

Presentation title:

Applying social network analysis on public indictments and verdicts

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This abstract summarizes two bachelor's thesis with commonalities in data material and method. The foundation for both papers were public indictments and verdicts stemming from EncroChat, an encrypted messaging service popular within criminal circles before decrypted by law enforcement in 2020. In the first study the network grew out of one EncroChat-case with a large number of defendants. The case became the center of an egocentric built network. The links between the actors consisted of defendants appearing together in other verdicts as one of the defendants in the original case. Links were shown both in relation to the original defendants but also between the added defendants from the connected cases. This study found that the leaders identified by the prosecution did not have a central position in the created graphs. Overlaying geographical data showed co-operations within larger geographical areas. Some of the graphs were also made in a second version to show possible directions via the links to further connect to the theory of differential associations. In the second study the EncroChat-messages of a supposed key facilitator in organized crime were mapped using SNA. Two networks were constructed; the first included all individuals in the case and the second was identical but with the facilitator excluded. Comparing the network's centrality measures gave insight regarding the impact on communication when removing the key facilitator. Furthermore, the messages sent/received by the facilitator were submitted in a qualitative content analysis. The results indicate that the exclusion of the key facilitator had little impact within networks but a massively disruptive effect between networks and their communication with foreign contacts. The content analysis showed that the facilitator provided the networks with international payments, money laundering and currency exchange, routed through a seemingly legitimate finance business.