Network Analysis, Network Modeling, and Historical Big Data: The New Networks of Japanese Americans in World War II

In my ongoing doctoral research, I am employing network analysis and modeling to study the Japanese American incarceration in World War II (internment). Incarceration and the government-led dispersal of Japanese Americans disrupted the lives of some 110,000 people, including over 70,000 US citizens of Japanese ancestry, for the duration of the war and beyond. Many lost their former homes and enterprises and had to start their lives over after the war. Incarceration also had a very concrete impact on the communities: about 50% of those interned did not return to their old homes.

My research data consists of three different types of datasets from different sources:

1) The Japanese American Internee Data File, 1942-1946, freely available as a .PU file with accompanying code book at www.archives.gov. This dataset includes the background information of 109,000 incarcerated individuals, including their occupation, education, religion, etc. Individuals are grouped by family, making it possible to construct family groups. I have partly converted the coded data into an Excel spreadsheet using Excel formulae, while parts have been converted by a colleague through Python.
2) Final Accountability Roster for the Heart Mountain Relocation Center, 1945, freely available as PDF through www.heartmountain.org or www.ancestry.com, includes the end-of-incarceration information (address in camp, destination, type of leave) of 14,000 residents of the Heart Mountain camp in Wyoming.
3) Data extracted from the *Heart Mountain Sentinel*, incarceration camp newspaper that depicted various aspects of camp life, such as politics and social life (available through www.densho.org). This dataset forms the base for analyzing the networks, and is complemented by archival documents from various sources.

My study consists of five "subnetworks" (family, administrative-political, employment, social, and geospatial), which will finally be integrated into one full network as comprehensive as possible. In addition, I'm studying several emerging subgroups of people, especially women, individuals segregated for perceived disloyalty, and the draft resisters of the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee.

This poster explores the changes that took place in the Japanese American community of Heart Mountain Relocation Center in Wyoming. I will especially investigate the political networks and power relations of the incarceration community. My aim is twofold: on the one hand, to discuss the changes in networks caused by incarceration and dispersal, and on the other, to address some opportunities and challenges presented by the method for the study of history.

Saara Kekki is a Doctoral Candidate at the University of Helsinki. Her dissertation employs network analysis and computer modeling to study the changes in the Japanese American community during and after World War II. She is the author of several articles and co-editor of *North American Studies Crossroads: An Anthology of Finnish Perspectives* (2014) She is the 2011 recipient of the Walter Rundell Award for best dissertation proposal by the Western History Association, being the first non-American to receive the honor. She spent the falls of 2016 and 2017 as a visiting scholar at the University of California, Santa Barbara.