Higher School of Economics

Center for Institutional Studies
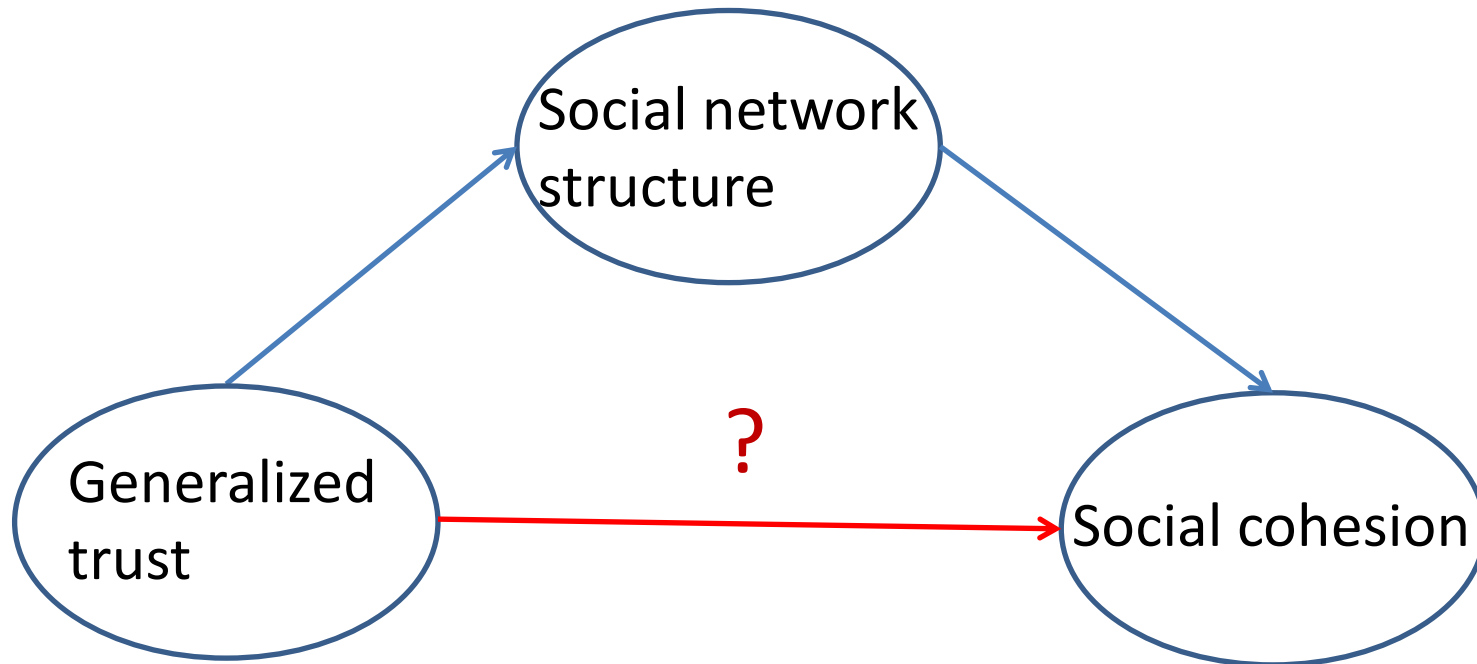
How trust enables social cohesion?
The evidence from student friendship network dynamics
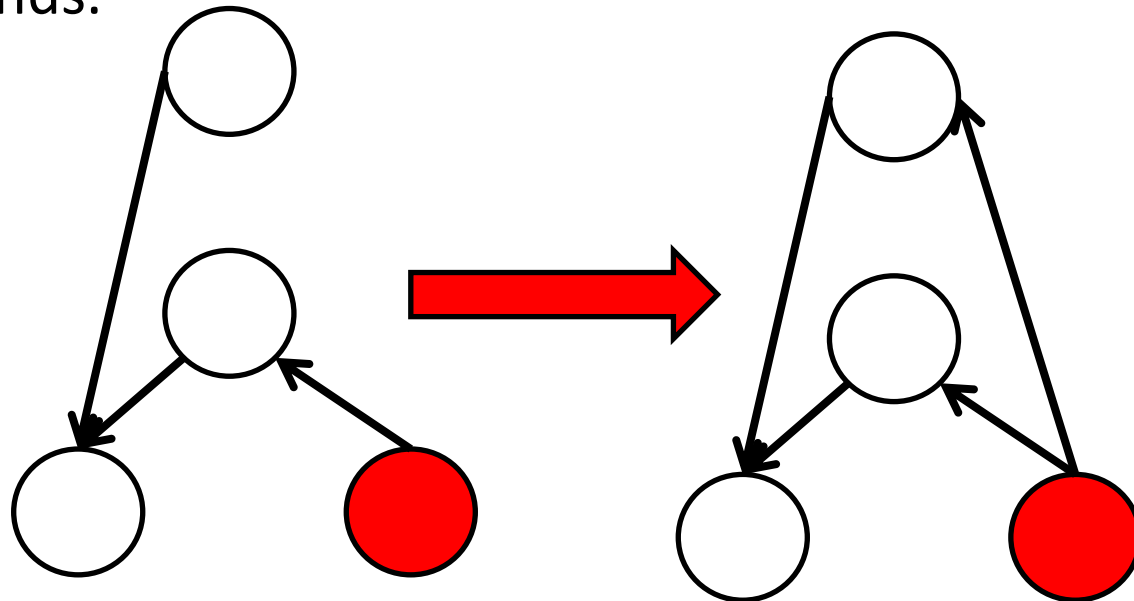
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Motivation

- Trust is often considered as an important factor of social cohesion (Uslaner 2002, 2013);
- In this study we aim to reveal **the role generalized trust plays** in the process of social cohesion in the case of undergraduate first year students.

Results

- We study the evolution of student friendship social network taking into consideration generalized trust.
- Using SAOM (Snijders 2010) we show that students who trust are more likely to form friendship connections with people without shared friends.

Nodes are students, ties are friendship connections. Red circle is a student who trusts.

We find out trust mediates social cohesion by connecting people from different communities.