



Aubrey D. Tabuga, Ph.D.  
Presenter

# **The Structure of Social Relations in the Community: An Empirical Analysis for Achieving Economic Inclusion**

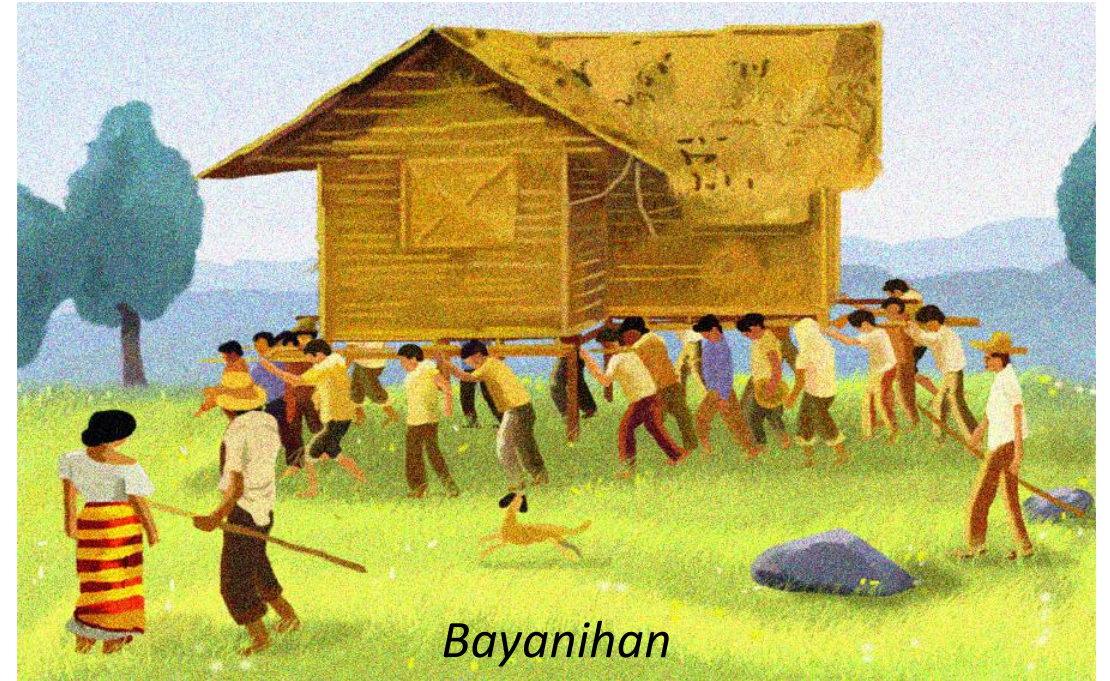
**By  
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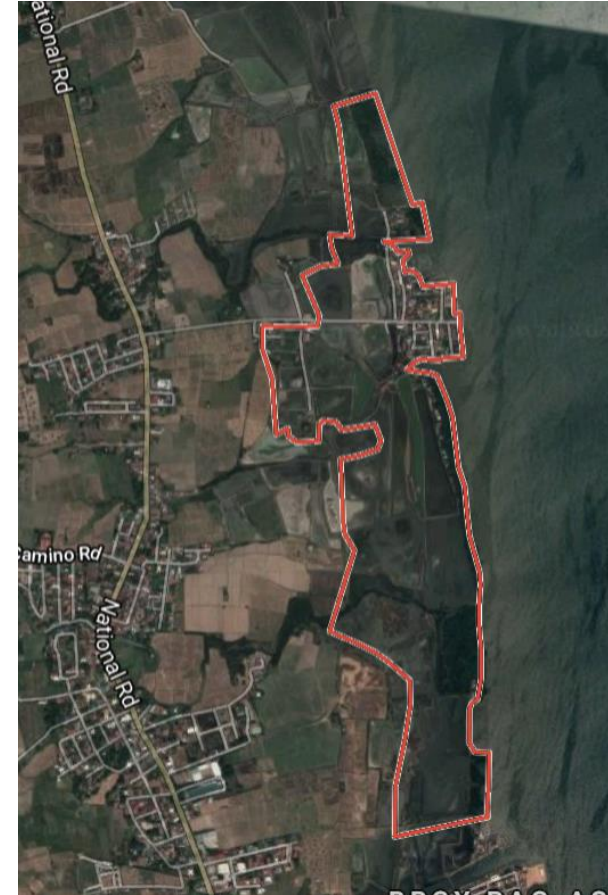
# Social Cohesion in the Rural Areas

