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Collaborating Against Human Trafficking

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Anti-Human Trafficking (AT) Efforts

- Assessed as lacking coordination across sectors and levels of intervention, and between source, transit, and destination countries

- Understudied (Laczko, 2005, Mattar, 2004, Schauer and Wheaton, 2006)

→ Overarching aims of research: 1) Map AT efforts longitudinally & developmentally; 2) Trace collaboration; and 3) Catalyze collaboration by illuminating good practices in robust multi-sector coalitions

Methods

1. Database of AT Actors' Websites
2. Hyperlink Analysis of AT Web Real Estate and Link Neighborhoods
3. Content Analysis of AT Actors' Websites
4. Participant Observation in Multi-Sector Coalitions

Method 1: Database of Anti-trafficking Actors' Websites

- Multiple search queries, multiple search engines
- Purposive identification across sectors
- Catalog record for each actor's site(s)
- → 999 anti-trafficking websites catalogued to date, produced by actors in multiple sectors worldwide
- → 1758 URLs collected via hyperlink-analysis

Method 2: Iterative Hyperlink Analysis of AT Sites

Purposes:

- Identify a broader array of AT actors

- Situate the AT web network in relation to other online issue networks, i.e. link neighborhoods

- Assess patterns of linking relationships between verified AT actors' sites

- Compare actors' linking relationships with their stated collaborations and associations

AI Relevance and Level of AI Web Real Estate in Online Issue Networks

	n	% of coded sites	% of AT sites
Anti-Trafficking Sites	999	73%	
Mentioned AT	*442*	*32%*	*44%*
> 1 page about AT	*353*	*26%*	*35%*
Site dedicated to AT	*204*	*15%*	*20%*
Social Justice	153	11%	-
Non-Social Justice	134	10%	-
Non-Functional	87	6%	-
Total	1373	100%	99%

Hyperlinks as Collaboration Tools

- Hyperlinks can signal
    - Informational resources
    - Affinity
    - Formal collaboration
- Collections of sites that link to each other can
    - Create issue networks and link neighborhoods
    - Coproduce online structures through which web users find ways to learn about human trafficking and get involved an AT efforts.
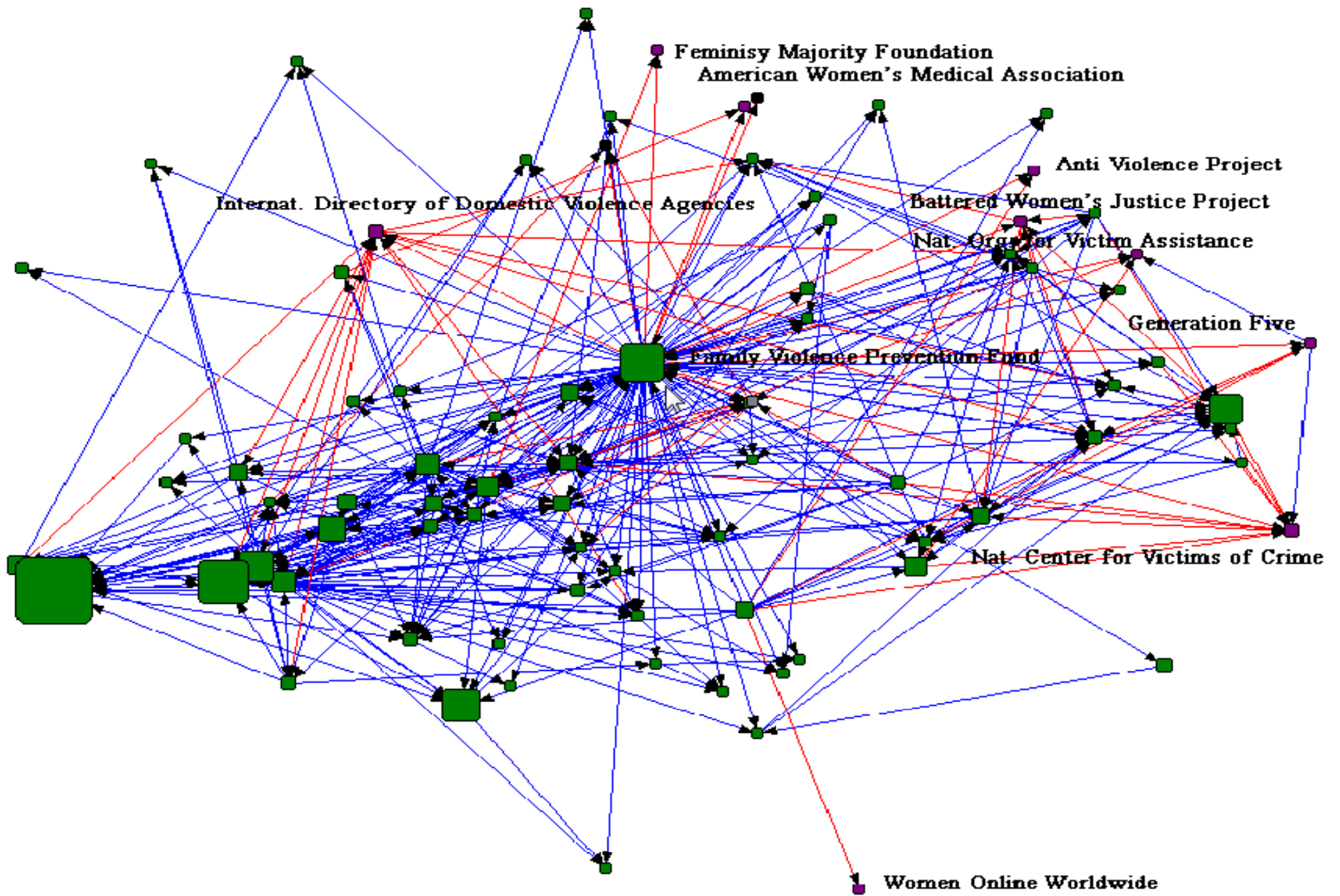
Domestic Violence Link Neighborhood Adjoining AT Issue Network

