

From Organizations to Networks: Analysis of Artists' Networks across Time and Space

Željka Tonković, PhD
University of Zadar
Department of Sociology

Networks in the Global World. Multiple Structures and
Dynamics
St. Petersburg, 1-3 July 2016

ARTNET project

- “ *Modern and Contemporary Artist Networks, Art groups and Art Associations: Organisation and Communication Models of Artist Collaborative Practices in the 20th and 21st Century*
- “ project leader: Ljiljana Koleznik, PhD (Institute of Art History, Zagreb)
- “ started in 2015.
- “ project financed by



“ interdisciplinary project
“ art history, sociology and computer
science

→ first applications of quantitative
approaches and social network analysis in
national art history

Application of SNA

- “ the research focus is on the emergence of new and innovative organizational forms, art groups and associations
- artists networks as social spaces in which common aesthetic, social and political values are established and shared
 - personal, spatial, temporal and conceptual relations

Case study: Soros Center for Contemporary Arts

- “ SCCA = Soros Center for Contemporary Arts
→ contemporary arts program of the Open Society Institute
- “ Soros Center for Contemporary Arts - Zagreb (SCCA - Zagreb) was established in September 1993 by the Open Society Institute Croatia
- “ part of emerging SCCA Network in Central and Eastern Europe and countries of former Soviet Union

SCCA network



The role of Soros Foundation

- “ The Soros Foundation as important source of funding in the field of culture and media in the 1990s
- “ SCCA - three main lines of activities: art documentation, annual exhibition and artists grants
- “ The importance of SCCA and OSI stems from political and cultural conditions and turbulences in the 1990s unfavourable political and economic conditions for cultural scene in general
- “ Importance of SCCA for independent culture and young artists

Scope of the research

- “ local SCCA network, based on data that concerns the organization of yearly exhibitions
- “ time line: 1993 . 1998
- “ coincides with the first wave of the development of the independent scene in Croatia

SCCA Exhibitions

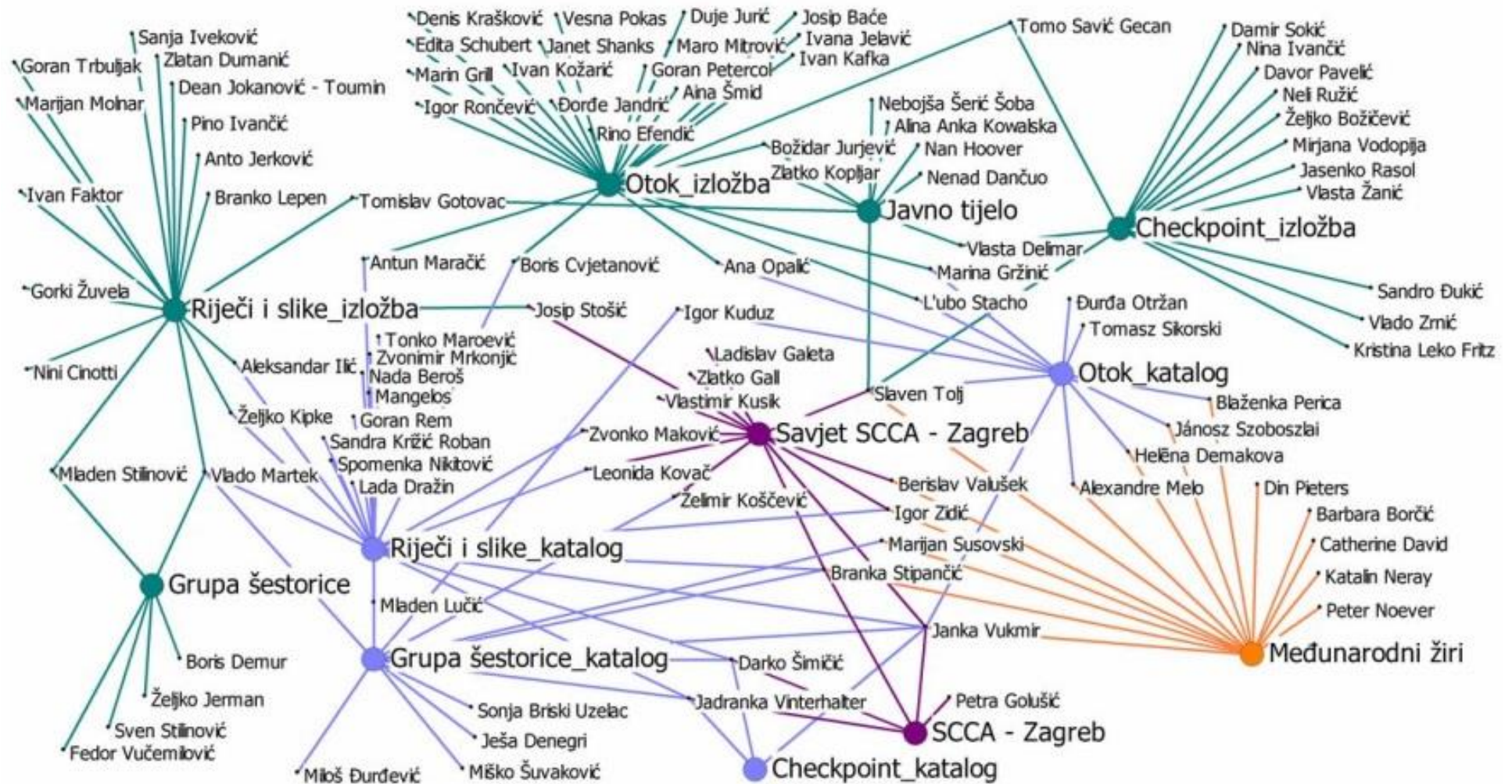
- " *Words and Images*, 1994.
- " *Checkpoint*, 1995.
- " *Island*, 1996.
- " *Public Body*, 1997
- " *Group of Six Authors*, 1998.