- Measuring social cohesion
- How are people within society connected to each other?
- How are the poor situated within the community network? Are they isolated, or integrated?
- Is social inclusion (connectedness or social capital) correlated with economic inclusion?
- If so, what does this say about efforts for achieving inclusive development?



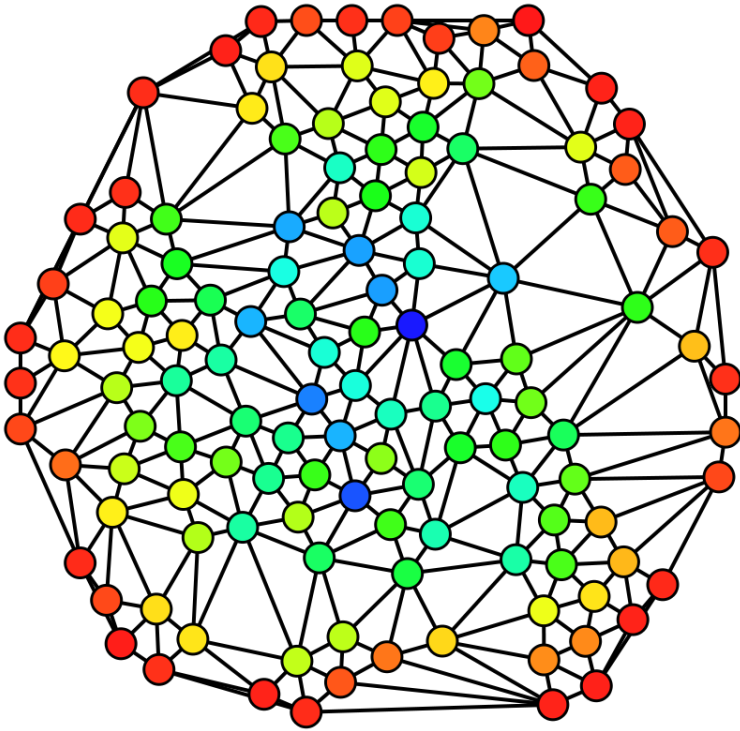
# Data

- Original survey data → kinship and friendship ties
- Census: 365 households in Camachile, Orion, Bataan
- Heads and spouses were asked to enumerate all their relatives and close friends within the barangay
- Links between households were recorded in a NxN matrix
- Community-based Monitoring System (CBMS) data provided socio-economic characteristics



