



****PRESS RELEASE****

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 8, 2005

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DISEASE, SEX AND WAR: SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION

On Friday, June 10, 2005, the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA), along with the Coalition to Protect Research (CPR) is proud to cosponsor a Congressional Briefing on the importance of social network research for public health and national security policy.

Social networks are based on patterns of interaction among individuals, organizations, groups, and even countries. Our own unique social networks can have profound effects on our physical and mental health and our personal safety. Scientists working with social network models have identified how infectious diseases like SARS and STDs are transmitted across communities of individuals. Similarly, researchers working with the military have employed social network analysis to identify and track terrorist networks as well as locate terrorist targets. Briefing attendees will hear from four distinguished scientists who are applying social network analysis on critical issues ranging from high-risk adolescent behaviors to military intelligence.

Brian Reed from the Center for Research on Military Organization at the Department of Sociology, University of Maryland College Park will be discussing social network analysis and resistance networks. Katherine Stovel, a Professor of Sociology from the University of Wisconsin, will be speaking about romantic networks among adolescents. Duncan Watts, a sociologist from Columbia University and the author of the book *Six Degrees: the Science of a Connected Age* (W.W. Norton, 2003), will talk about the unpredictability of epidemics. American Sociological Association Executive Officer Sally T. Hillsman will moderate the session.

The briefing will be held from 10:00 A.M.- 11:30 A.M., E.S.T. in Room 1539 of the Longworth House Office Building, and is open to the public. To RSVP, please call 202-842-3525 or email alsharpe@coffa.org.