

Review of: "Network centrality for the identification of biomarkers in respondent-driven sampling datasets"

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Potential competing interests: The author(s) declared that no potential competing interests exist.

I find this study interesting from multiple aspects. However, I suggest a related but more direct methodology, as an alternative.

Instead of using social networks, in which every person serves as a node and has attributes, Gaussian Graphical Models(GGM) (Montazeri, deBildt, Dekkar & Anderson, 2020) could be used, which directly define the attributes, as nodes, and study their (partial) correlations between them, (edge weights), what is proven to harbor causality, obviating the need to find intermediary hub persons, who only serve to identify attributes which are present in a high percentage of them(Exceptionality Score) or in other terms covary/correlate strongly.

Reference:

Montazeri, F., de Bildt, A., Dekker, V., & Anderson, G. M. (2020). Network analysis of behaviors in the depression and autism realms: Inter-relationships and clinical implications. *Journal of autism and developmental disorders*, 50(5), 1580-1595.