Method 3: Content Analysis of Actors' Sites - 2008, 2009, 2010

- 2010: Purposive sample of 164 sites, stratified by geographic base region (N=11)
  - 64% based in N. America & Europe
  - 15% based in South & Southeast Asia
  - 10% based in multiple regions
- Coding scheme of ~80 measures
  - Anti-slavery/trafficking actions and locations of activity
  - **Coalition-building claims**
  - **Sustained inter-organizational collaboration**

Inter-Organizational Collaborators (IOCs)

- Defined as actors which explicitly **identify themselves as part of a named, multi-organization coalition, network, or alliance, with at least three member organizations.**

- Collaboration or partnership on a project or program was not sufficient to code an actor as an IOC.

- IOCs have established "connective tissue", i.e. more durable, collaborative relationships with other actors that are not project-specific.

Anti-Human Trafficking Activities

- Awareness raising
- Conducting research on human trafficking
- Enforcement of anti-trafficking laws/policies
- Equipping others to counter trafficking
- Intervention to stop trafficking/rescue victims
- Policy advocacy ~ Policymaking
- Prevention
- Rehabilitation of trafficked persons

→ Each activity is comprised of 5-7 actions

The IOC Difference in Anti-Trafficking Efforts

IOCs engage more intensively than non-IOCs in 4 of 8 anti-human trafficking activities :

- ❖ Awareness-raising
- ❖ Equipping others in anti-trafficking efforts
- ❖ Policy advocacy
- ❖ Research on human trafficking

Intensity does not correlate with IOC status in these AT activities: enforcement, intervention, prevention, and rehabilitation efforts.

Inter-Organization Collaboration: Aspiration vs. Actuality in 2010

- **Aspiration:** 65% of AT actors report engaging in coalition-building

- **Actuality:** Among those involved in coalition-building, 37% identify themselves as IOCs

- 29% of all AT actors identify themselves as IOCs

Method 4: Participant Observation of Coalition Interactions

- Attended over 30 inter-organizational meetings to date (most were also multi-sector)
- Participated in two intensive multi-sector AT projects
- Fieldnotes on observed instances of inter-organizational and multi-sector interaction
- Interviews with leaders from multiple sectors about the challenges of and strategies for collaboration and multi-sector interaction

Challenges

- Within sectors, competition for status, staff/volunteers, and funding constrains collab

- Across sectors, differing aims, priorities, procedures, and regulations, as well as by distrust (current or residual) constrains collab.

- Building connective tissue between organizations, whether within or across sectors, requires time, energy, and funding (for both personnel time and travel)

Strategies

For developing inter-organizational & inter-sector collaboration

- Cultivate mutual respect, open-mindedness & trust between key personnel across organizations and sectors
- Invest time in open-ended conversations
- Conduct hypothetical case analyses together to foster mutual learning; use the insights gained to develop joint protocols
- Commit upfront to resolving (inevitable) conflicts.

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