

# Human Organisational Network (1)

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# Session Plan

| Session                      | Topic to be covered  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Session 1<br>(TUE 0930-1030) | What is 'social' in social network theory and analysis?                    |
| Session 2<br>(TUE 1600-1700) | Some key analytical tools useful in actor-actor networks (1-mode network). |
| Session 3<br>(WED 0930-1030) | Policy networks (2-mode network).  |

# This session

- What is 'social' in social network theory and analysis?
- Synergetic and Unique elements of 'social' and 'network'.
- Historical Journey of 'social' in network history.

# The problem

- “The word network is so ambiguous that we should have abandoned it long ago” (Latour 2005: 129).

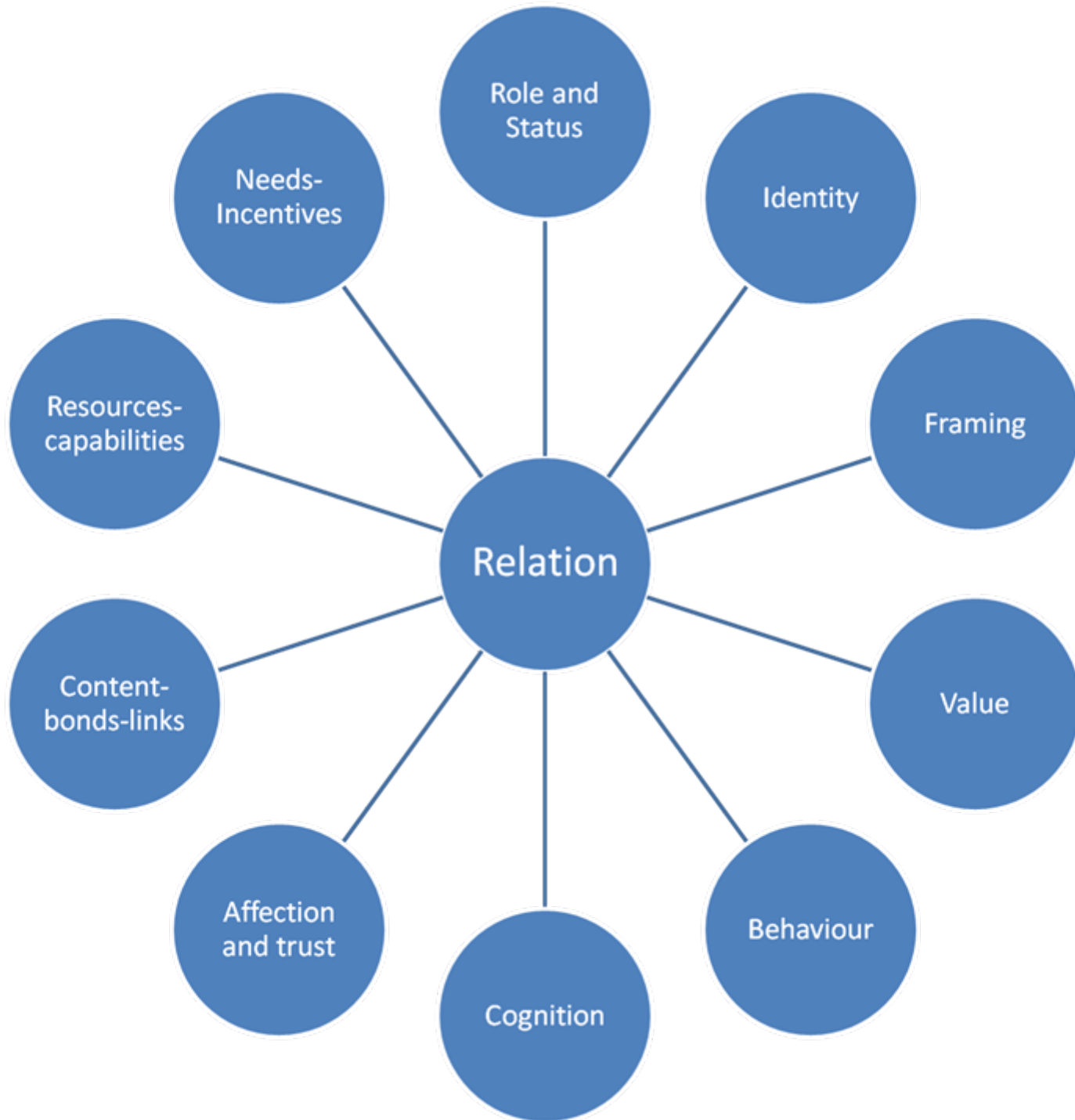
## Confusion about content of lines

- 1) Technical networks (electricity, trains, internet etc)
- 2) Network as different ways of organising other than markets (demand and supply) and states (hierarchy).
- 3) As a trace left behind by moving agent.

## Confusion about exclusive capacity

- Do we need theories other than network properties to explain patterns/outcomes?

- Naturally occurring relations and Analytical relations.
- E.g. ‘Name your friend’ (which are the activities that fall under the label of ‘friend’).