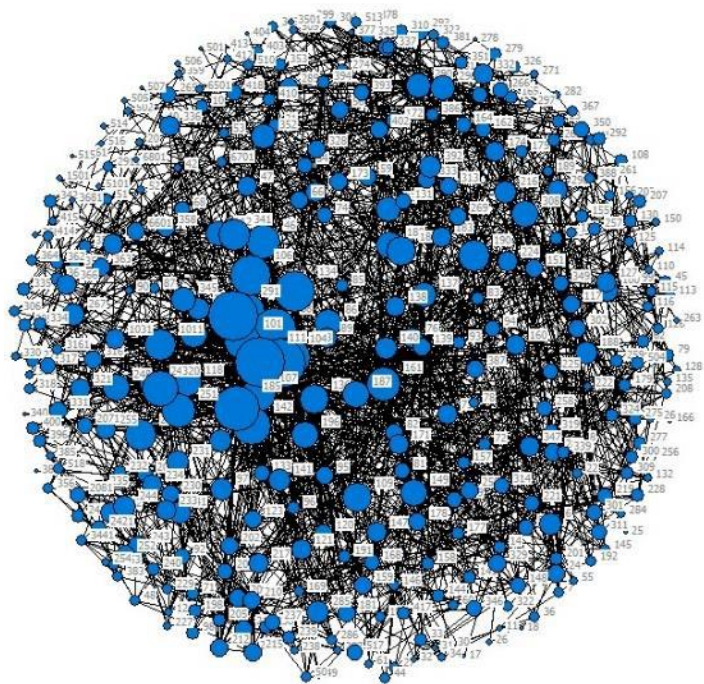
Barangay Camachile Map

# Methodology



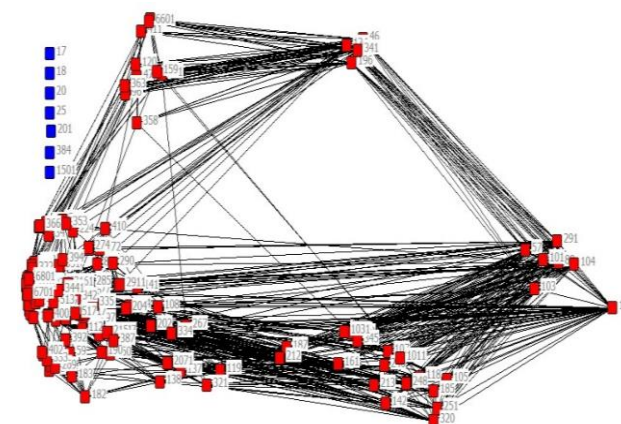
- Social Network Analysis (SNA) – a paradigm that focuses on relations rather than individual attributes
- It provides visual illustrations of the relations
- Allows one to see extent of fragmentation, any clustering
- It also provides parameters of connectedness like degree, betweenness, eigenvector centrality
- Software → UCINET
- Social cohesion → measured in numbers

