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PSN: Peacebuilder Students Network

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Introduction. This paper is part of the field of peacebuilding studies, which is defined as "a constructive engagement that addresses the immediate impact and root causes of episodic and structural violence" (Lederach, 1996; Varker et al., 2015), and is composed of two fundamental aspects: 1. capacity for non-violent conflict transformation; and 2. foundations for sustainable peace and development (United Nations, 2010), with a focus on the second aspect (Taylor et al., 2022). (Taylor et al., 2022).

The Peace, Security, and Inclusion (PSI) triangle is not currently part of institutional educational routes, therefore students' interest in and participation with this issue may remain dormant due to a lack of support.

Objective. This note seeks to determine whether inclusion and gender are among the predominant and recurring themes in the group of students who participated in the "Blackboard for Peace" experiment (Rocca, Zavarrone, 2022) and, if so, to identify the demosocial characteristics of students who share the same vision in terms of PSI to propose the future construction of a student network and indicators based on textual network measures.

The topics that came out of the Rocca-Zavarrone experiment in 2022 and administrative student data on enrolment from the IULM University Student Secretariat were used for this study's research.

Methods. In terms of text analytics and social network analysis, the data matrix is presented as an affiliation matrix (Everett et al., 1997; Borgatti et al., 2013). (Everett et al., 1997; Borgatti et al., 2013). Community identification algorithms will be applied to locate structured affine (= homophilous) groups, with an emphasis on algorithms capable of capturing the dynamics of leaders and followers in natural networks (Borgatti et al., 2022) via basic structures recognized as bicliques.

Outcomes. The construction of peacebuilding networks based on ideals of inclusivity, gender equality, safety, and the establishment of indicators.

Keywords

community detection, peacebuilder, textual network analysis, multiple correspondence analysis, text analytics

Topics

• Textual data analysis and network methods

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