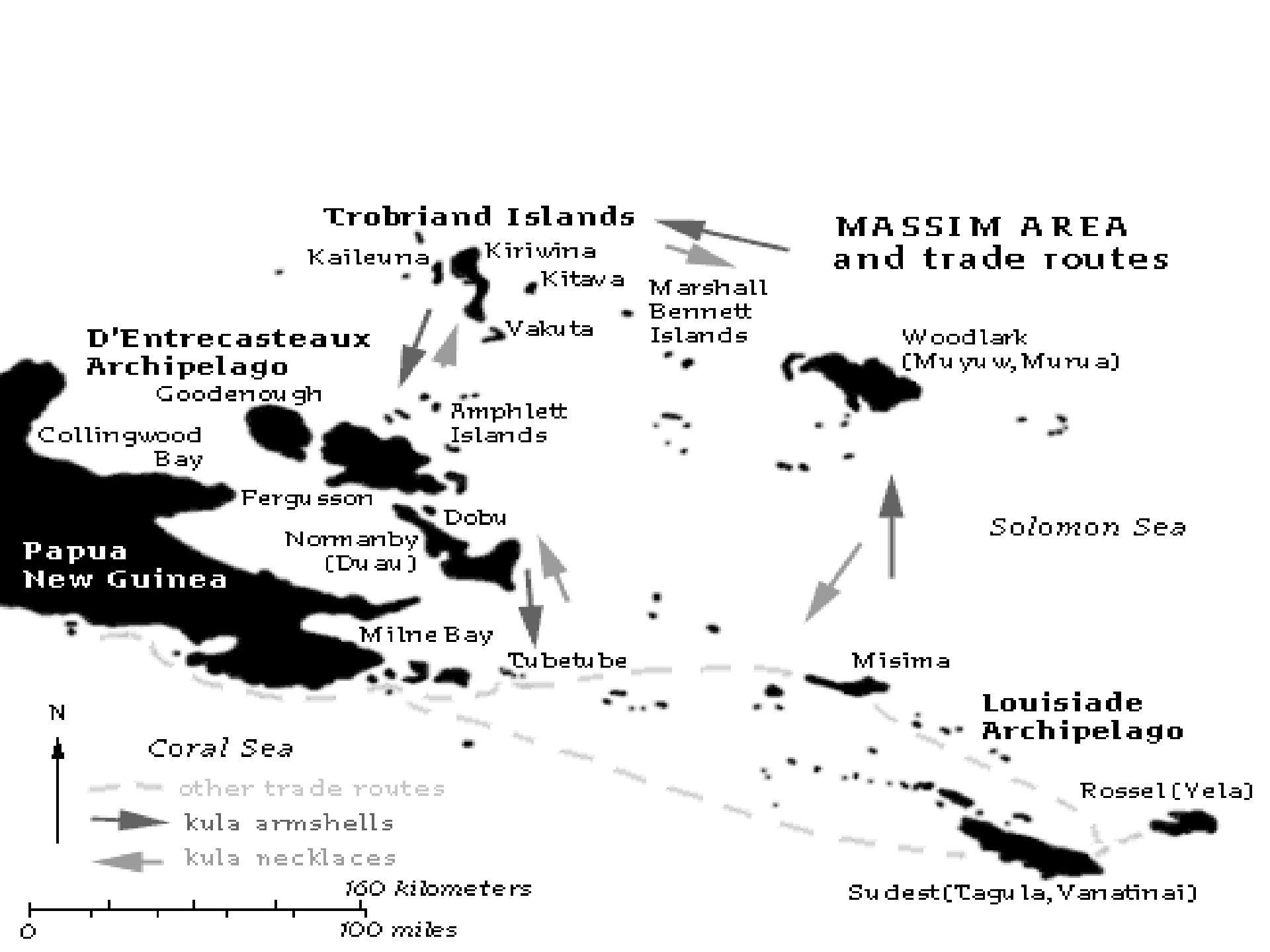


# Before formalization of Network

- Georg Simmel (1908)
- Anthropologists (Malinowski, Mauss, Gluckman, Mitchel, Radcliffe-Brown, **Bailey**)

