

# Differences in the attitude space of European left and right-wing supporters

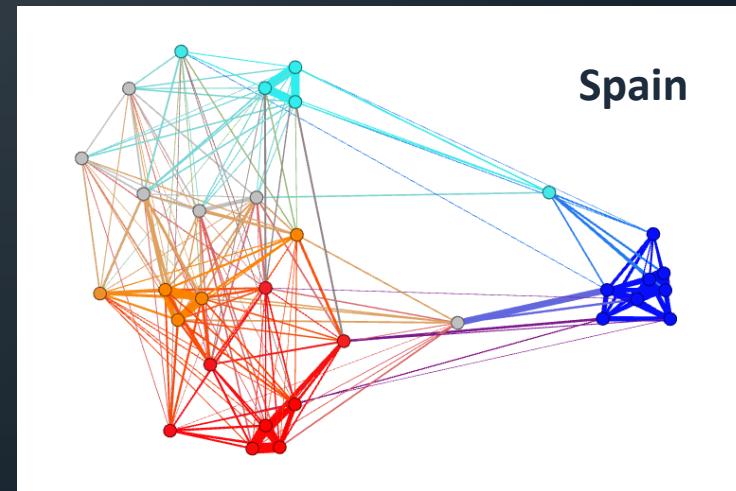
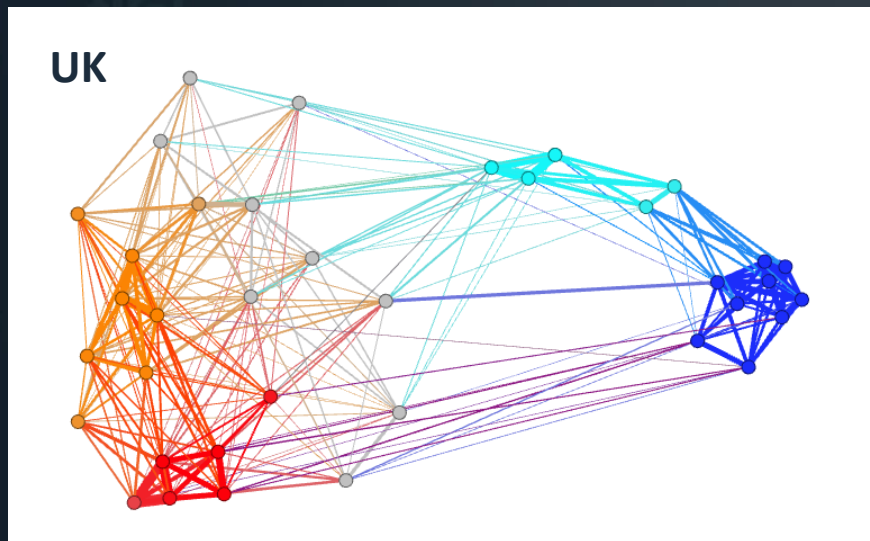
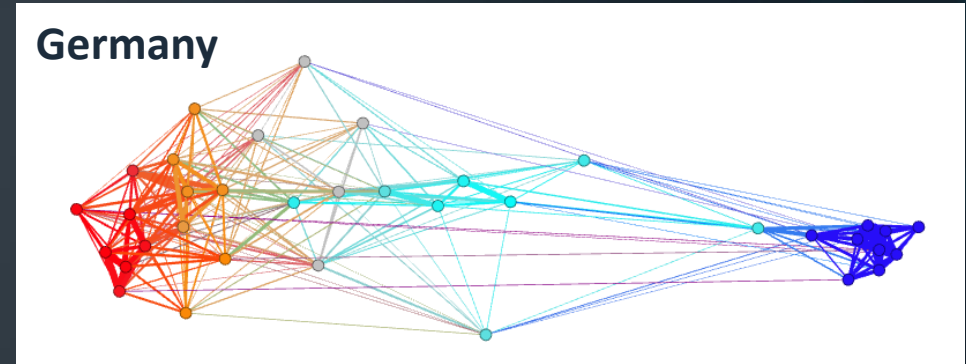
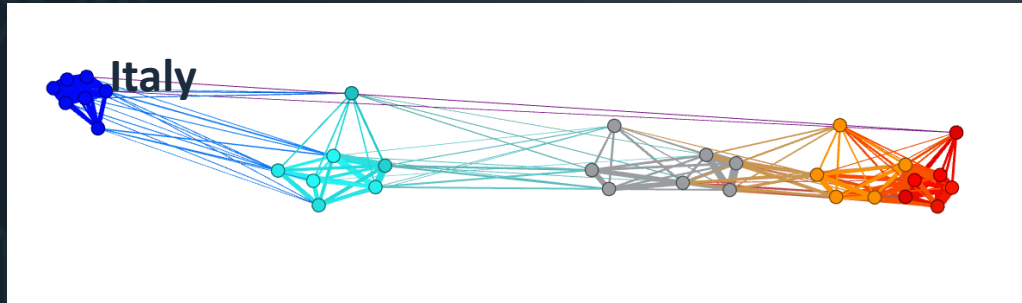
Dino Carpentras, Michael Quayle

