

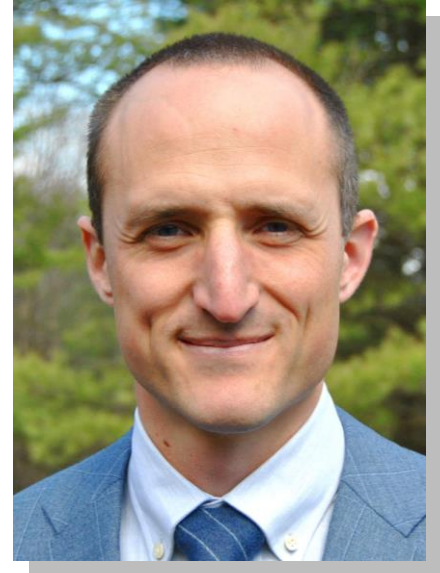


CoCo Seminar Series Spring 2020

The Interruption Network as a Model of Small Group Structure

Neil G. MacLaren
PhD candidate, School of Management
Binghamton University

Wednesday March 4, 2020 11:00am-12:00pm
Engineering Building T-1 (Multipurpose Room)



Economically important activities in human societies are often conducted in groups of varying sizes and levels of inter-individual dependence. Several task-related outcomes of group work, such as leader emergence, decision bias, and information sharing, can be related to the structure of the group—the pattern of associations among group members. It is not necessarily obvious, however, which associations are most relevant. In this talk I will discuss the use of conversational interruptions to capture group structure. I will argue that interruptions provide a relatively unambiguous directed behavior that can model group member interactions in network space. Initial results suggest that interruption networks have concurrent validity with established sociometric assessments while potentially revealing structural differences between groups not visible to previous methodologies. Furthermore, interruption networks may have the ability to represent group structure, including identification of the de facto group leader, dynamically and with reduced susceptibility to rater bias.

Neil G. MacLaren is a PhD candidate in Leadership and Organizational Studies and a research assistant with the Bass Center for Leadership Studies at Binghamton University, State University of New York. Neil was an officer in the United States Marine Corps for ten years, serving as an infantry platoon commander, training advisor, officer recruiter, and company commander. Neil's research focuses on understanding how the social structure of work groups develops over time and how it relates to leader emergence and effectiveness, the coordination of group member contributions, and information sharing and decision making.

For more information, contact Hiroki Sayama (sayama@binghamton.edu).
<http://coco.binghamton.edu/>