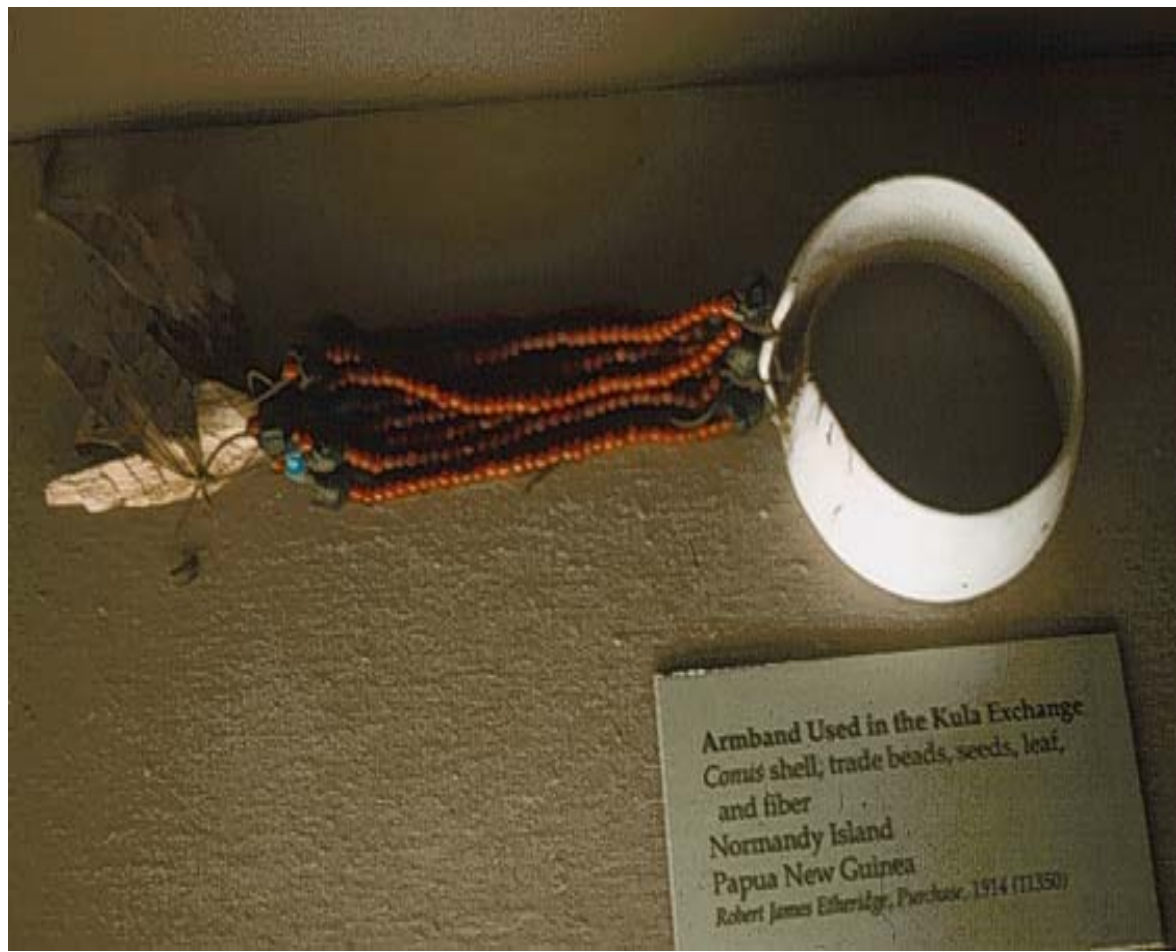
# Discovery of early exchange network





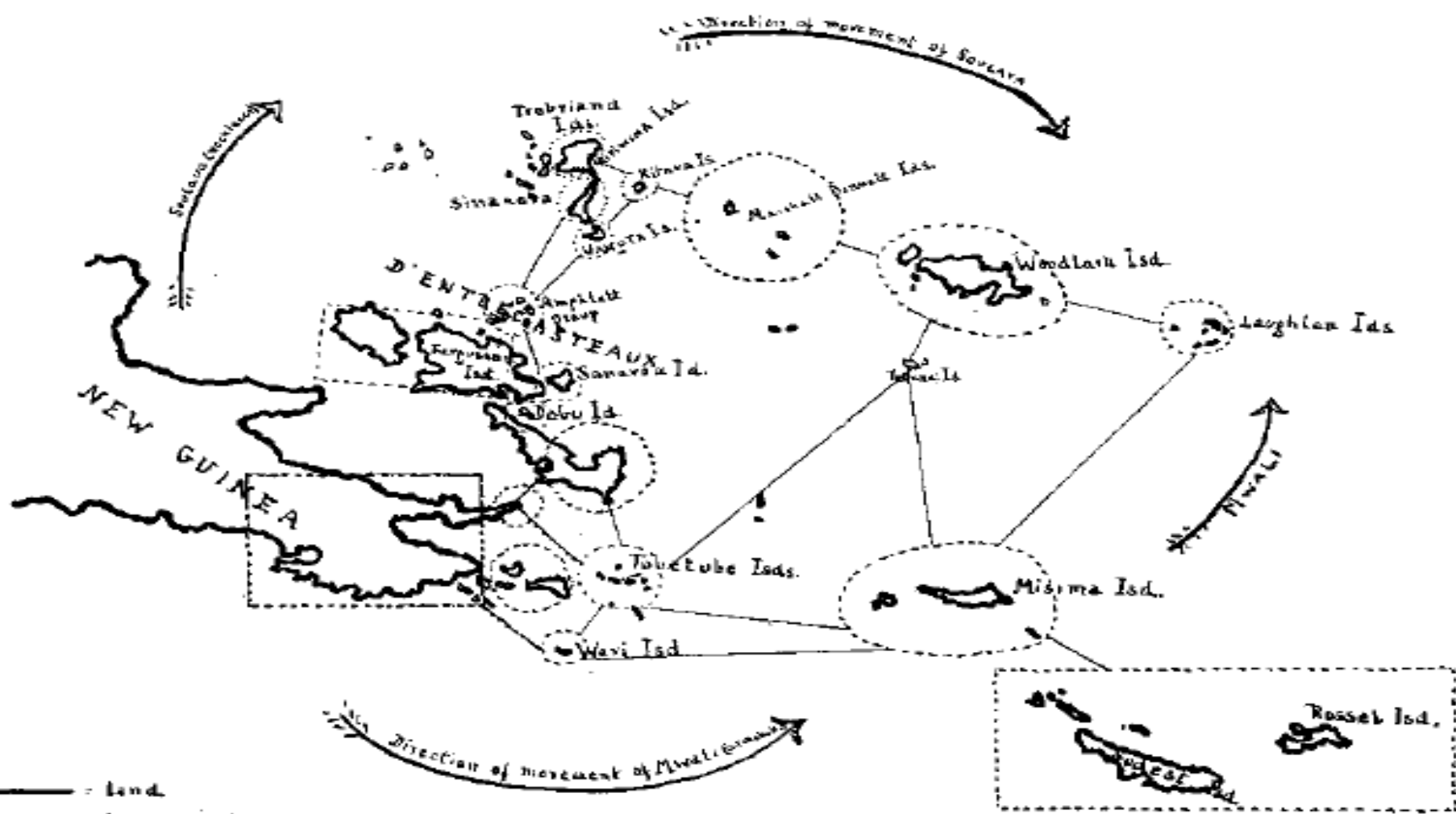


Necklace (Soulava)



Armband (Mwali)





- Land.
- - - - Trade route.
- ..... Kula communities.

SKETCH MAP OF KULA

showing the area, trade routes and communities of the circular exchange. The dotted circles represent the Kula-communities, the dotted squares represent the districts indirectly affected by the Kula.

