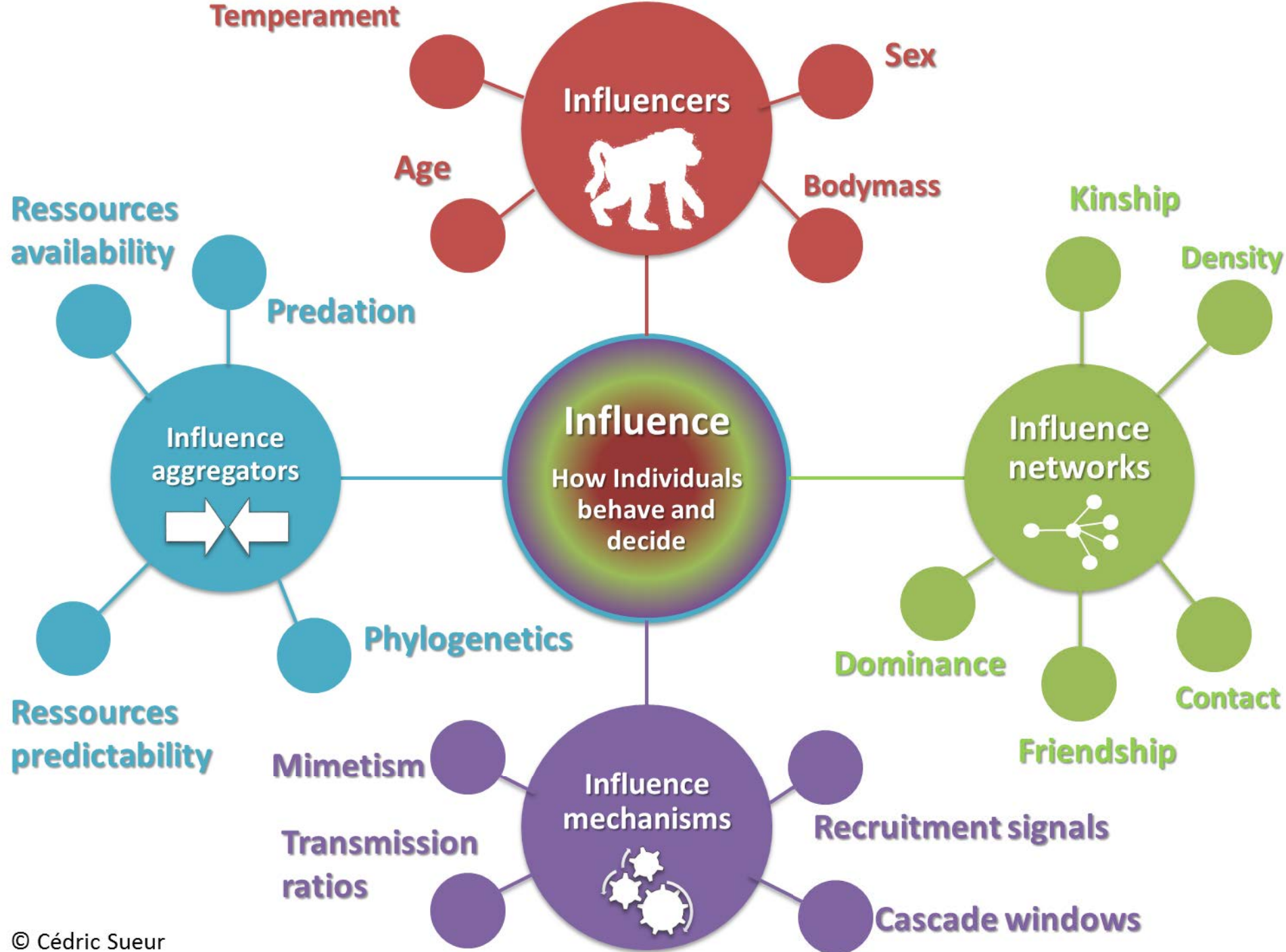
Applications to human beings?

