Communication networks stem from the study of social networks, which is a branch of systems sciences and complex systems. Communication networks can be defined as the patterns of contact that are created by the flow of messages among entities through time and space. Communication network analysis identifies the communication structure shaped by the flows of information or other material/nonmaterial resources. Such flows are being increasingly mediated by information technology, and one of the outcomes of mediated communication networks is social networking, which represents a parallel but unique area of research focusing on the utilization of communication network. As such, the current minitrack focuses on the structures and patterns of association that emerges from the flow of information, as well as ways that people utilize their communication networks for resources. Units of analysis and form of flow range across disciplines, and this track represents a wide range of communication network conceptualizations.

The science of communication networks has progressed in parallel with the use of computer and information systems. Measuring information flows has been one of the main challenges of communication network analysis, and the development of information systems has provided social and communication network scientists with a precise representation of such flows and the ability to advance the state of the science. Additionally, the increased theoretical understanding and analytic representation of computer and information systems may provide developers with a greater sense of how people and social organizations utilize technology to manage the resources embedded in their social networks. Many of the papers in this minitrack represent theoretical and analytic developments in communication network research with a specific focus on new media and information technology.

In Do Me a Solid? Information Asymmetry, Liking, and Compliance Gaining Online, Nathan Claeas, Carolyn Hurley, and Michael Stefanone explore the relationship between the sharing of personal information in social media and the possible misuse of this information for compliance gaining. Findings show that participants who had access to personal information about their conversation partner in zero history dyads were more likely to gain their partner’s compliance, but were less liked.

In Structuring Organizational Communication: Employees’ Role and Network Position as Predictive of Institutional Talk About the Adoption of Technology, Corey Liberman and Marya Doerfel show that an organization’s existing structures and the network affiliation of members have an impact on an individual’s views of the assimilation processes of new technology.

In Communication Motives and Satisfaction in the Workplace: How Do Supervisors’ Social Support Skills Help?, Moyi Jia and Miri Shoham support the perspective that social actors are embedded in a web of relations that define that actor’s situation in a social structure by examining the relationship among supervisors’ social support skills, employees’ communication motives, and supervisor-subordinate relationship satisfaction.

In Multi-modal Multi-granular Analysis: Exploring Communication Networks Under Varying Lenses, Kar-Hai Chu, Daniel Suthers, and Devan Rosen present a method of analyzing network and interaction data, and how different levels of granularity reveal unique properties of the network. Various techniques and visualization tools are used to bridge between levels of analysis and study multiple digital media in an online community.

In Recent Developments in the Global Telecommunication Network, George A. Barnett presents current knowledge about the structure of the international telecommunications network and how it has changed over time as a result of historical events and changes in telecommunications technology. The papers presented in this minitrack span across disciplines and levels of analysis, and both quantitative and qualitative network data formats are represented in this minitrack to highlight the many ways that networks can be studied.