

University of Groningen

Gossip in organizations

Ellwardt, L.

IMPORTANT NOTE: You are advised to consult the publisher's version (publisher's PDF) if you wish to cite from it. Please check the document version below.

Document Version

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Publication date:
2011

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Ellwardt, L. (2011). *Gossip in organizations: A social network study*. [Thesis fully internal (DIV), University of Groningen]. s.n.

Copyright

Other than for strictly personal use, it is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

The publication may also be distributed here under the terms of Article 25fa of the Dutch Copyright Act, indicated by the "Taverne" license. More information can be found on the University of Groningen website: <https://www.rug.nl/library/open-access/self-archiving-pure/taverne-amendment>.

Take-down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

Downloaded from the University of Groningen/UMCG research database (Pure): <http://www.rug.nl/research/portal>. For technical reasons the number of authors shown on this cover page is limited to 10 maximum.

Acknowledgements

The nature of my research topic comes with the handicap that I sometimes wonder whether my colleagues gossip about me. Without being paranoid, I am quite certain they do agree that I am a hopeless chocoholic. In fact, my chocolate brownies have built up a reasonable reputation in the department. The secret about these brownies is that I always add a pinch of chili. Working on this dissertation was like baking with chocolate and chili; while addictive, it could taste spicy at times. Be that as it may, the work would not have been as compelling without the latter ingredient. In the following, I would like to thank those people who aided me in finding the perfect recipe for my work.

First and foremost, I thank my first supervisor. Rafael, you literally supported me with chocolate all the way through, and even beyond, my research project. Working with you has been an incredibly inspiring, pleasant, and fruitful experience. It was your spirit which helped me through the spicy times, along with making this “gossip project” fun. Your endorsement of my plans to attend international conferences, summer schools, and research visits all played a substantial role in my development into a well-rounded and confident scholar.

Next, I would like to thank my two other supervisors who played a substantial role in my success. Rudi, I thank you for believing in me as a scientist. This was particularly valuable in the beginning when I struggled with the amount of chili in my project recipe. Christian, fortunately you agreed to join my project in the third year, as my methodological approach became more complex. You taught me the *do's* and *don'ts* of social network analysis, and thereby substantially contributed to my understanding – and sometimes confusion – of this field.

Furthermore, there were a number of collaborators I had the privilege of working with, whom I also wish to thank at this time. Marijtje, it has been an absolute joy solving the gossip-triad puzzle with you. Without your help, I would not have dared diving into the deep waters of triadic data analysis. Moreover, I was lucky enough to visit the LINKS Centre at the University of Kentucky in Lexington for two months. Joe, I couldn't thank you more for your hospitality, and assistance with integrating me with a talented group of researchers. My stay in Lexington was a true double-chocolate experience! Importantly, “real” research, particularly on sensitive topics like gossip, in organization sociology is impossible without the input and support of fearless practitioners. Gabriël, you played a key role in my research project, and I am endlessly grateful for that. I guarantee you positive gossip!

My life as a researcher was further enriched by the network of helpful and sociable colleagues. I thank the WOT-team for tolerating and reading my papers on gossip over and over again. Alona and Birgit, you were my most important accompanists on the various trips to the north of the Netherlands, where we collected data for our research.

You both contributed to turning this research project into a success. I also thank Jessica and Katia for paying me company in the office. I always had a good laugh gossiping with you! Katia, thanks for sharing your chocolate so generously with me. Finally, I owe most gratitude to you, Jelle. Apart from being colleagues, we had been together for three years until our paths separated. You were always there for me when needed, even when chocolate could not make things better. Thank you for your love, trust, and support during our time together.

In the four and a half years I have spent in Groningen, I have made some close friends. André, thanks for being the perfect housemate, and for putting up with my imperfections. Anna, thanks for cheering up my life and adding a bit of spice to it. Our chocolate-chili fondue evenings are unforgettable. Anu, you were there for me when I needed a real friend. I am very glad we have met. Ivar, life in Groningen would not be the same without you. It has been over four and a half years since we first met, and you spontaneously helped me fix my furniture – and it still holds! I am also grateful to my loyal friends from Dresden, Germany: Jörg, Anne, Doreen, Uli. Whenever I visit home, it feels like no time has passed. Thanks for filling me in, and keeping me up to date, with all the gossip.

An dieser Stelle danke ich meiner Familie. Liebe Eltern, danke dass Ihr immer für mich da seid und mich über Grenzen hinweg bedingungslos unterstützt. Liebe Großeltern, Ihr seid mir stets Vorbild mit Eurer warmherzigen und junggebliebenen Mentalität. Mein geliebter Bruder, lang ist es her, dass ich als ältere Schwester auf Dich aufgepasst habe. Danke, dass Du nun auf mich aufpasst. In der Endphase meiner Arbeit hat mein Freund die wichtigste Rolle eingenommen. Christoph, Du bist mein Seelenverwandter und mein PiC (partner in crime), wenn ich einen Verbündeten suche. Danke für Deine Liebe, Deine Unterstützung und Deinen Humor.