*Social Dynamics Lab*

12/7/2021

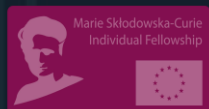


# Preview



# BNA + IRT

- BNA = Belief Network Analysis
- IRT = Item Response Theory
  - Attitude space



# Attitude space



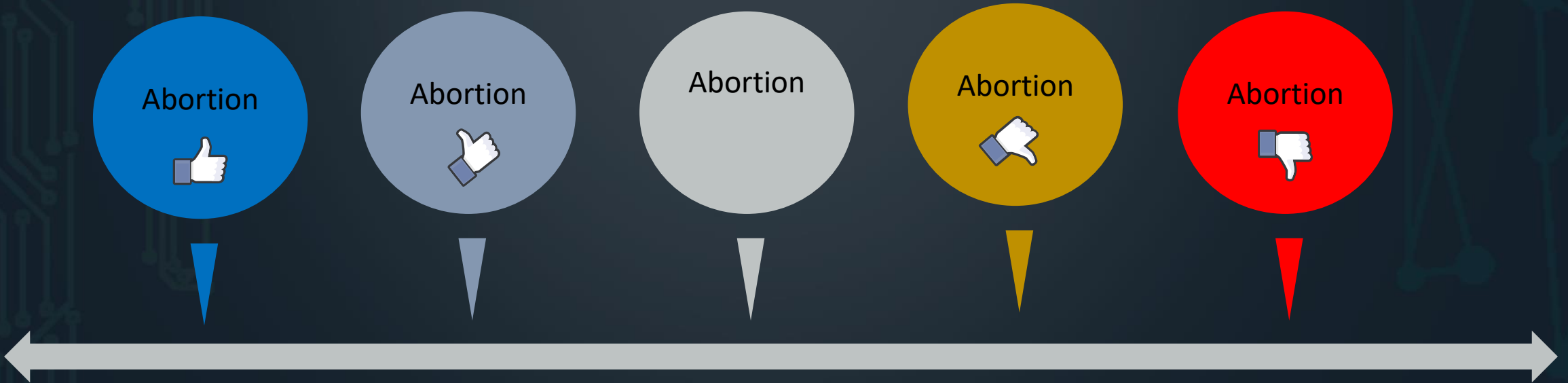
[dino.carpentras@gmail.com](mailto:dino.carpentras@gmail.com) - [www.dinocarp.com](http://www.dinocarp.com) - [twitter:@justaNormalDino](https://twitter.com/justaNormalDino)



