

Moving Beyond Selection and Influence Processes in Adolescents' Social Networks: Unraveling the Roles of Different Behaviors, Networks, and Status

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Terrific Presentations!

- Innovative questions
- Large samples
- Sophisticated analyses
- Focus on moderators, prosocial influence, local peer norms
- Interesting findings!



SIENA!

- Outstanding potential to examine selection and socialization
- Nested dyads
- Summaries across multiple dyads
- Network dynamics



SIENA! (future directions)

- Language barrier?
 - (“Alter,” “ego,” “transitive triplets”)
 - How to best communicate in manuscripts?
- Categorical measurement
 - Threshold effects?
 - Are the factors that predict 0 to 1 sex partners the same as the factors that predict 4 to 5 sex partners?
- Do the same processes that affect selection also affect socialization?



What behaviors/attitudes are influenced by peers?

- Aggressive behavior
- Prosocial behavior
 - Mixed findings
 - Based on developmental level?
 - Based on measurement?
 - Teacher-reported, peer-reported
 - Peer report: measures “reputations” of prosocial behavior, perhaps guilty by association?



What moderates peer influence effects?

- Classroom norms
 - Influence effects strongest: classes with strong risk behavior and popularity link
- Classroom norms nested within school, neighborhood, media norms?
- Subgroups within classroom?
 - How does the friendship dyad fit within larger classroom context?
- Evidence of anti-conformity?
 - If risk behavior is negatively associated with status, does one friend's risk behavior lead to reduction in other friend's risk behavior?



What moderates peer influence effects? (continued)



- **Cognitions (Aggressive or Prosocial)**
 - Cognitions affect susceptibility or are a compounding factor in addition to friends' behavior?

What is selection based on?



- **Kids pick others as friends based on status, not behaviors**
- **Common factors: kids likely befriend one another based on holistic 'type' rather than specific behaviors**
 - Popularity, aggression, prosocial behavior travel together in some cases

Where do we go from here?



- **This panel based on selection effects (SIENA)**
- **The audience may be influenced to engage in similar behaviors**
- **Develop theories of selection that differ from socialization**
 - e.g., selection based on desire to increase friendship network, access to resources, status in overall peer groups
 - Socialization based on desire to enhance self-image
- **Examine common underlying factors that account for selection and/or socialization processes**