Nowadays, we are witnessing the rise of network data retrieved from digital sources e.g. mobile phones, social media, online archives. Such data enables us to reconstruct emerging practices of communication, sociality, cooperation, that is, the relational foundations of contemporary society. Social network analysis (SNA) is a set of interdisciplinary methods aimed to measure relationships and flows between people, organizations, computers and other connected entities. SNA throws a new light of social phenomena such as: friendship, disease transmission or innovation. In this course students will learn how to recognize, work with and visualize network data. In particular, R packages (igraph, sna, network) will be used to:

a) transform untidy data into usable databases

b) build networks from edgelists and adjacency matrices

c) analyze network properties

d) plot networks of different shapes

e) interpret structural properties

Previous experience of working with R and RStudio is desired but not necessary.