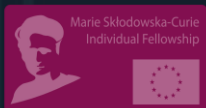
# Attitude space: people



# Attitude space: item-responses



# Belief network analysis



dino.carpentras@gmail.com - www.dinocarp.com - twitter:@justaNormalDino

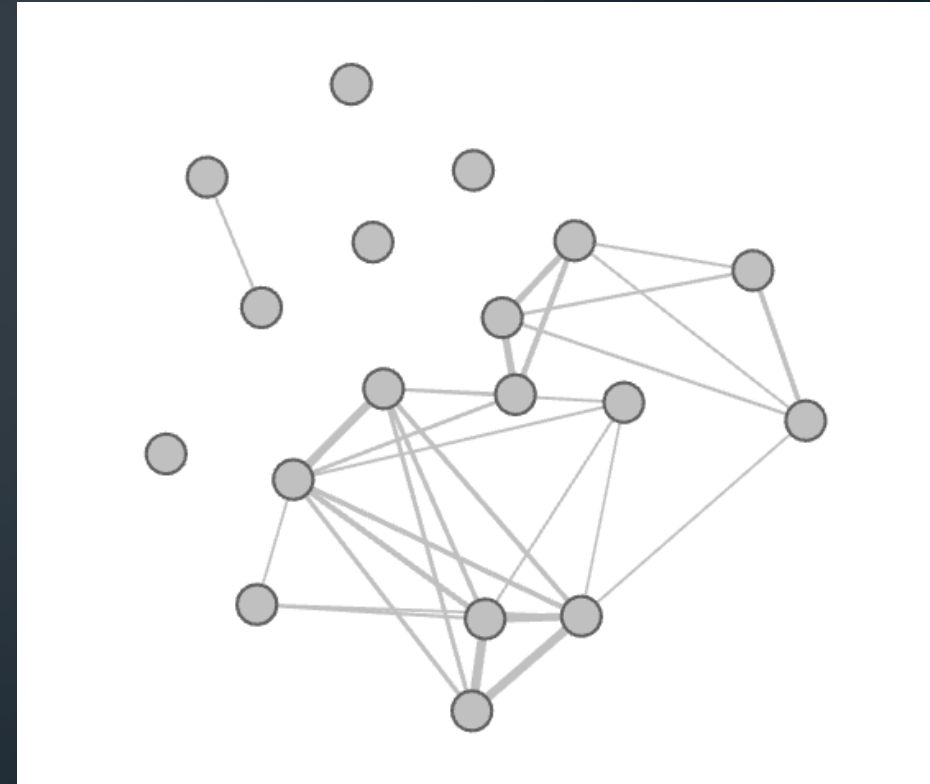


# Belief network analysis

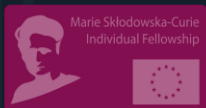
Node: Item

Link: Correlation

- Analysis of the network
  - Identity
  - Polarization



*Boutyline, Vaisey. "Belief network analysis: A relational approach to understanding the structure of attitudes." American journal of sociology 2017*

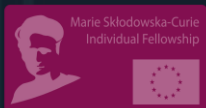
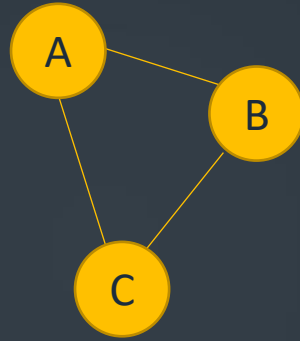


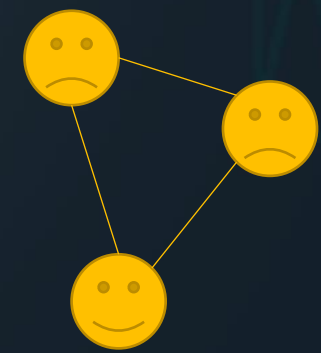
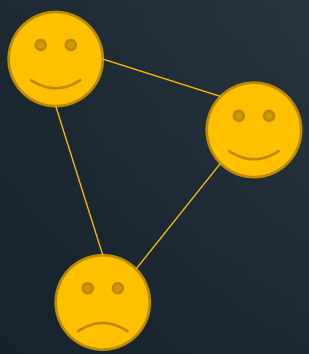
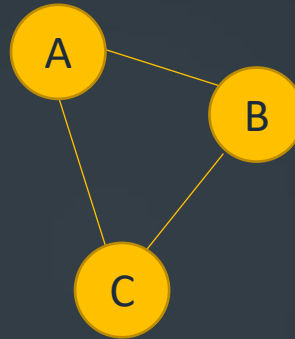


# Limitations

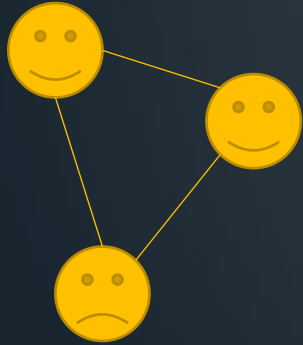
- Nominal answers
- Non-linear relationships
- Non-monotonic relationship
- **Symmetric groups**



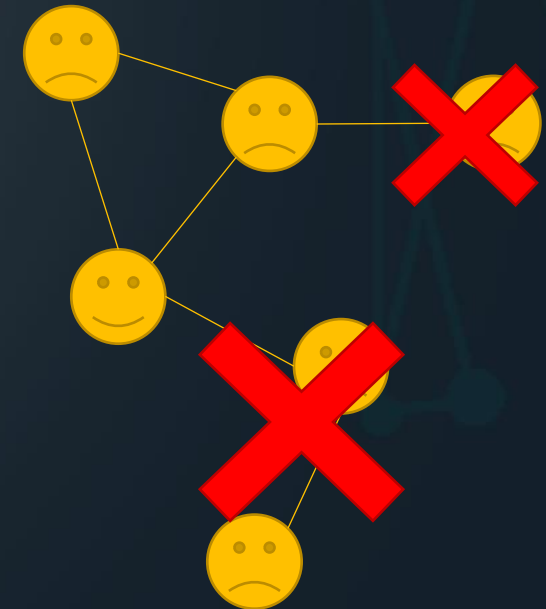
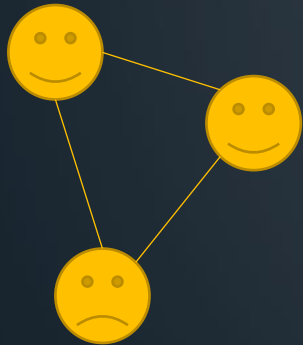




