



Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences
Department of Economics

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Network Science & Economics (MA)

Spring Semester 2026

Content

Course Goal Students will:

- a) **learn** how to describe and analyze social networks,
- b) **understand** some of the most important ideas developed in network science,
- c) **analyze** microeconomic models of network formation.

Course description WhatsApp and TikTok are two well-known examples of social networks. However, the importance of relationships is not restricted to the online world and, similarly, the term social networks includes various applications both online and offline. Offline examples range from ancient marriage networks to R&D collaborations between firms. The analysis of social networks has become one of the liveliest fields of research in economics, as well as in other (social) sciences. This course gives an introduction into this field and thereby puts emphasis on economic models of network formation.

Outline

1. Introduction to social networks
2. Analyzing social networks
3. Strategic network formation
4. Outlook: behavior on networks

Organisation

Date	Time	Lecture / Exercises	Room
Thursday 19.02.2026	8:15 - 11:00	Lecture	PER 21 C130
Thursday 26.02.2026	8:15 - 11:00	Exercises and Lecture	PER 21 C130
Thursday 05.03.2026	8:15 - 11:00	Exercises and Lecture	PER 21 C130
Thursday 12.03.2026	8:15 - 11:00	Exercises and Lecture	PER 21 C130
Thursday 19.03.2026	8:15 - 11:00	Exercises and Lecture	PER 21 C130
Thursday 26.03.2026	8:15 - 11:00	Exercises and Lecture	PER 21 C130
Thursday 02.04.2026	8:15 - 11:00	Exercises and Lecture	PER 21 C130
Thursday 16.04.2026	8:15 - 11:00	Exercises and Lecture	PER 21 C130
Thursday 23.04.2026	8:15 - 11:00	Exercises and Lecture	PER 21 C130
Thursday 30.04.2026	8:15 - 11:00	Exercises and Lecture	PER 21 C130
Thursday 07.05.2026	8:15 - 11:00	Exercises and Lecture	PER 21 C130
Thursday 21.05.2026	8:15 - 11:00	Exercises and Lecture	PER 21 C130
Thursday 30.05.2026	8:15 - 11:00	Exercises, Lecture, Questions	PER 21 C130

Examination

Final Exam This class is graded through an end of semester written exam. The exam is 60 minutes long.

Supporting Materials

Lecture & Exercises All materials required for the class are available on Moodle.

The best preparation material for the final exam is the handout with the slides and the set of exercises. Students are particularly advised to independently try to solve each exercise *before* discussing them in class.

Reference books The main text book is Jackson (2010).

JACKSON, M.O. (2010). *Social and Economic Networks*. PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS.

BRAMOULLE, Y., GALEOTTI, A. AND ROGERS, B. (2016). *The Oxford Handbook of the Economics of Networks*. OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS.

EASLEY, D. AND KLEINBERG, J. (2010). *Networks, Crowds, and Markets: Reasoning About a Highly Connected World*. CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS.

GOYAL, S. (2023). *Networks: An Economics Approach*. MIT PRESS.