

## Preface

This book has been evolving since I took my first class with Linton C. Freeman at the University of Hawaii in 1972. In Professor Freeman's course on Mathematical Models in Sociology, I wrote a paper using relations rather than persons in a study of marriage, divorce, and remarriage. In December of 1974, at the University of Hawaii, Forest Pitts, professor of geography and Linton Freeman, professor of sociology, organized a Social Networks Colloquium. At that same colloquium in 1975, I presented a paper entitled "Serial Marriage Networks: A Study of Change in the American Family" (Jedlicka 1975b).

Two years later, I was honored with an invitation by Dr. Freeman to be one of forty social scientists in his study sponsored by the National Science Foundation "to test the effectiveness of a new computer-based communications system" (Freeman 2004, p. 151). The project began with an in-person meeting in January of 1978. Alvin Wolfe, professor of anthropology at the University of South Florida, attended the meeting. Dr. Wolfe's enthusiasm for *network thinking* encouraged me to pursue the network notions in the study of family relations.

Most research on family networks in anthropology and sociology has never crossed into counseling, family therapy, and social work. To gain a perspective of the applied behavioral and social sciences, I went back to school to study family therapy. In 1999, I received a doctorate in that field from the Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas.

During the annual meeting of the International Network for Social Network Analysis held in Vancouver, Canada in the year 2000, I presented a paper entitled "The Use of Genographs in Family Assessment of Serial Monogamy" (Jedlicka 2000). At that conference, Alvin Wolfe gave some useful feedback regarding genograph representations of children. For five years after that conference, I experimented with methods for representing children in reference to their custodial and birth parents. The difficulty was with accounting for children whose parents moved from household to household with a different partner. After many trials, I settled on a straightforward system for tracking children from birth through the most recent residence.

Once I could graphically track children over time, I realized that the word *genograph* closely resembled the well-established, static technique called *genogram*.

From the title of Lewis Henry Morgan's book *Systems of Consanguinity and Affinity of the Human Family*, I used the word *affinity* to coin the word *affinograph*. The new word departs from the *geno* stem of the genogram and identifies the *graph* as a mathematical basis for the model.

Affinographs were developed through my marriage and the family classes, and through my observations as an intern in various mental health clinics. Over the years, I have followed the strictest ethical standards while testing affinographs. Students in my classes have never been coerced by grade or extra credit or any other means of coercion to use an affinograph on their own families. Students always had an option of using examples of family narratives I provided if they did not wish to use their own families as examples.

Some case studies used in this book are based on my clinical experience as a supervised intern. Over seven years, I worked under supervision in a psychiatric clinic, two family counseling clinics, home counseling program, brain injury clinic, and a shelter for abandoned children. All clients observed in this study had signed informed consents with the understanding that their case will be used confidentially for education and research. I changed names, places, and sometimes family constellations to assure that no one could be identified.

In addition to Linton C. Freeman and Alvin W. Wolfe, my gratitude also goes to Glen Jennings, professor of family sciences at Texas Woman's University. For eight years, Dr. Jennings helped me gain the clinical experience necessary to write *Affinographs*. I am grateful to my wife Barbara who helped me develop a general definition of the family. I am also grateful to Maggie Haas for preparing most of the figures in this book, to my colleague Dr. Dana Adams for his editing of the manuscript, and to Kenisha Schuster for editing the cited references. Furthermore, many thanks to Charlotte Chambers of the Department of Social Sciences at the University of Texas at Tyler for many years of providing competent and dependable technical and administrative support.

Professor of Sociology at the University of Texas at Tyler

Davor Jedlicka  
Ph.D., LMFT

Affinographs

A Dynamic Method for Assessment of Individuals,  
Couples, Families, and Households

Jedlicka, D.

2011, XIV, 112 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-1-4419-9394-6