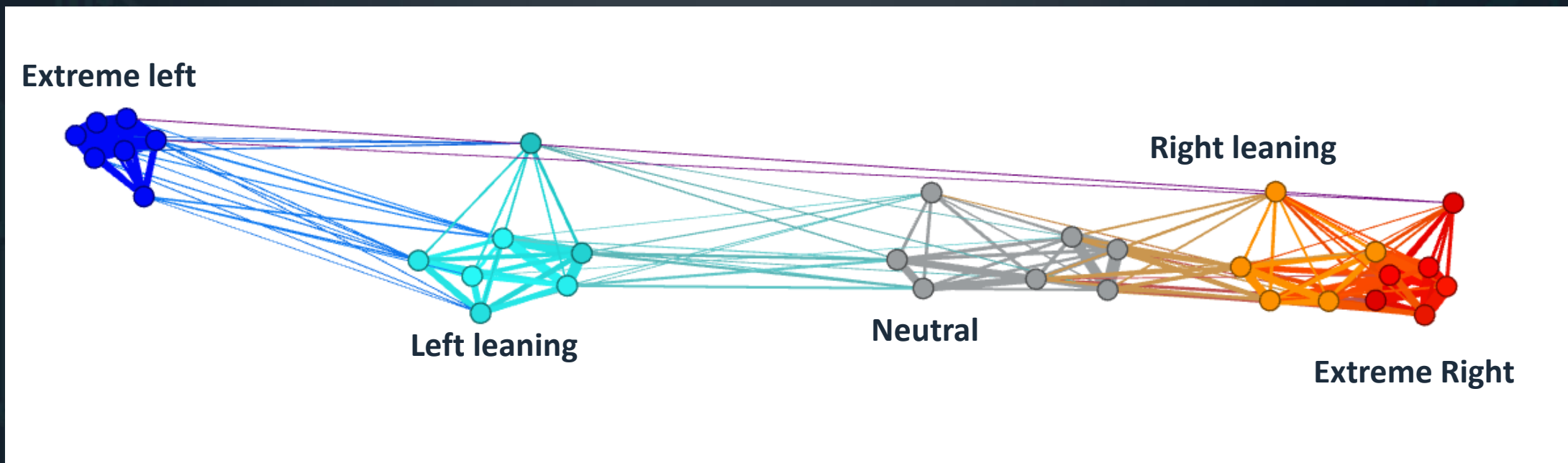
# Groups similarity



# Groups similarity



# Are they symmetric?



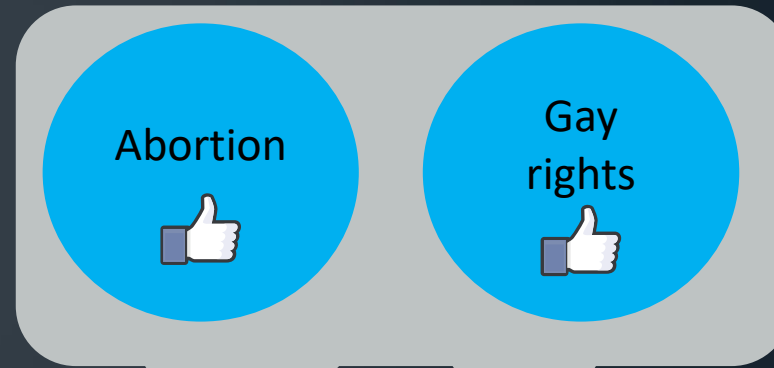
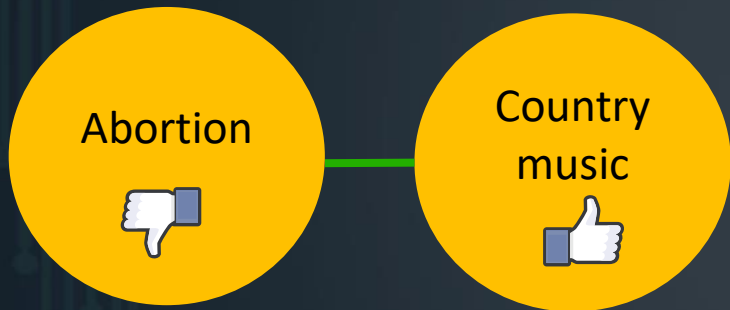
Abortion  
Country music