Animals (Wislon, 1975)



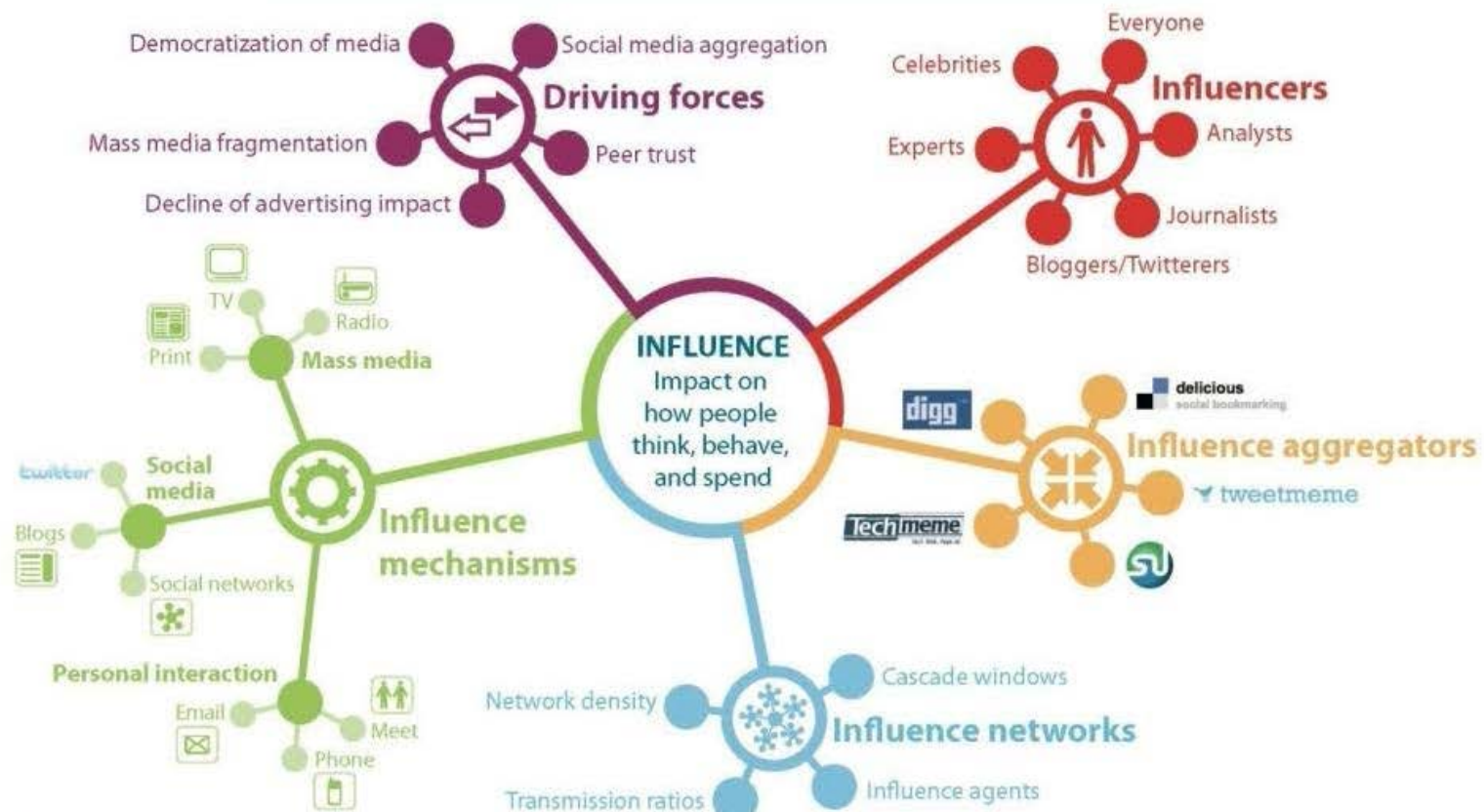
Human beings
(New York Times, 2013)