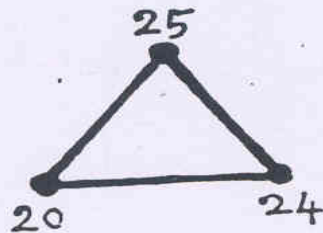
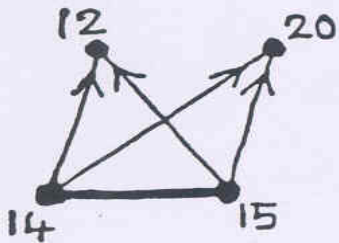
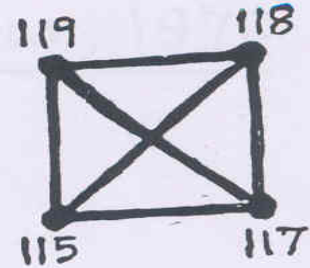
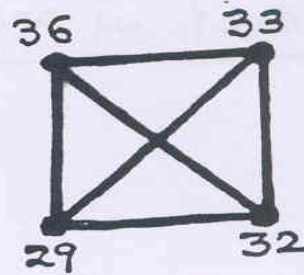
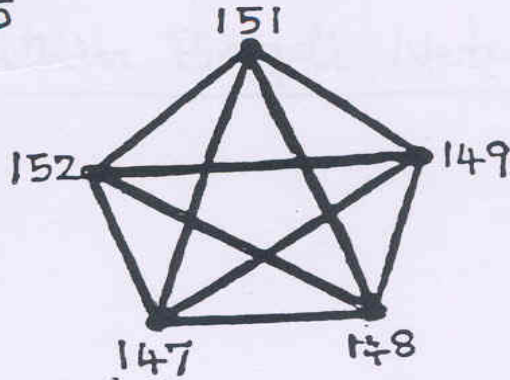
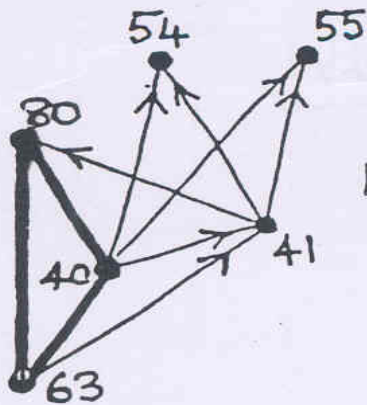
- The *Kula* exchange (ceremonial) is distinguished from *gimwali* (utilitarian).
- One who holds items of Kula associates prestige.
- Kula item can be possessed only for short period. It has to be passed on within certain time period. Kitoum ownership.
- One has to 'buy' the right to participate in Kula by entering into other spheres of exchange. 'Once in Kula, always in Kula'.

# How do we explain emergence of Kula network?

| Orientation of explanation | Basis of action                    | Network Concerns   |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Rationalist                | Individual preferences and beliefs | Efficiency of ring-like structure: transaction cost minimized by exchanging with neighbours. |
| Culturalist                | Social Identity; norms             | Signaling, outsider-insider  |
| Structuralist              | Position, power relations          | Disadvantages of ring-like structure; Closure in mutual trust;                               |

# Early formalisation (Moreno, Lewin, Heider)

- Moreno (1934, 1953, 1960) a social psychologist describes group interactions (relations of pairs of people) using *sociograms*.
- Barnes (1954) an anthropologist first used the term 'social network'. While studying 'urbanisation', many traditional explanations such as economics, religion, kinship etc were found deficient to explain 'complex' societies.