Methods

- “ interdisciplinary approach: art history + sociology
- “ focus of the analysis: how the annual exhibitions organized by SCCA . Zagreb generated a social network
- “ application of network analysis compositional and structural network properties roles and positions of individual actors in the network

Network boundaries

- “ Network boundary specification: nominalist, event-based strategy
- “ Boundaries of the local SCCA network have been established on the basis of data obtained from the catalogues of the annual exhibitions
- “ Artists, curators and exhibition organizers, members of the international jury, authors in the catalogues

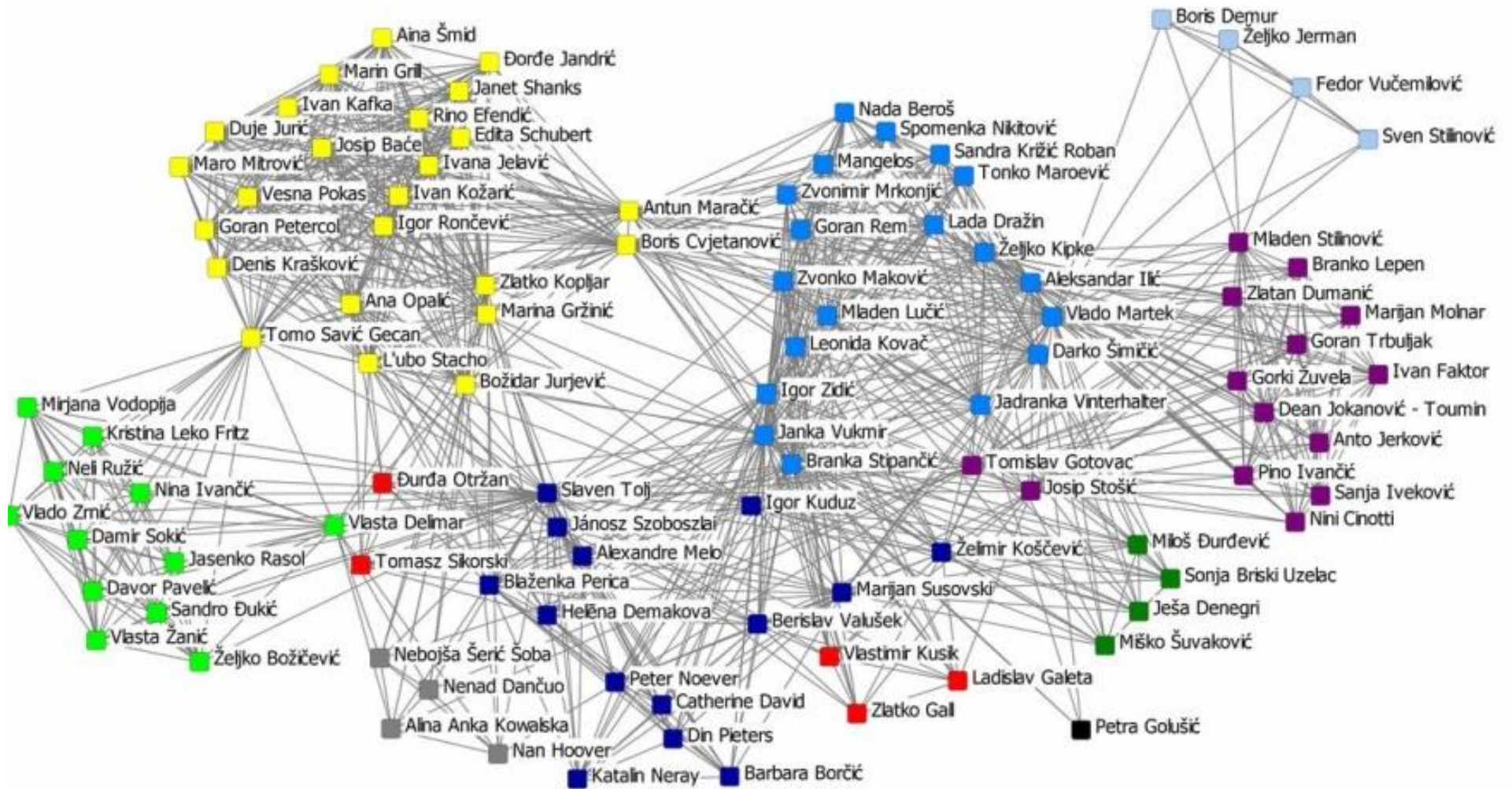


Network analysis

- “ more than 100 network members (N= 101) and 151 relation
- “ the largest part of the network . artists (61,4%)
- “ the second largest . authors in exhibition catalogues (48,5%)
- “ network density only 12,5%
- “ the most active network members = SCCA Office (Janka Vukmir, Branka Stipan i , Jadranka Vinterhalter and Darko Žimi i)
- “ multiple roles of particular actors are especially interesting (e.g. Slaven Tolj)

Network analysis

- “ This complex network has been transformed into one-mode network of affiliations (co-attendance network)
- “ This approach is especially appropriate when the analytical interest focuses primarily on just one of the modes (e.g. persons who participated in the same events)
- “ In order to analyse the roles and positions of actors and to identify cohesive subgroups in the network, *k-core* analysis has been conducted
- “ A *k-core* is a subgraph in which every actor has degree k or more with the other actors in the subgraph; it helps to identify the core of the network from peripheral actors



Application of quantitative approaches: points for discussion

- “ interdisciplinary approach . sometimes conflicted methodologies & epistemologies
 - “ historical studies & quantitative analysis
 - “ humanities & social sciences
 - “ art history & sociology & ICT
- “ Role of theory? Lack of theory?

“ social network analysis often perceived as a reductionism

“ SNA provides conceptual framework for social relations (e.g. ~~weak~~ and ~~strong~~ ties, homophily, structural equivalence)

“ SNA is useful for description of complex social systems

“ can help understanding of emergence and dynamics of networks

- “ social relations are not only about structure =
structural + cultural aspects
- How to reach the interplay between the **structural**
and the **cultural** dimension of social and/or historical
reality
- “ quantitative approaches should be combined with
qualitative data analysis
- “ from historical narratives to implicit social structures
and back again

“ case study → networking in the 1990s

1) archives and exhibition catalogues:

→ networks of co-attendance and collaboration in
the art scene → network analysis

+

2) narrative interviews with key actors from the 1990s

→ experiences, meanings and perceptions of social
actors → narratives

=

quantitative & qualitative approaches in data
collection and analysis

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