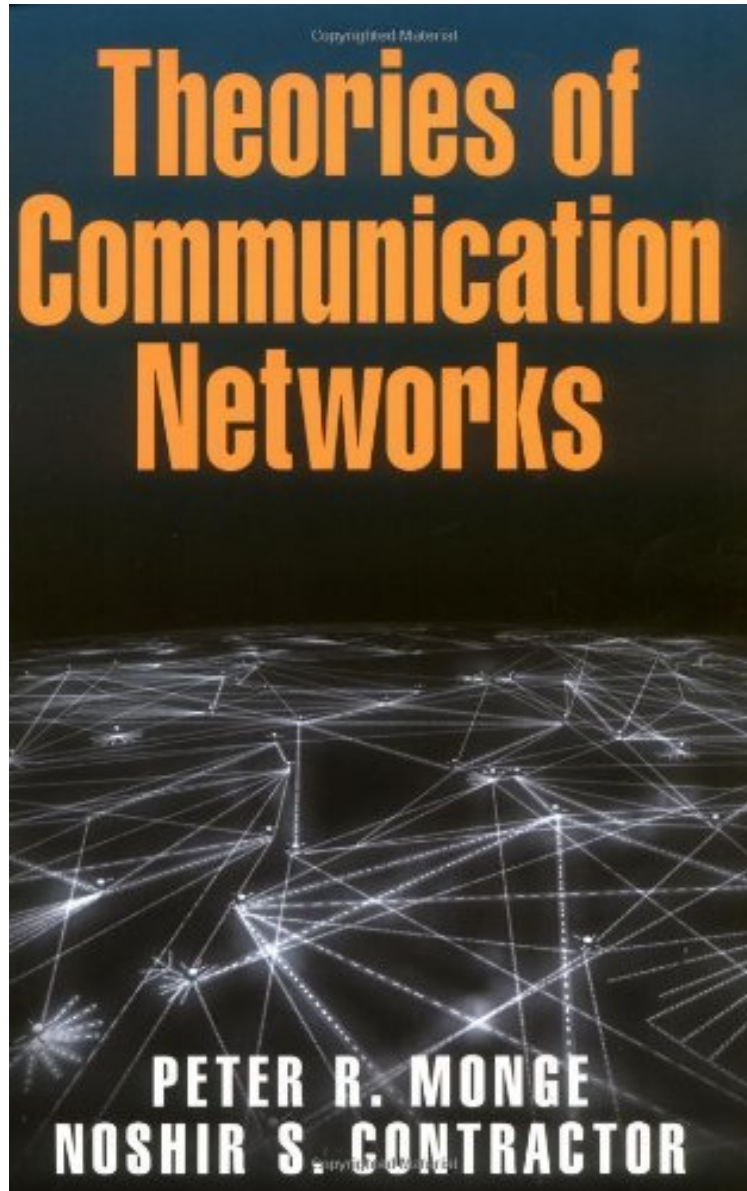


## Theories of Communication Networks

*Peter R. Monge, Noshir Contractor*  
audiobook / \*ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC



#1295302 in eBooks 2003-03-27 2003-03-14 File Name: B000TTR2R6 | File size: 68.Mb

**Peter R. Monge, Noshir Contractor : Theories of Communication Networks** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Theories of Communication Networks:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Good material, but needs a lot better organization. By HelloWorld! The book covers many interesting things, but the organization of the topics needs a lot of improvement. Pros: (1) Covers a lot of theories that you will find interesting, if you are working on network-related

studies.(2) Hands-on, step-by-step guidelines on how to use PSPAR program to do  $p^*$  modeling.Cons:(1) The Table of Contents should be a lot more detailed. At least include the subsections. Every time I tried to find something that I read earlier, it takes a long time.(2) Need more subsections within the chapters.(3) Applying the ERGM model - I hope the authors have plans to update the book using more state-of-the-art programs like Statnet. PSPAR might be good but hasn't been updated for a long time.Overall, I think it's good to keep as a reference. The MTML (Multi-theoretical, multi-level) approach that they propose makes sense, but it just leaves you a feeling that they are trying to say a lot of things but didn't quite accomplish that. If they are stronger on the application part (i.e. how to actually model your data) with good software, it would have been much more helpful.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. For a graduate student just starting into SNA research, ...By 2dayShipping:)For a graduate student just starting into SNA research, this book has been extremely helpful as an overview and introduction.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Difficult Read But ...By Dr Graham A Durant-Law CSCI bought this book on the recommendation of a colleague. Unusually for me it has taken many months to read, and I have found it a hard slog - I simply could not maintain my interest. The content is dense and at times challenging.The authors bring together several theories to come up with an integrative framework to research communication networks. By combining several approaches they seek to move from descriptive and exploratory techniques to inferential and confirmatory models - this was the attraction of the book for me; unfortunately in the end I wasn't completely convinced. That said I do agree that networks should be examined on multiple levels and that a multi-theoretical approach has considerable merit.Given networks lend themselves to visual analysis I was disappointed with the lack of explanatory diagrams in the book - in my view this is a major weakness that could easily be rectified in future editions. Complete beginners may find some of the inferential statistics daunting, but I think they are essential to the argument. I'm not a mathematician so at times I found myself reading the book in parallel with a mathematics text.So all in all I would give the book a four-star rating - three stars for readability and five stars for a novel approach to network research. It has a place on the bookshelf of every serious student of network analysis.Regards, Graham

To date, most network research contains one or more of five major problems. First, it tends to be atheoretical, ignoring the various social theories that contain network implications. Second, it explores single levels of analysis rather than the multiple levels out of which most networks are comprised. Third, network analysis has employed very little the insights from contemporary complex systems analysis and computer simulations. Fourth, it typically uses descriptive rather than inferential statistics, thus robbing it of the ability to make claims about the larger universe of networks. Finally, almost all the research is static and cross-sectional rather than dynamic. Theories of Communication Networks presents solutions to all five problems. The authors develop a multitheoretical model that relates different social science theories with different network properties. This model is multilevel, providing a network decomposition that applies the various social theories to all network levels: individuals, dyads, triples, groups, and the entire network. The book then establishes a model from the perspective of complex adaptive systems and demonstrates how to use Blanche, an agent-based network computer simulation environment, to generate and test network theories and hypotheses. It presents recent developments in network statistical analysis, the  $p^*$  family, which provides a basis for valid multilevel statistical inferences regarding networks. Finally, it shows how to relate communication networks to other networks, thus providing the basis in conjunction with computer simulations to study the emergence of dynamic organizational networks.

About the AuthorPeter R. Monge is at University of Southern California. Noshir Contractor is at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.