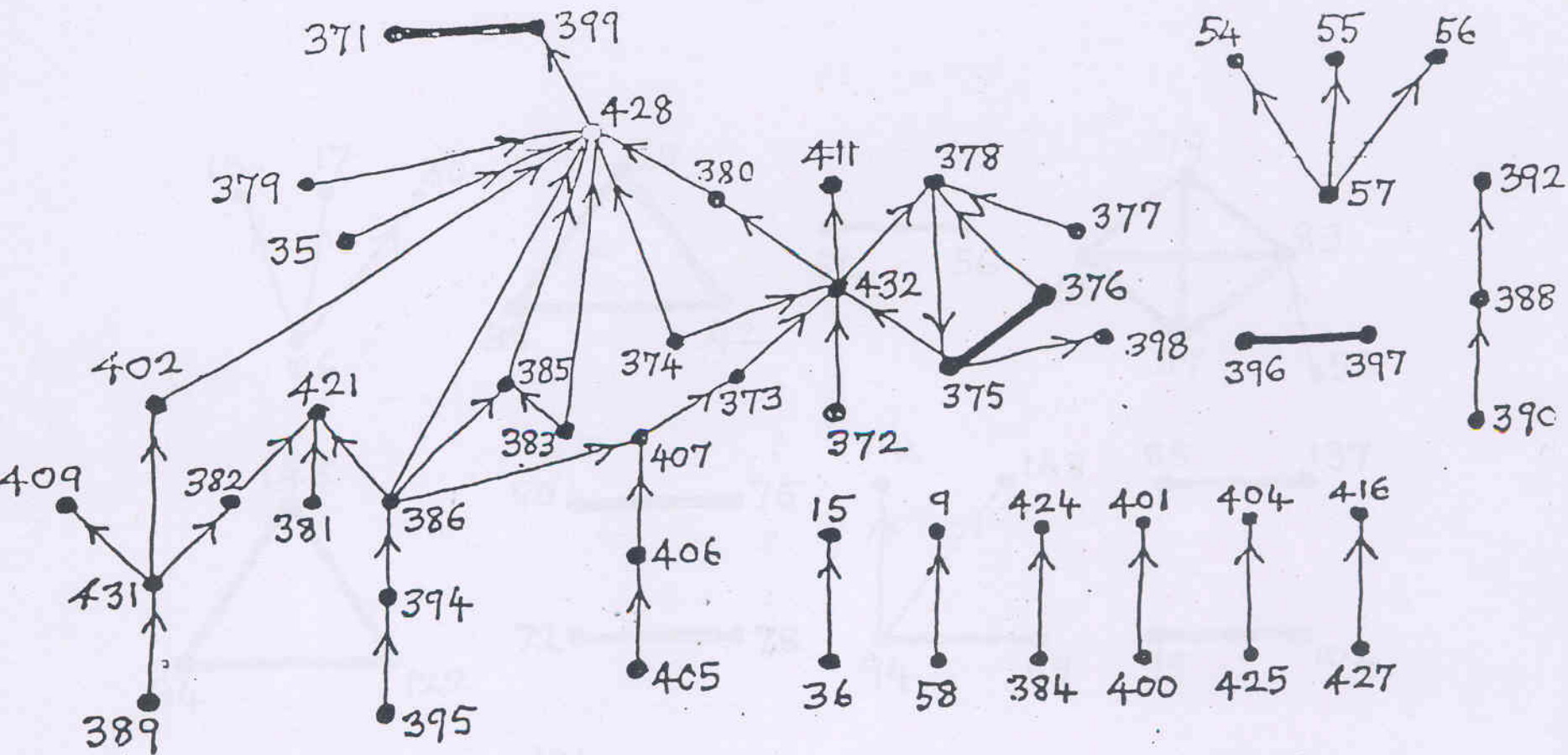


• 1    • 6    • 16    ...    • 173    (27 isolates)

Within Santhal Network in Kabilpur 1970

#6

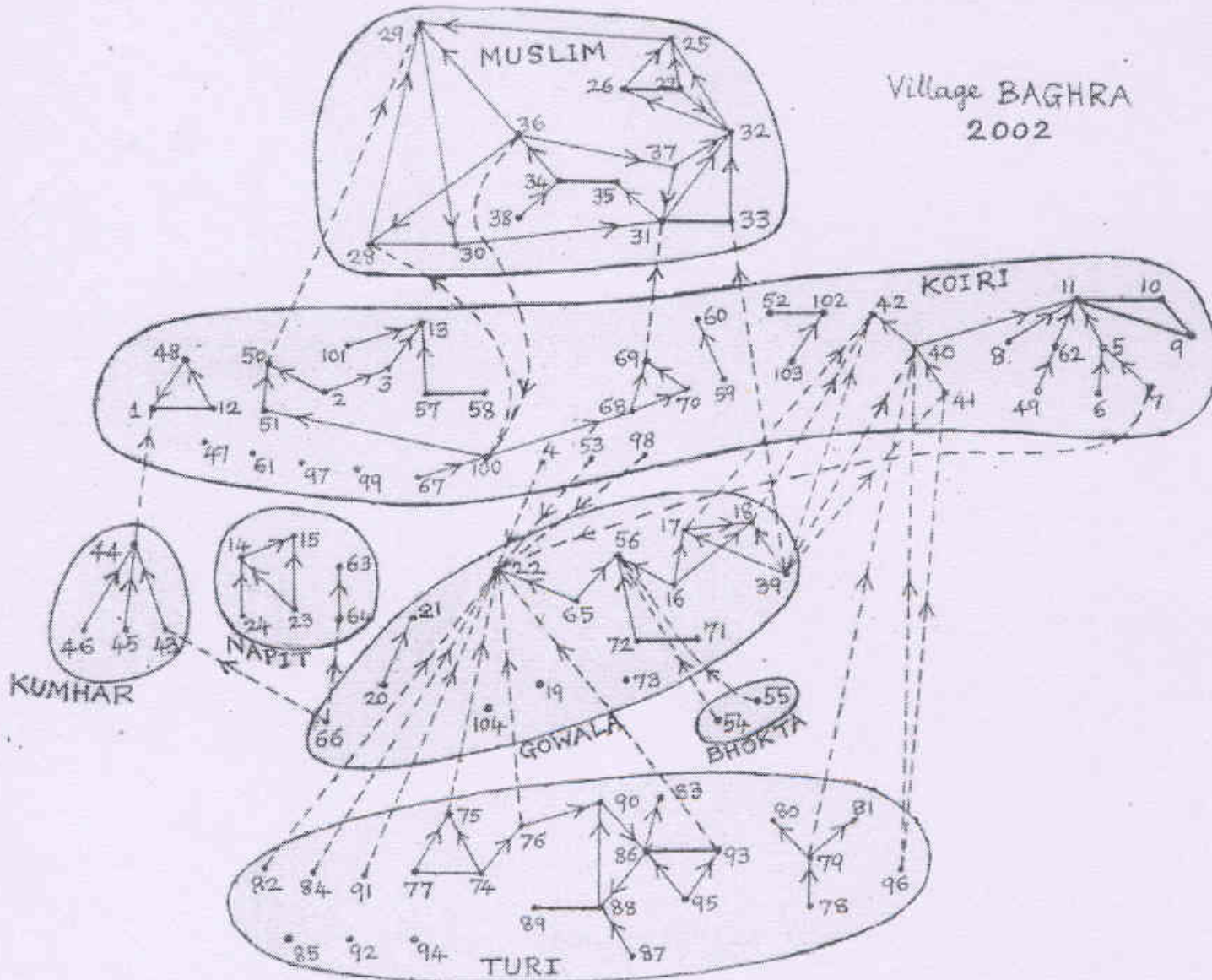




10 11 12 ... 426 (34 isolates)

