

# Intellectual networks as (part of) social movements: a survey of methodological and theoretical approaches.

George Sarton's ego-network in relation to Paul Otlet and Henri  
Lafontaine

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# Introduction

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- A homology between social structures and the structures of ideas?
- Brief introduction in Social Network Analysis (SNA)
- Relational approach towards social movements and scientific/intellectual movements: the ego-network approach
- The case of George Sarton and *Isis*: analogous networks, and interconnected social and intellectual movements

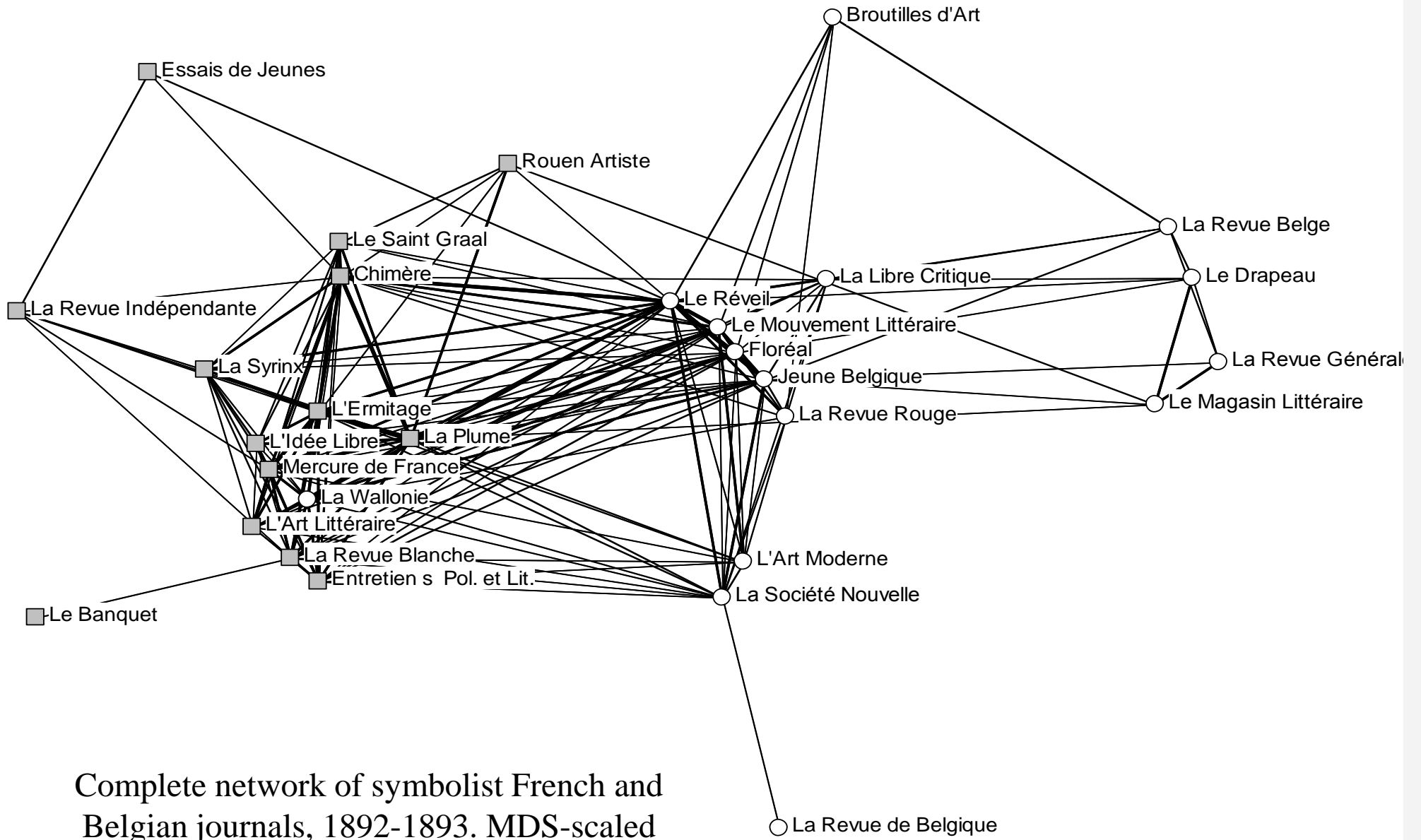
# A brief introduction in SNA

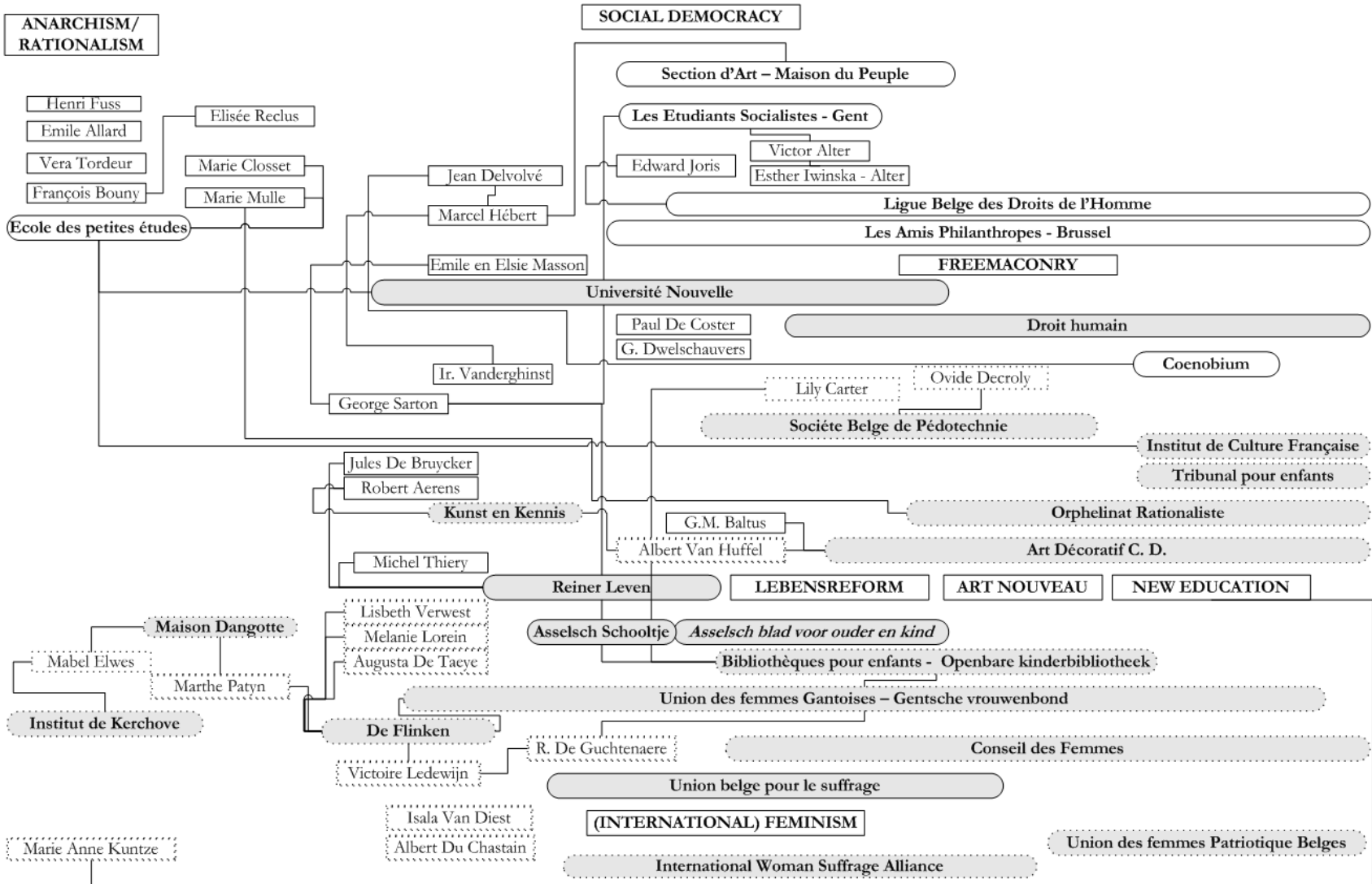
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- Fast growing field. Historians remain reluctant
- Definition: "A social network is a set of actors and the relations that hold them together. Actors can be individual people, or they can be aggregate units such as departments, organizations, or families. The key is that the actors exchange resources which then connect them in a social network" Marsden, 1984.
- Focus on relationships between actors (dyadic attributes ) rather than monadic attributes of actors (age, nationality, ...)  

- Actor-Network Theory ( Bruno Latour): configurations of actants (agency of nonhumans)
- Actor-oriented network approach this is the basic paradigm

	Complete	Ego
1-mode	<p>++++</p>	<p>++++</p>
2-mode	<p>**</p>	<p>+</p>

Source:  
<http://www.analytictech.com>





Two-mode ego-network with selection of relations between ‘alters’

# Intellectual networks and social movements

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- Relational perspective towards social movements:
  - social movements are “networks of informal interactions between a plurality of individuals, groups or associations, engaged in political or cultural conflicts, on the basis of a shared collective identity” (Diani 1992, 2004)
  - consist of the analysis of the ego-networks of persons or organisations within the movement
  - there must be place for discussion of the content of the relations between actors
- An interesting synthesis of a transnational and relational approach towards social movements: Transnational Advocacy Networks:
  - “A transnational advocacy network includes those actors working internationally on an issue, who are bound together by shared values, a common discourse and dense exchanges of information and services” (Keck and Sikkink, 1998)
  - “Epistemic Communities”, “Global Knowledge Networks”



# The ego-network approach

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- Concept of Transnational Advocacy Networks spans both history and intellectual history: intellectual movements
  - “scientific or intellectual movements are constituted through collective action aimed at the institutionalisation of new social forms across the sciences and humanities” (Frickel and Gross, 2005)
  - Differences intellectual and social networks: scale and action-repertoire
- Challenge: bringing two approaches together:
  1. Relational approach to social or intellectual movements
  2. Micro-analytical in-depth approach + content of relations



**Ego-network approach**

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