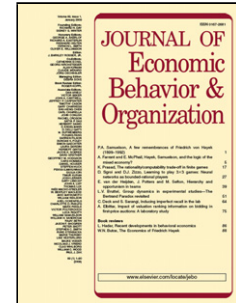


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# How individual characteristics shape the structure of social networks

## Research highlights

- We study how individual characteristics influence social network formation among students.
- In addition to socioeconomic characteristics and personality factors we also consider incentivized behavioral measures.
- We extend existing knowledge on homophily in two dimensions: (i) We document that homophily not only refers to characteristics like nationality and gender but also to variables so far not present in social network data sets, namely behavioral measures like cooperativeness and time preferences. (ii) We show that homophily matters not only for link *formation* (extensive margin) but also for link *intensity* (intensive margin).
- We show that social network structures can be exogenously manipulated.
- We find a complex relationship between individual cooperativeness and link formation among students.

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