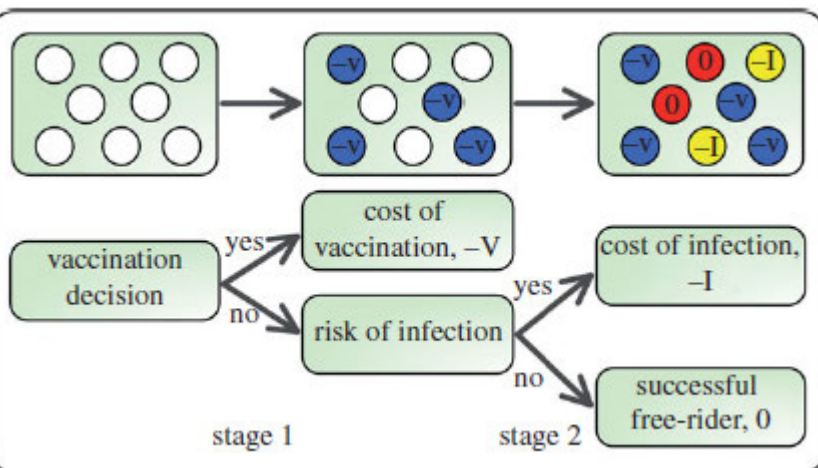
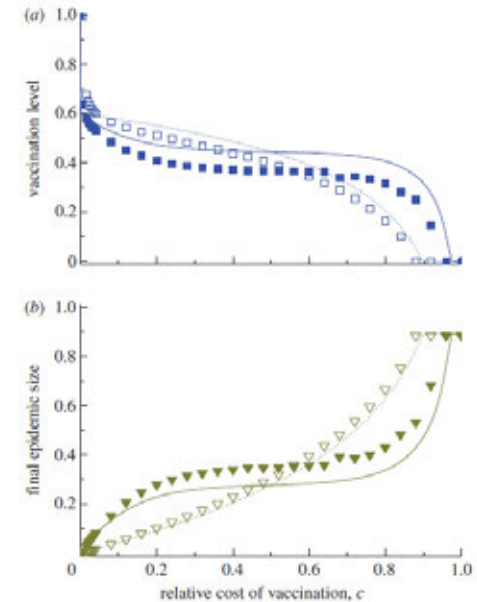
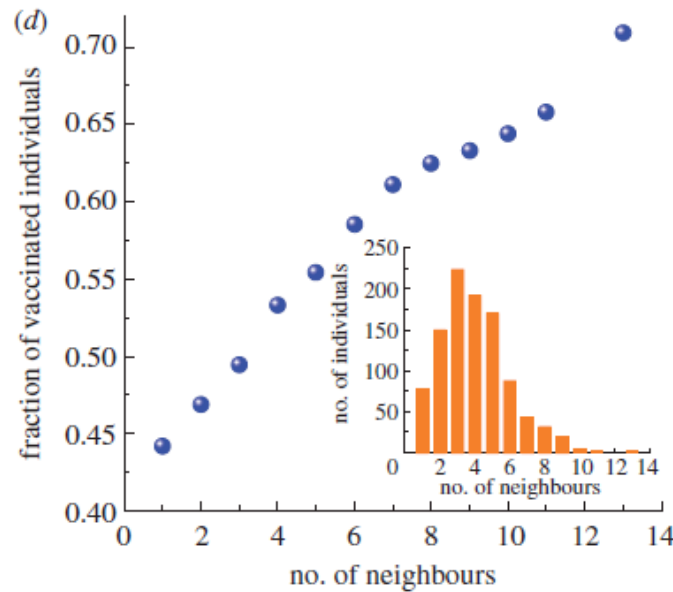
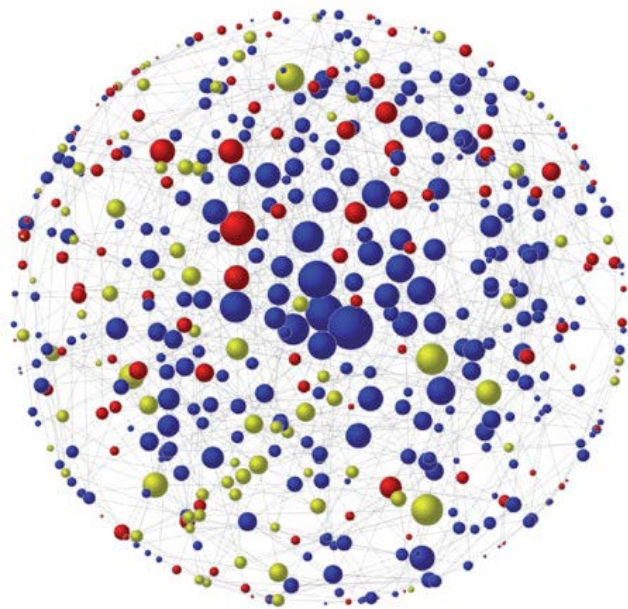


Management, productivity and well-being in human beings (firms)

The Influence Landscape Beta v1



Imitation dynamics of vaccination behaviour on social networks. Fu et al 2010



Vaccination threshold decreases when taking into account individual centralities

Network-Based vaccination in chimpanzees. Rushmore Julie et al.

- Threshold required to stop contagion:
 - 35% of individuals based on greatest centrality
 - 17% based on core-ranging individuals



Thank you for your attention!

And my colleagues, Marie Pelé, Odile Petit, Jean-Louis Deneubourg, Andrew J King, Andrew JJ MacIntosh

SNAAS network



Agence Nationale de la Recherche
ANR

