

# Essays on the economics of social networks

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# Propositions

accompanying the doctoral dissertation

*Essays on the Economics of Social Networks*

by Anastas Plamenov Tenev

1. Clustering of altruists is beneficial for sustaining cooperation, but it enables the spread of less cooperative behaviour. (Chapter 1)
2. When considering the social rather than the informational value of links, more connected people are less desirable as neighbours, which can be an important factor in social networks. (Chapter 2)
3. Heuristics provide a plausible mechanism for social network formation. (Chapter 2)
4. The sender's gain from persuasion in a network may not be restricted when receivers share more information with their neighbours. (Chapter 3)
5. While easier to analyse, regular networks are less interesting than most other networks.
6. Computer simulations are a legitimate tool for the analysis of economic problems which are not amenable to a purely theoretical investigation.
7. The symmetric or asymmetric spread of information in a network can be more important for persuasion than its actual amount.
8. Understanding the formation of social networks and their effects on human behaviour is a crucial task for policy-makers.
9. Tenacity is the most important quality for a PhD student; happiness is not his friend, anger is not his foe.
10. Having an Economics diploma is not the most important qualification for an economic theorist nowadays.
11. Writing a proof with mathematical notation does not make it more precise than a proof in words.