

Spatial Social Network Analysis: A Story of the American Mafia in the 1960s

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We explore a spatial social network (SSN) of the American Mafia in the 1960s using GIS and social network analysis. We find that the network has bi-coastal ties within families and strangers who lived on the same block. We also uncover a strategic mixture of family members in open cities like Miami, and especially South Beach, likely sent to facilitate supply chain management for gambling, and drug, alcohol, cigars, etc. imports from Cuba. We identify high-degree individuals' tendency to live near the center of their respective families, as well as near docks and waterways, ostensibly to oversee overseas trade of olives, cheese, and other goods from Italy. Exploring how family-based ties acted more efficiently than non-family based ties, we will discuss evidence of top-down organization.



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