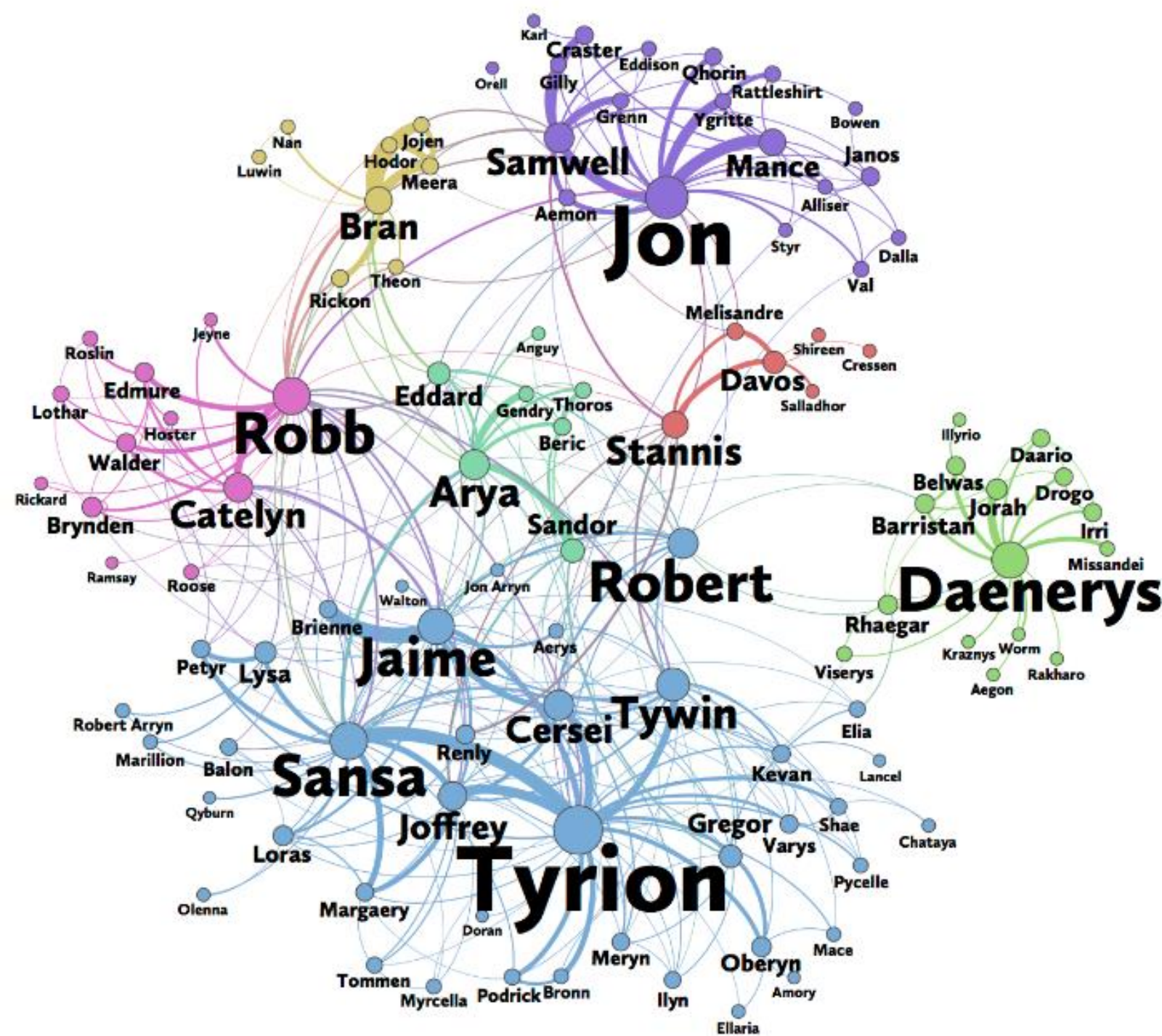




Social Network Analysis

HPAH5027/6027 – HERODOTUS AND HIS HISTORIES



- ▶ Character Network for *A Storm of Swords* (third book)
- ▶ Link between two characters whenever their names appeared within 15 words of one another
- ▶ From: <https://www.macalester.edu/~abeverid/thrones.html>

What is Social Network Analysis (SNA)?

- ▶ Methodology for visualising and analysing large datasets
- ▶ Developed in social sciences, well-established in archaeology
- ▶ Can use various parameters – people, places, material, words, etc.
- ▶ Very wide range of uses – e.g. gang activity in London
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xT3EpF2EsbQ>

SNA Background

- ▶ Began in 20th cent with drawing/mind-maps
- ▶ Heavily expanded in 1990s – computer software
- ▶ Archaeologists started using it – popular from 00s
- ▶ Slowly making inroads into classics

Networks in scholarship

- ▶ Malkin 2011: 1

‘Greek civilization came into being just when the Greeks were splitting apart. It took the form familiar to us during the Archaic period at the time Greeks were separating, migrating, and founding new communities in ever-widening horizons, reaching both the western Mediterranean and the eastern Black Sea.’

- ▶ Cline 2012: 60

‘For ancient history in particular, Social Network Analysis can be useful in numerous ways. One might, for instance, look at the network present during a period early in an emperor’s rule and compare it to the network present during a period late in his reign, thereby possibly providing insight into how his power grew, how he expanded relations with other countries and peoples, or who else held power and had their own circle of relationships in addition to the sovereign.’

SNA examples

- ▶ Proxenoï networks: <http://proxenies.csad.ox.ac.uk/about>
- ▶ Hestia project: <https://hestia.open.ac.uk/the-digital-text/>
- ▶ *Visualising Historical Networks*:
<https://sites.fas.harvard.edu/~histecon/visualizing/index.html>
- ▶ For further examples and other guides/handbooks, see this massive collection of resources: <https://github.com/briatte/awesome-network-analysis/>

How do we do it?

- ▶ Select data and variables
- ▶ Data collection – Microsoft Excel
- ▶ Input data – UNICET, Node XL
- ▶ Alternatively, pen and paper!

Exercise

- ▶ In pairs/threes:
- ▶ Pick a figure from this list and begin making a list of all the their interactions with other individual people – list who they speak with and where in Hdt
- ▶ Then, draw out an SNA diagram – write number of interactions on line

- **Xerxes**
- **Aristagoras**
- **Darius**
- **Cleisthenes**
- **Cleomenes**
- **Mardonius**

- **Cambyzes**
- **Cyrus**
- **Artemesia**
- **Themistocles**
- **Leonidas**
- **Miltiades (the Younger)**

Further reading

- ▶ Clarke, K. 2018, 'Lines and Dots'. Chapter in *ibid. Shaping the Geography of Empire: Man and Nature in Herodotus' Histories*. Oxford: OUP.
- ▶ Cline, D.H. 2012, 'Six Degrees of Alexander: Social Network Analysis as a Tool for Ancient History'. *Ancient History Bulletin*, Vol. 26.
- ▶ Constantakopoulou, C. 2017, 'Networks, Regionalism and the Economy'. Chapter in *ibid. Aegean Interactions: Delos and its Networks in the Third Century*. Oxford: OUP.
- ▶ Home Office 2016, 'Social Network Analysis: 'How to Guide''. Available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/491572/socnet_howto.pdf
- ▶ Malkin, I. 2011, *A Small Greek World: Networks in the Ancient Mediterranean*. Oxford: OUP.