

Author(s): Eulau, Heinz, Jonathan W. Siegel, and Stephen Weatherford.

Title: Interpersonal Contexts of Political Behavior

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Abstract

This paper addresses "network analysis" -- a field of study concerned with the contextual treatment of individual-level social phenomena. The 1979 Pilot Study included two types of network-related questions; those related to the demographic and ecological properties of neighborhoods, and another set of items eliciting information concerning the self-perceived interactions of respondents. The authors discuss the coding, distribution, and interpretation of the responses to these questions. Eulau, Siegel, and Weatherford also attempt to validate their measures by estimating the correlations among different aggregate variables, constructed from the Pilot Study network items. While the paucity of cases do not allow the authors to introduce desired control variables into the analysis, they find that most of the measures examined in the study are related in a plausible manner. The authors also find that the relationships between demographic variables and the network variables follow expected patterns, thereby providing additional support for the validity of the Pilot Study measures. Finally, the authors examine the effects of political conversation in the neighborhood zone. They find that political conversation is related to several crucial aspects of political behavior and beliefs. However, its effect varies by individual.