Abortion  
Gay rights

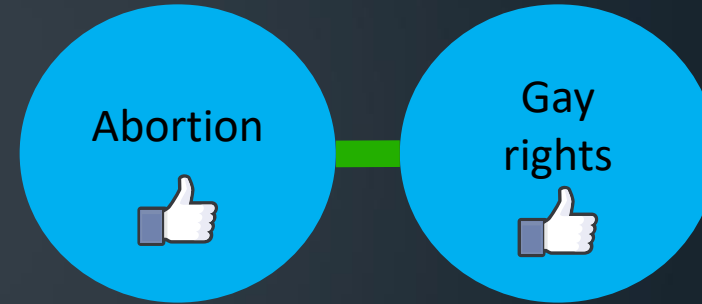
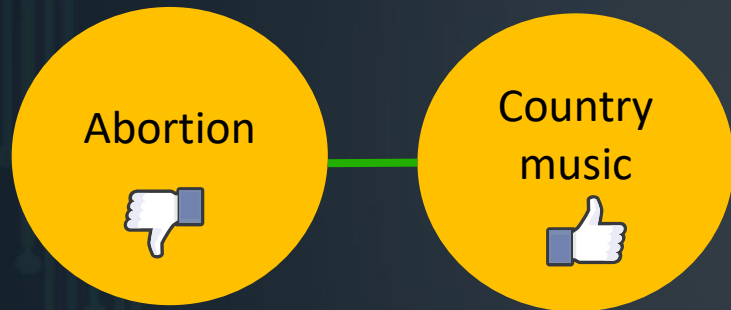


# Similarity link





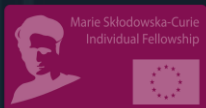
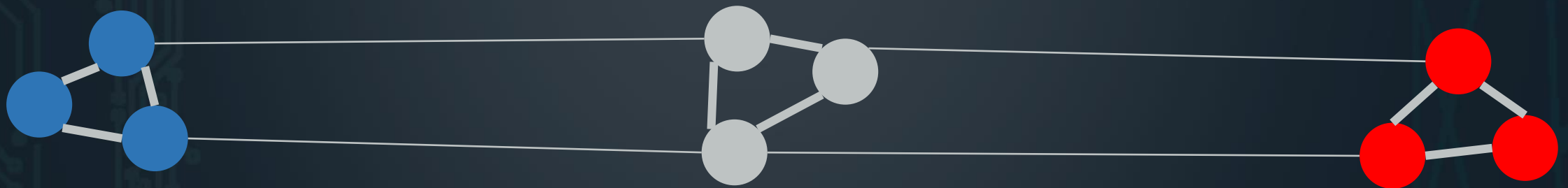
# Similarity link



