

ABSTRACT

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The application of social network theory in project management can provide valuable insights for scholars and practitioners in understanding the impact of changes in communication patterns among stakeholders on predictable outcomes. By investigating the development of networks within temporary project organizations and putting forth a framework for modeling network dynamics across time, this study seeks to advance network theory. Despite the inevitability of network evolution, the temporal dimension of networks is often overlooked in existing network theory literature. However, project organizations offer an ideal context for studying network evolution due to their temporary and dynamic nature. This study presents a transition from attribute-based project stakeholder analysis solely based on the characteristics of the stakeholders (such as power, interest, impact), to a relation-based analysis utilizing network theory. Moreover, the following research topics will be addressed by this relation-based analysis over a predetermined period of time, allowing for evolving network analysis:

- (1) How can the network's dynamic nature be used to draw a particular inference about the network?
- (2) How might traditional frameworks for managing project stakeholders be enhanced using network theory?

Through the exploration of these research questions, this study endeavors to unveil a relationship between enhanced project-related communication within an evolving project network and heightened stakeholder satisfaction. Furthermore, this thesis aims to make a substantial contribution to network theory by illustrating how the analysis of evolving networks can enable researchers to identify correlations between changing relationships and their subsequent outcomes.

Keywords: Project Management, Social Network Theory, Stakeholder Management, Evolving Network, Project Success