Within Santhal Network in Kabilpur 1998

Village BAGHRA  
2002



# Wide-spread acceptance and mathematical modeling

- Balance theory translated into graph theoretic terms (Cartwright and Harary, 1956).
- Parallel developments in computer networks for military radar signals in 1950s.
- Whole organisation is divided into two groups for structural balance, clustering (cliques), multiplexity of lines (1960s).
- Granovetter (1974) *Getting a job*: **Strength of a weak tie.**

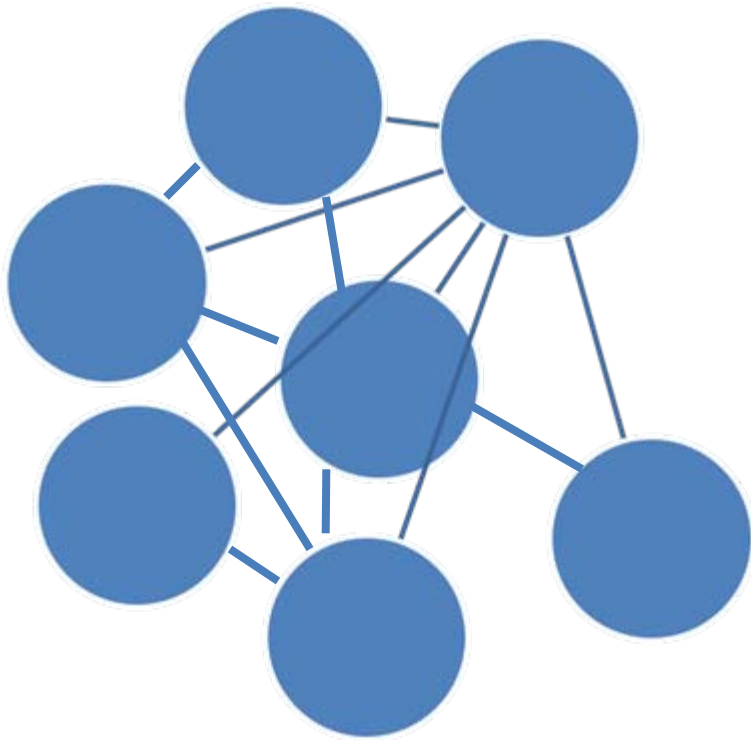
# Two disturbing questions from 'social' for network in recent times

- What about the agency of individual (to shape structure) when he/she is inside a network?
- Is society a mere aggregation of individuals (or is data on individuals capable of revealing what is going on society)?