# Kinship and Friendship Ties

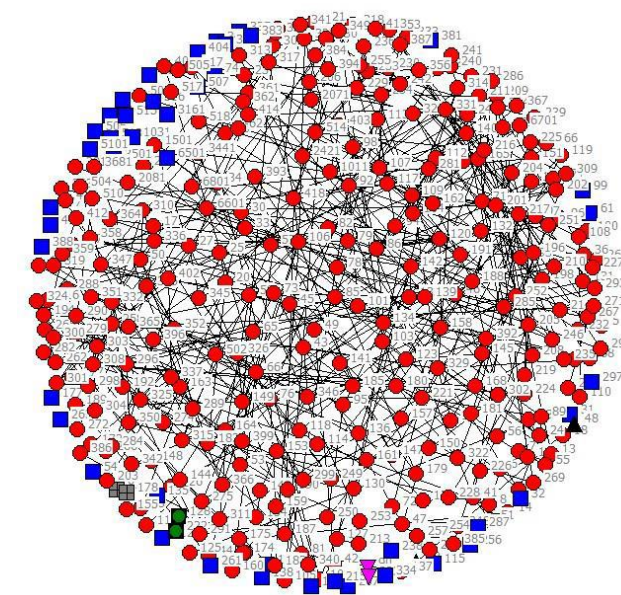


The complete network of social relations, node size by degree

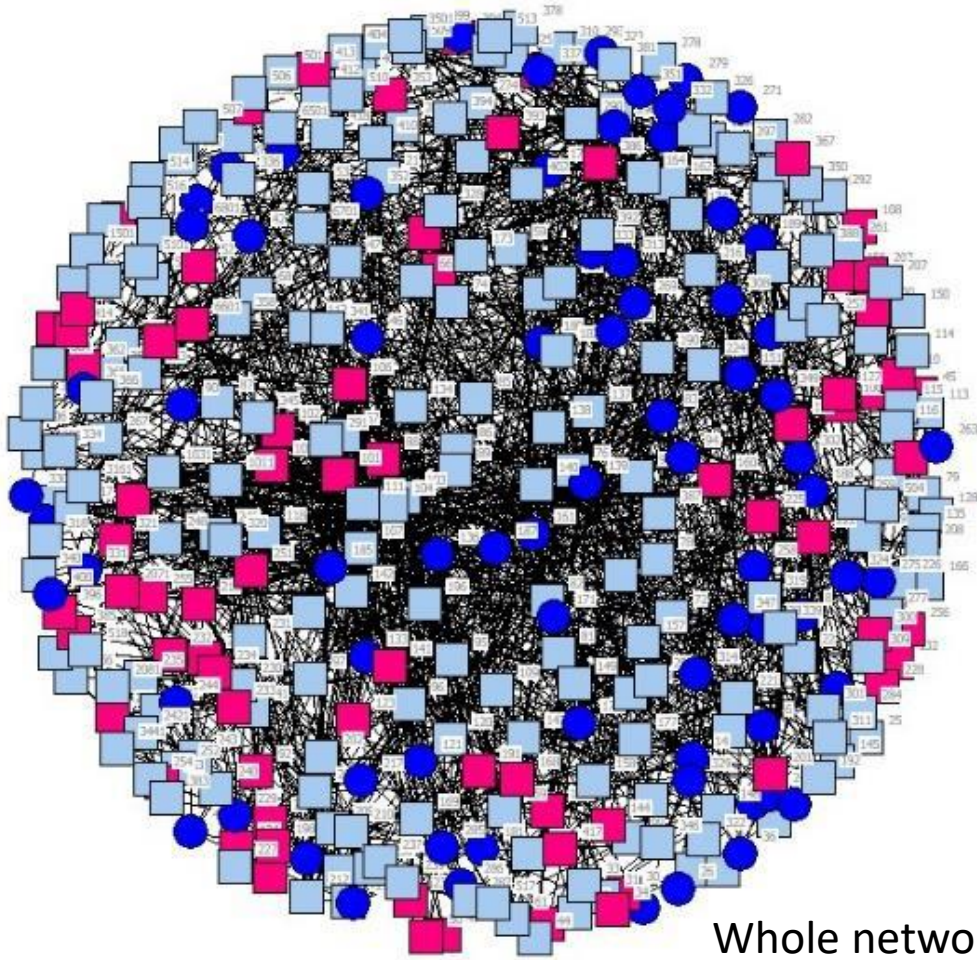
All family ties



Friendship network



# Social Inclusion and Poverty Status

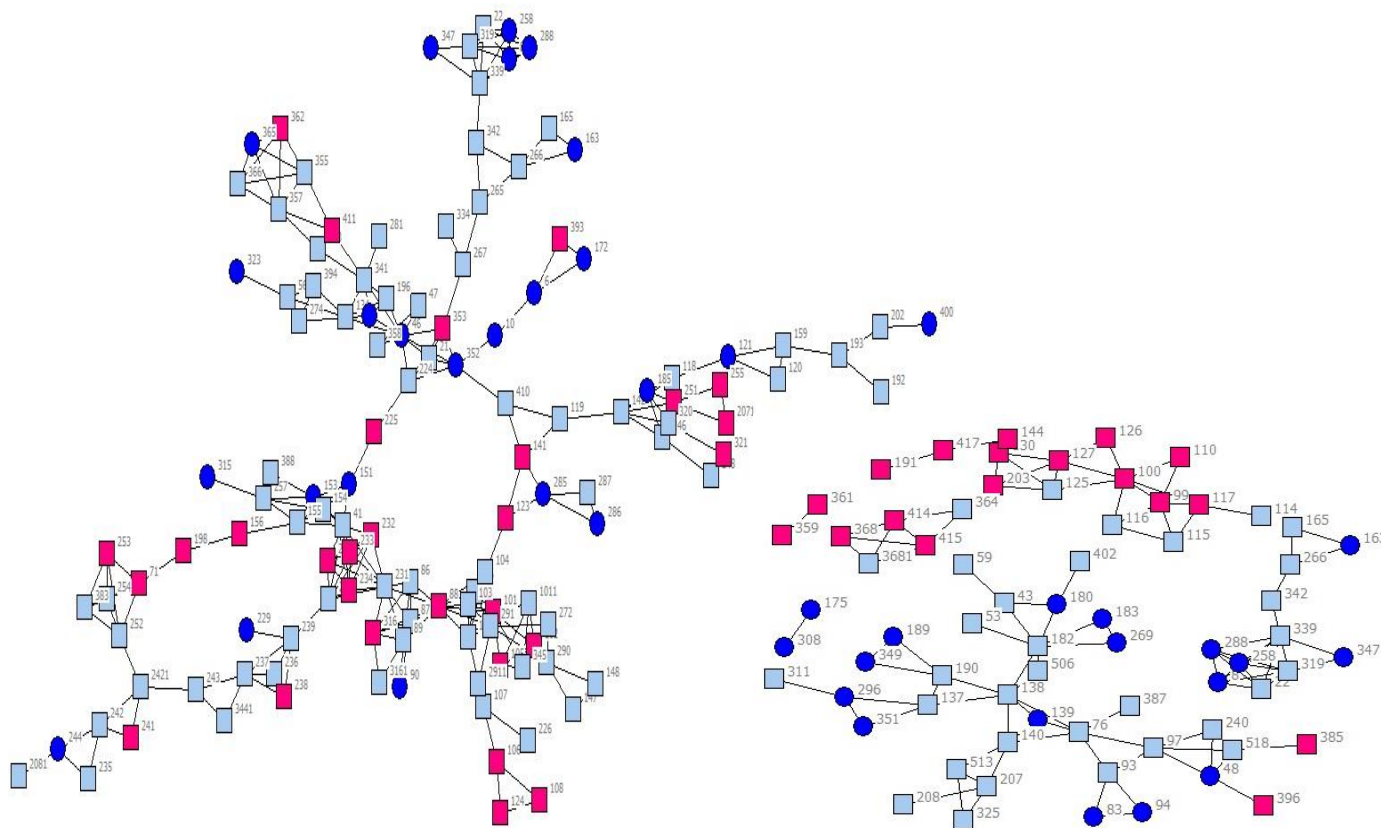


- The poor are somewhat integrated
- There is some clustering among the poorest
- Households that occupy the center (CORE) of the network are often rich or middle income households.

Whole network by poverty status

Legend: Red- bottom 25%; blue circle-richest 25%; light blue - rest

# Evidence of clustering/homophily



- Many of the poorest households are very close family relations of each other
- Many of the richest are also closely connected to one another

The close family network (first and second degree) of blood or marriage by poverty status (asset index)-selected components