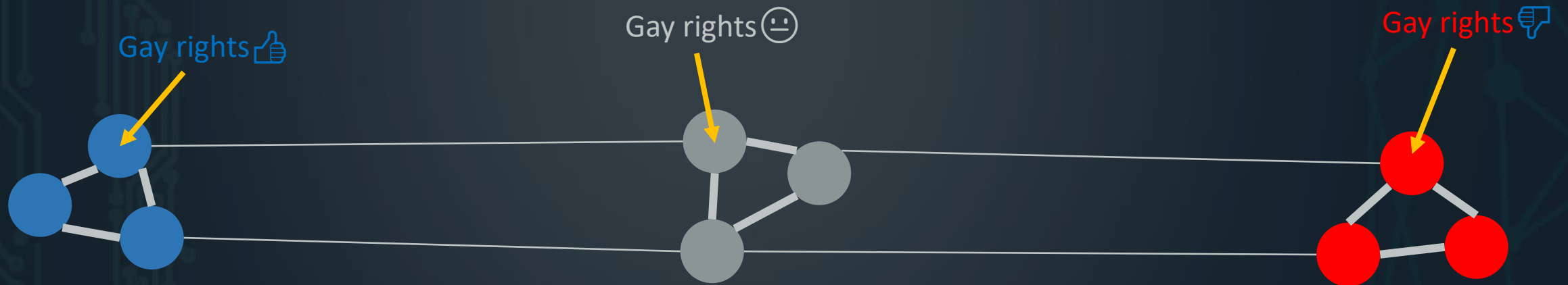
# Distance



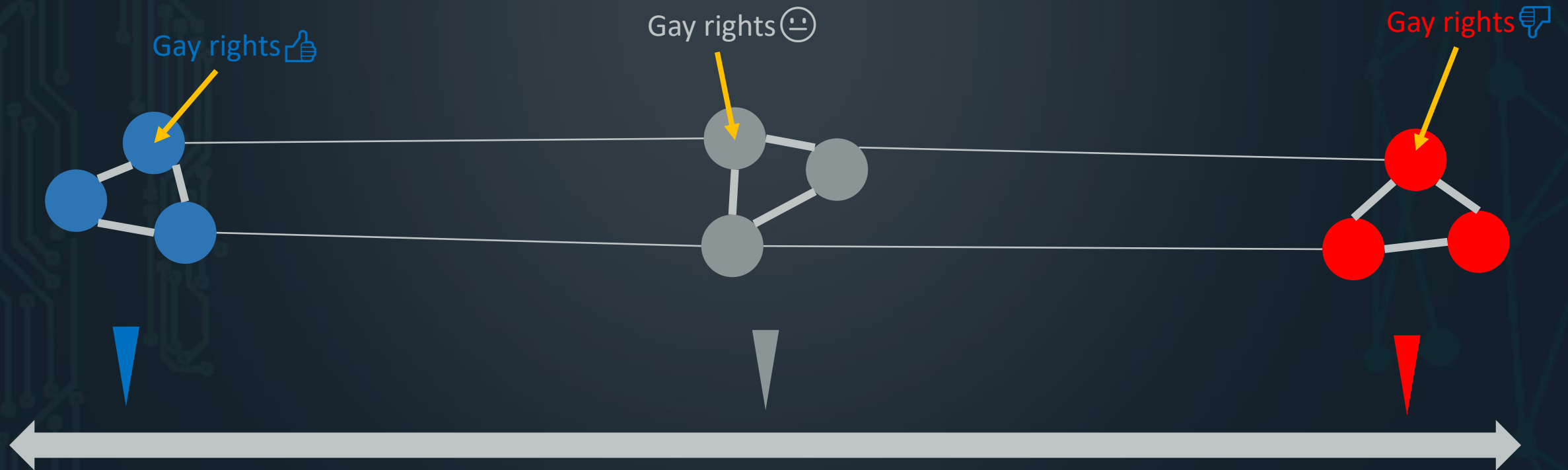
# Clusters



# Node: item-response

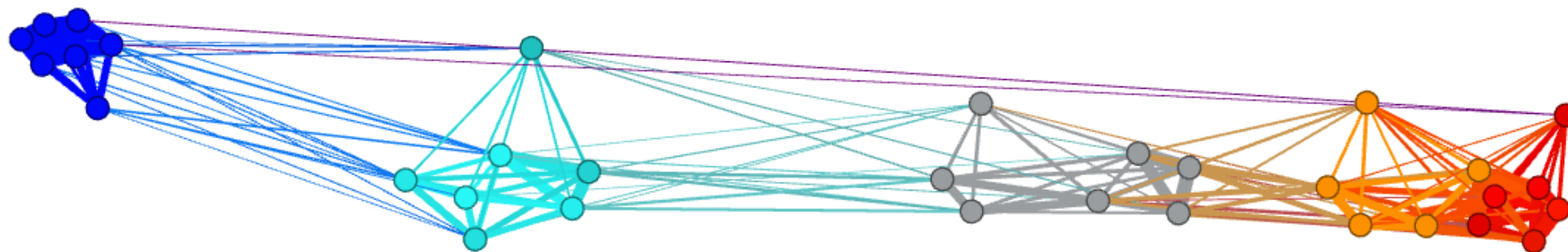


# IRT -> Attitude space



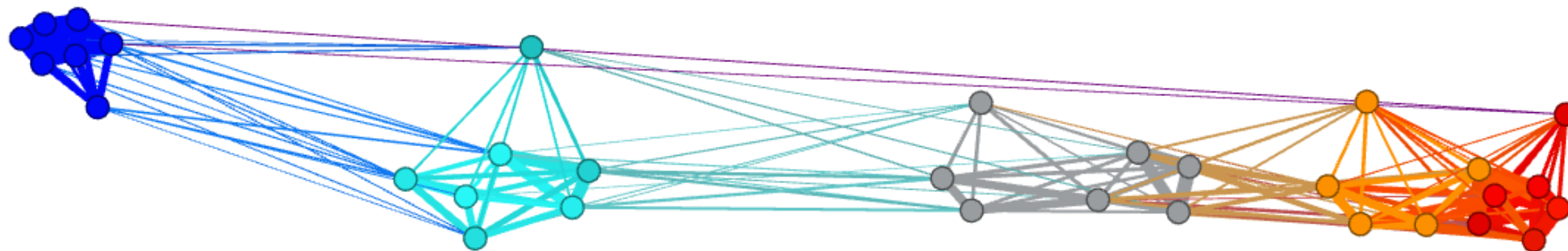
# The ESS

Italy



# The ESS

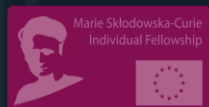
Italy



Political attitudes

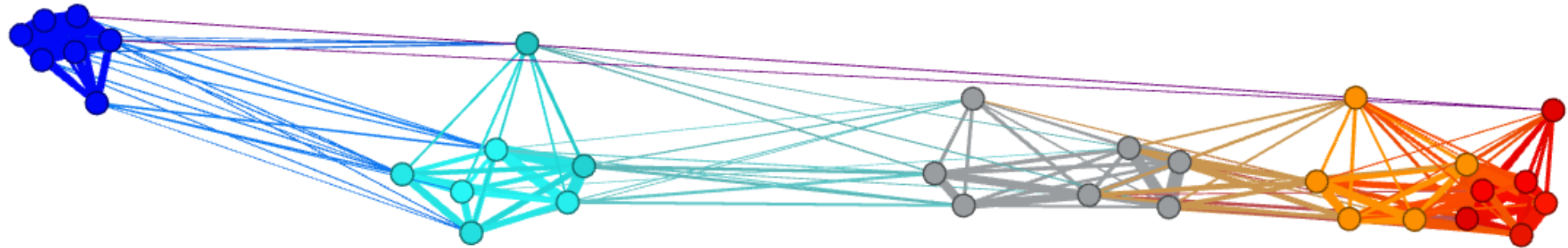
2016 data

Correlates with Left-Right spectrum



# p-value

Italy 2016

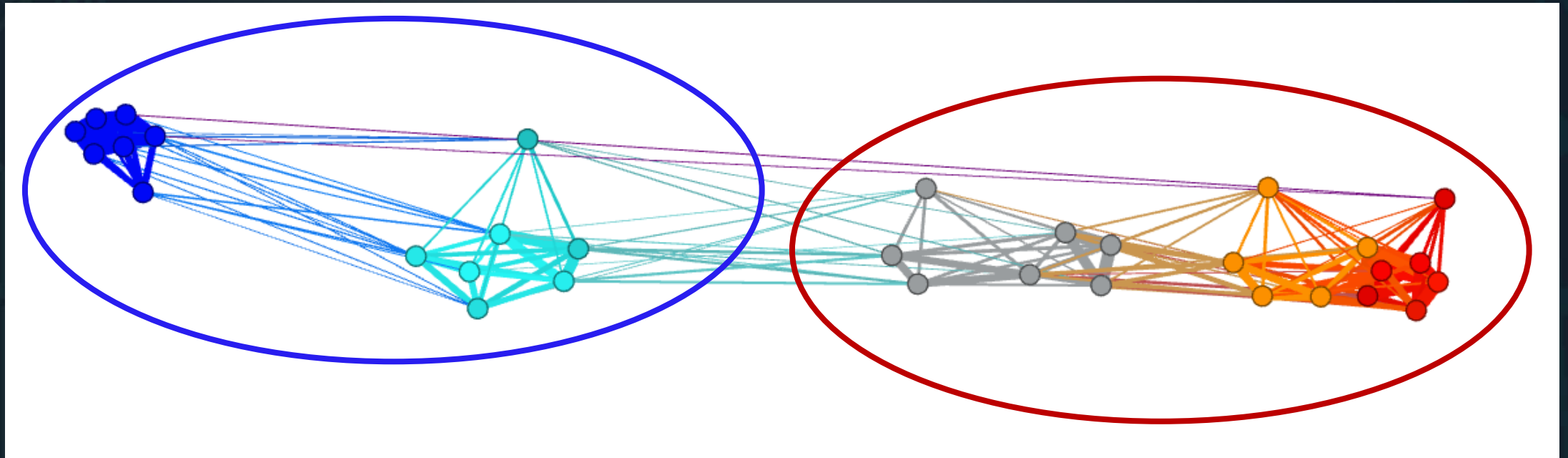


bootstapping  
 $p \ll 0.0001$