# Social Mechanisms : Example

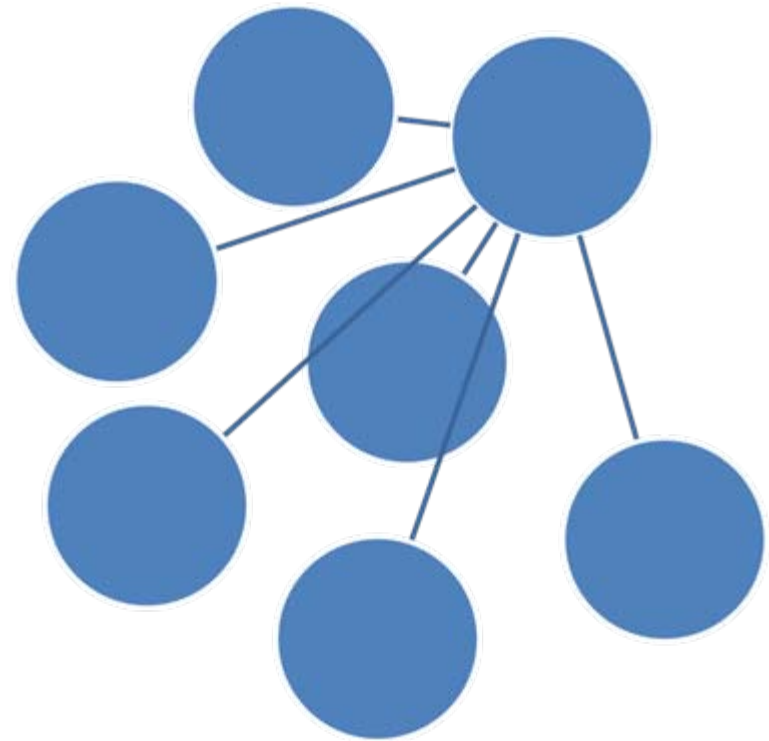
## Village A

- \* High turn out in common pool milk collection
- \* Dense social structure

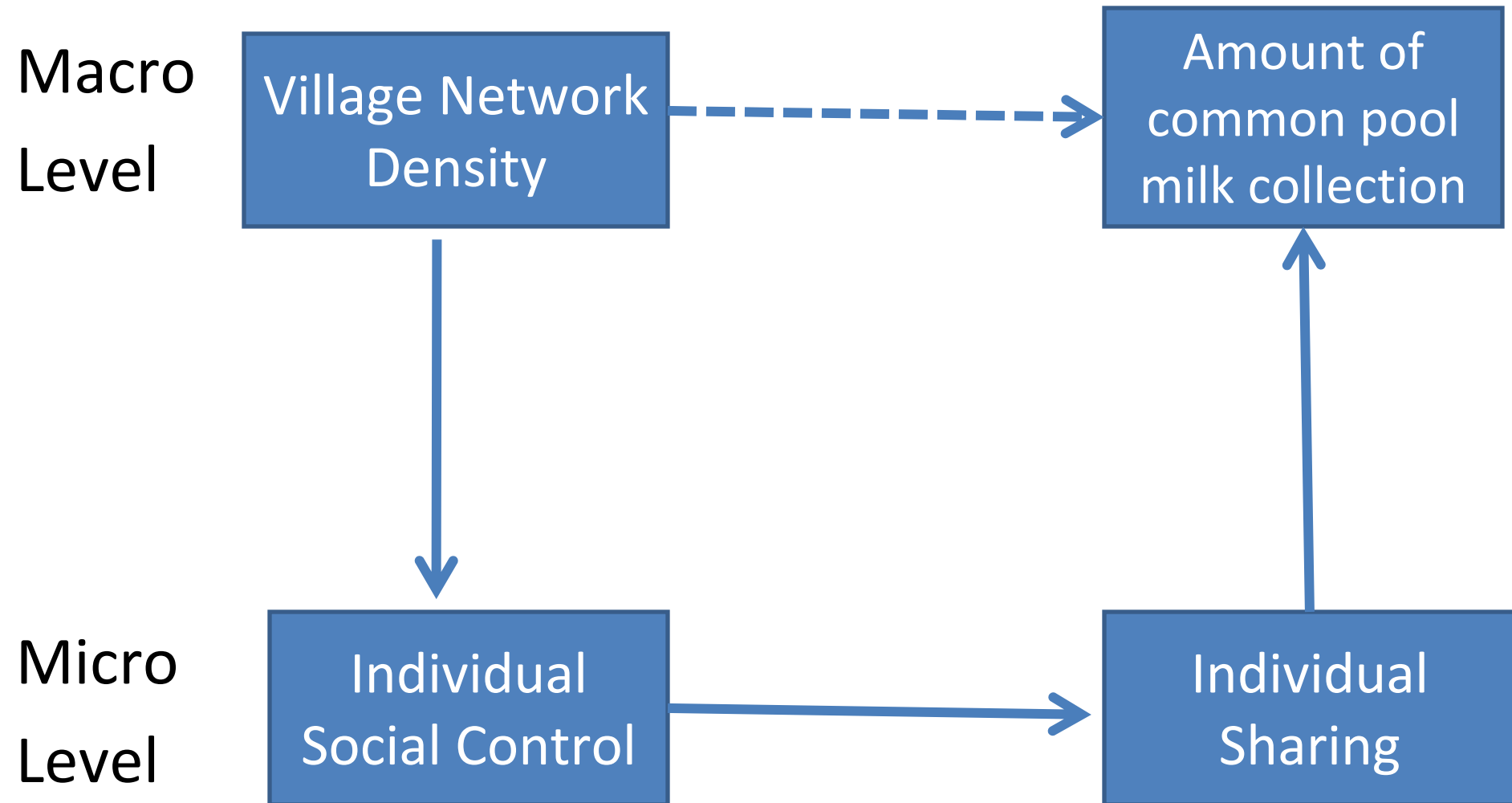


## Village B

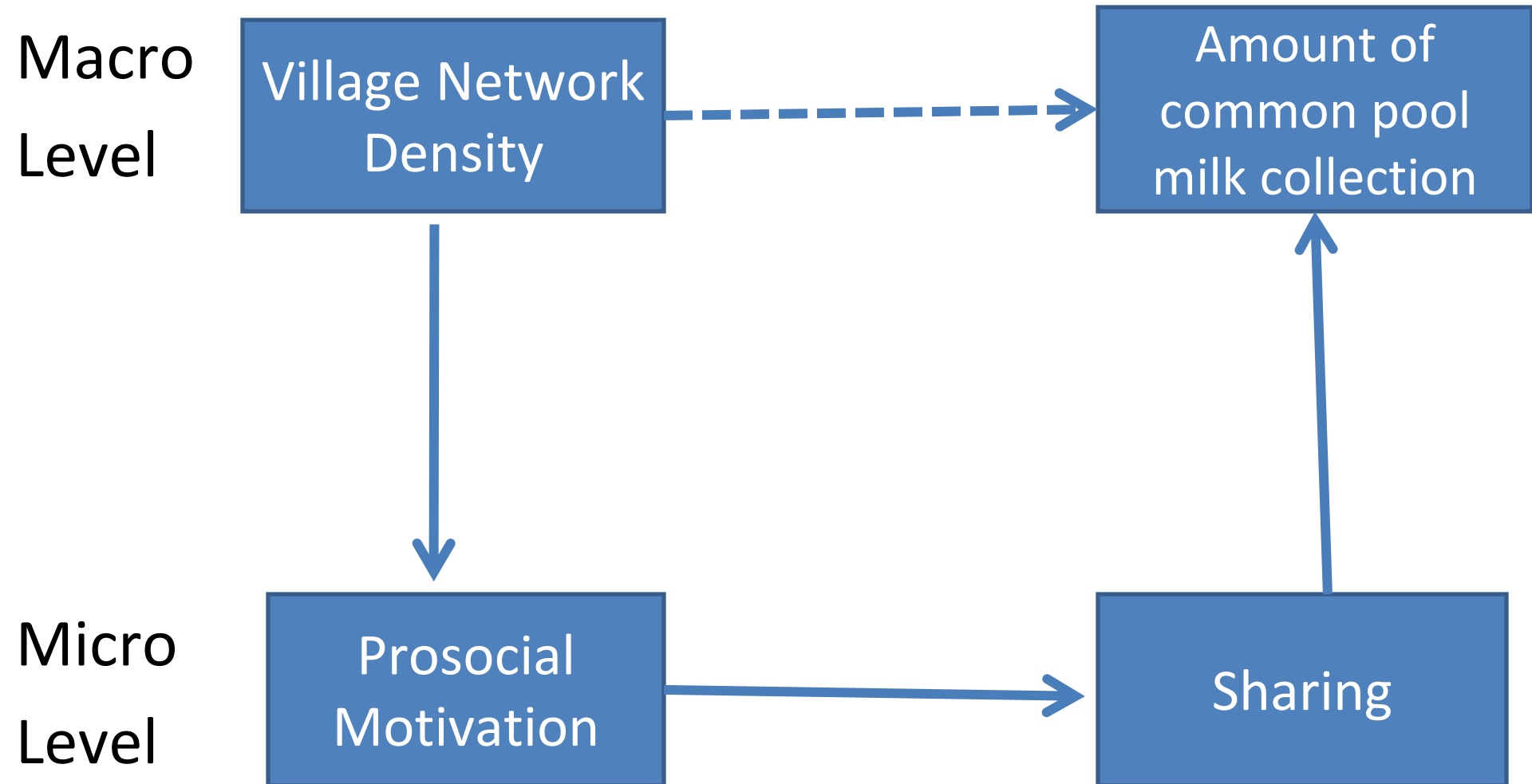
- \* Low turn out in common pool milk collection
- \* Sparse social structure



