Core discussion networks of Princeton students
Assignment 6 (Due: April 3, 2013)
Sociology 204: Social Networks
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Remember to write your name and precept on your assignment and staple it!

This week we read about the core discussion networks of Americans, and now we are going to learn about the core discussion networks of Princeton students. First, please make some predictions.

1) Do you think Princeton students will have larger or small core discussion networks than Americans? Here core discussion networks are defined in the way that McPherson et al. did: people with whom the respondent discusses important matters.

2) What percentage of core discussion partners of Princeton students do you think will be other Princeton students?

3) What percentage of core discussions pairs of Princeton students (i.e. ego and alter both Princeton students) do you think will be people who are the same gender?

4) What percentage of core discussions pairs of Princeton students (i.e. ego and alter both Princeton students) do you think will be people who are in the same eating club?

5) What percentage of core discussions pairs of Princeton students (i.e. ego and alter both Princeton students) do you think will be people who lived in the same residential college freshman year?

6) What percentage of core discussions pairs of Princeton students (i.e. ego and alter both Princeton students) do you think will be people who are the same race/ethnicity?

Now that your predictions are made, please select 3 of your friends to be interviewed. Ask them if they would like to help you complete your assignment and tell them that each interview will take approximately 10 minutes. For each friend, please complete a survey form that you can download from the class website. After collecting the data, please answer the following questions.

7) Based on your data, do Princeton students have larger or small core discussion networks than Americans? Here core discussion networks are defined in the way that McPherson et al. did: people with whom the respondent discusses important matters. For this question, you can assume that the McPherson et al. (2004) article is correct. Be specific and cite data.
8) Based on your data, do kin (e.g., family members) make up a higher or lower proportion of Princeton students’ core discussion networks than Americans’ core discussion networks? For this question, you can assume that the McPherson et al. (2004) article is correct. Be specific and cite data.

9) Based on your data, what percentage of core discussion partners of Princeton students are other Princeton students?

10) Based on your data, what percentage of core discussions pairs of Princeton students (i.e. ego and alter both Princeton students) are people who are the same gender?

11) Based on your data, what percentage of core discussions pairs of Princeton students (i.e. ego and alter both Princeton students) are people who are in the same eating club?

12) Based on your data, what percentage of core discussions pairs of Princeton students (i.e. ego and alter both Princeton students) are people who lived in the same residential college freshman year?

13) Based on your data, what percentage of core discussions pairs of Princeton students (i.e. ego and alter both Princeton students) are people who are the same race/ethnicity?

14) How did your predictions compare to your results? For which kinds of things were your predictions most accurate? Least accurate? Be specific and cite data.

15) Finally input all of your survey data (not your predictions or analysis results) into the class data collection website; the link will be posted on Piazza. This aggregated data will give us a fuller picture of the core discussion networks of Princeton students and will be discussed in precept.