# Evidence of clustering/homophily

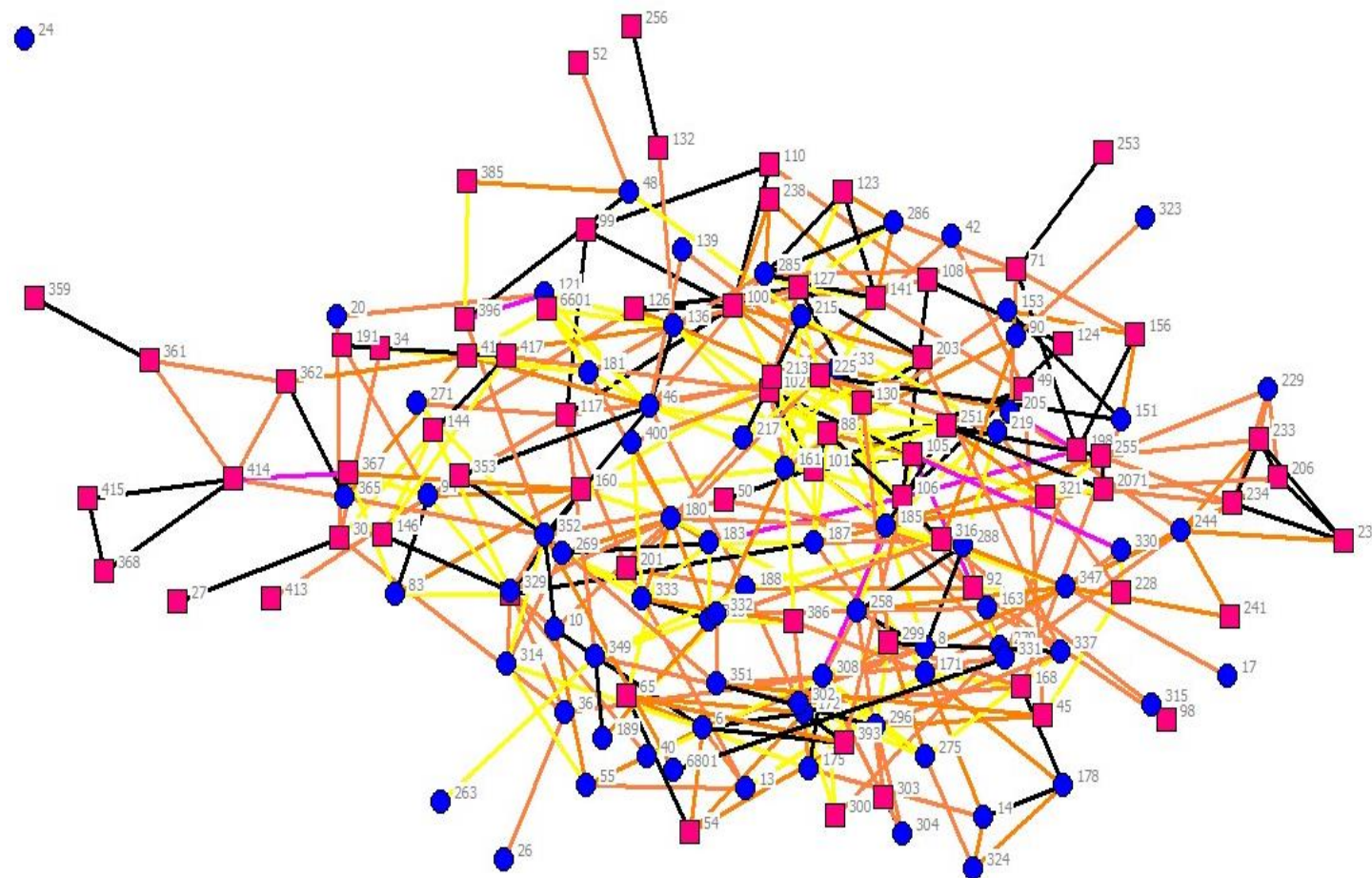
- The poorest households are considered homophilous
- The richest tend to behave in a more homophilous way than the poorest group
- Homophily index=

(mean of ingroup links) /  
 (mean of contrasting group links)

Group	Average no. of total links	Average no. of close* ties	Mean ratio of close links to total	Homophily Index (using all ties)
Poorest 10 households	10	7	0.76	1.28
Richest 10 households	13	9	0.71	3.31

# Evidence of integration of the poor

- The poor are not disconnected from the rich;
- There are opportunities for meaningful and possibly well-being-enhancing interactions between the richest and the poorest



# Evidence of integration of the poor

Characteristic	Based on complete network		Based on friendship network	
	Core (n=28)	Peripheral (n=319)	Core (n=60)	Peripheral (n=287)
Mean per capita income	<b><u>46,266</u></b>	58,171	<b><u>66,334</u></b>	55,303
Per capita income, standard deviation	57,809	71,721	74,365	69,898
With fishing boat, %	42.9	10.0	13.3	12.5
Age, household head (years)	53.7	51.5	57.1	50.7
Male-headed, %	89.3	77.4	90.0	75.9
Head is current or former migrant, %	57.1	46.7	53.3	46.7
Head is currently working, %	75.0	75.6	75.0	75.6

# Some initial insights

- The community network has a structure that roughly allows for social inclusion among all households because it is a connected network
- Although the poorest of the poor are closely related to each other, they are not disconnected from the rest.
- Many of them are in fact well-integrated to the rest of the community.
- And yet they are poor
- Need to examine their ability to harness the social capital they have, and the quality of their social capital (the resources/opportunities their relations have at their disposal)

# Some initial insights

- Being socially connected may NOT be equal to economic inclusion if there are barriers (e.g. lack of education, lack of opportunities)
- While social capital and social inclusion are important, other factors like improved capabilities and expansion of economic opportunities in the locality, matter as well for the achievement of economic inclusion and improvement of well-being.
- Nevertheless, the evidence of homophily suggests that there is a need for greater, more meaningful interactions among clusters/segments
- Need more efforts to build/enhance/bring bak the *Bayanihan* culture that we used to have!

**Thank you very much!**