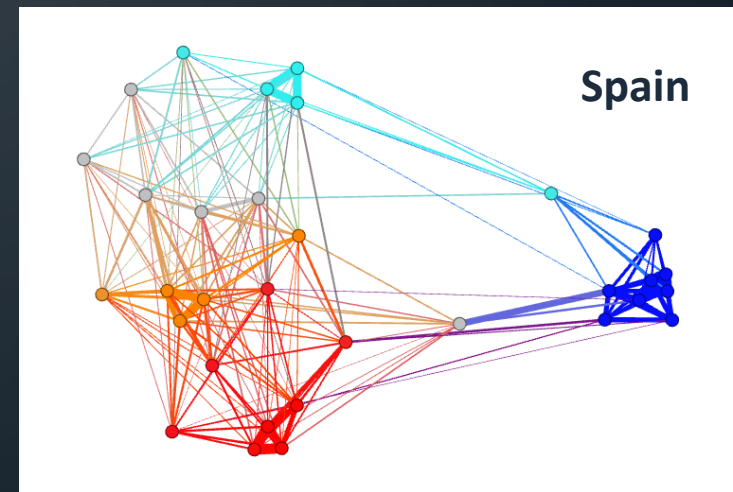
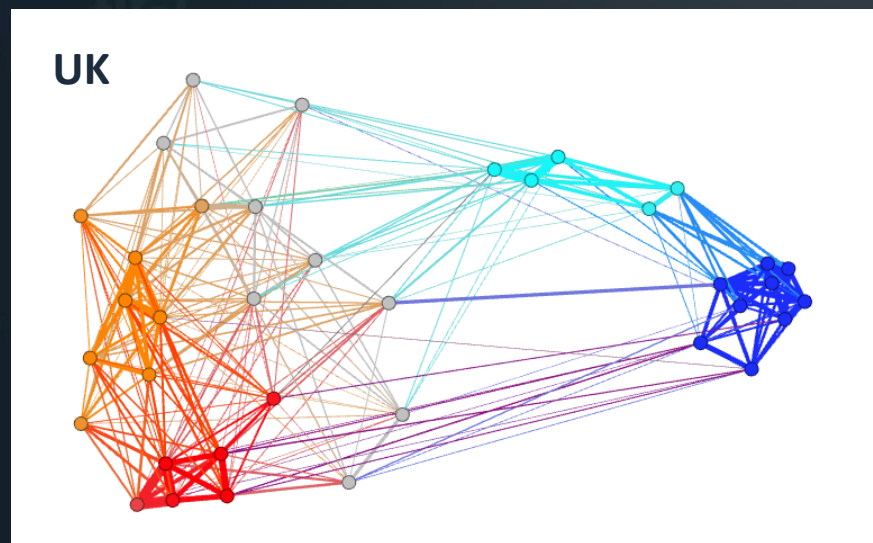
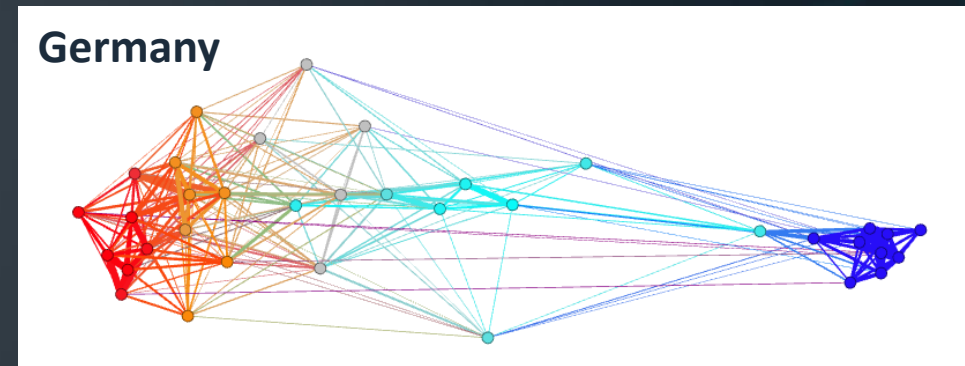
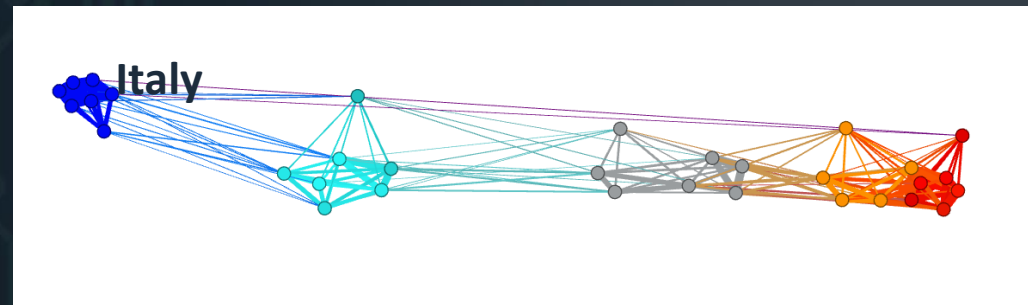




# The uneven distribution



# Polarization among countries

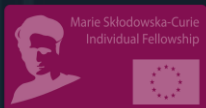


Same LR structure  
in **76%** of countries



# Conclusion

- We can analyze in detail the opinion space
  - What divides and unifies L&R
  - Analyze each side
- Adding complexity to polarization
  - Right wing is connected to more attitudes
  - Left wing is more compact
- Further analyses
  - Time analysis



# Contacts



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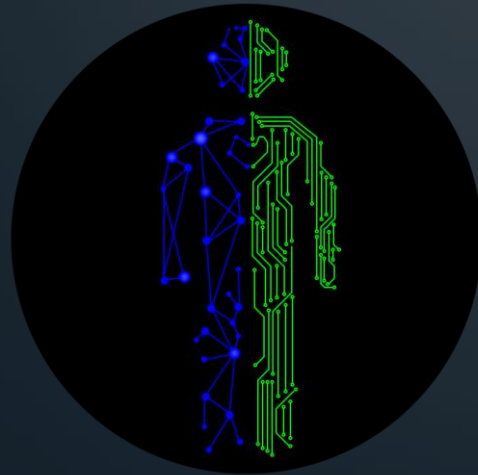
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[Social Complexity](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)



# Related talks

## Monday

- *New Methods for Old Questions: Measuring Political Attitudes* 13.30 CET - Room 5

- *Identity and Politics* 13.50 CET – Room 1

## Tuesday

- *Attitudes, personality, and cognition* 7.30 CET – Room 4