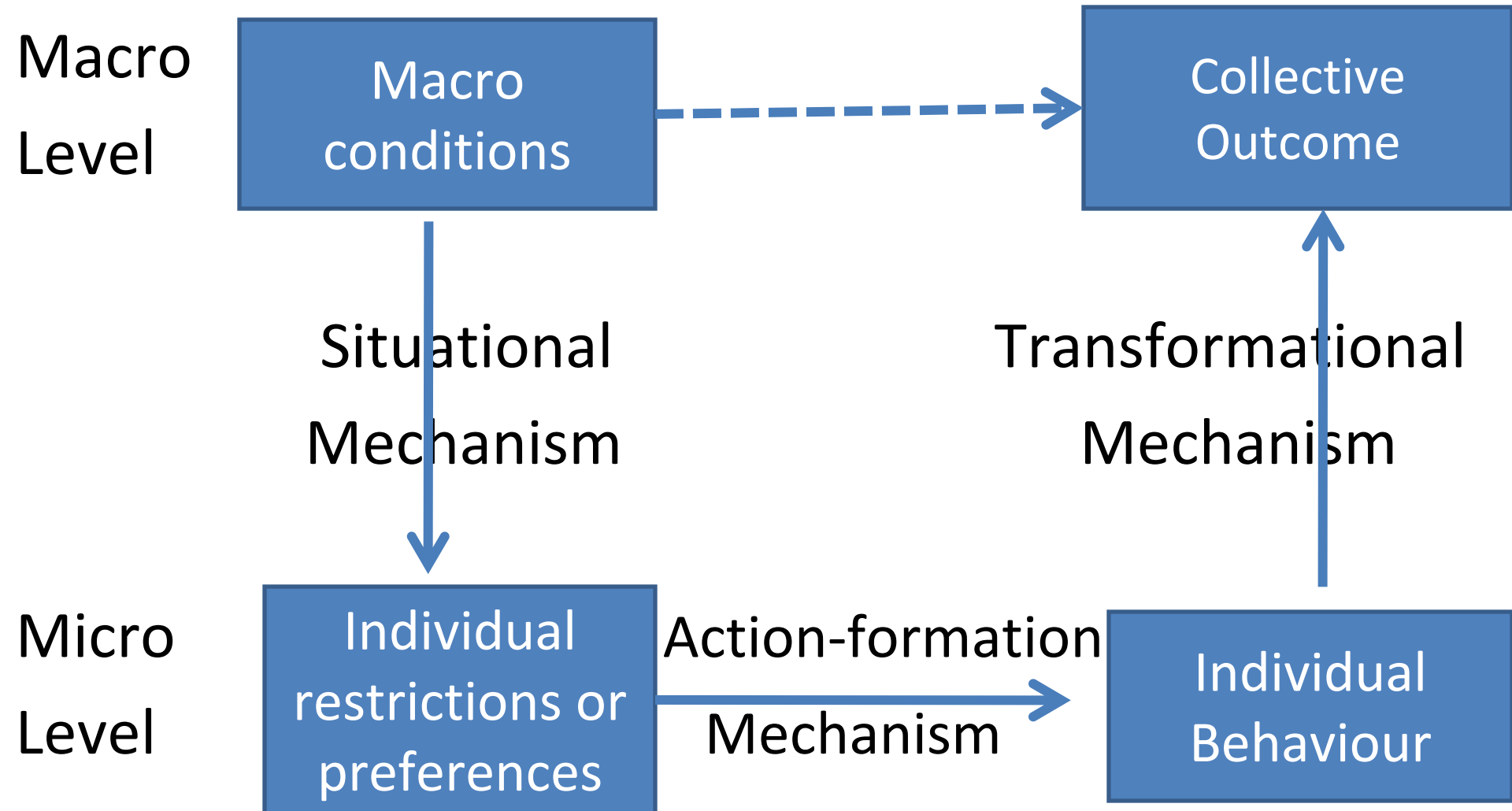
# Social Mechanism 1: Control



# Social Mechanism 2: Solidarity



# Social Mechanism: Summary





# Theoretical implications

Good 'network' explanations

- Require the specification of **interdependencies**
- Explicate the **theoretical paradigm** and its underlying actor assumptions
- Explicate a **social mechanism** linking the macro condition and the collective outcome.

# Uniqueness and Synergy

## Uniqueness

- Human being's ability to hold opposing views simultaneously; mind does not work using algorithmic rules on represented symbols (Dreyfus).
- Human being's ability to anticipate void (and wait for the void to be filled) in hope.

## Synergy

- Social system as self-reproducing, self-referential systems through meaningful communication (Luhmann).