

Seminar series



Thomas W. Valente, Ph.D.

Professor and Director of the Master of Public Health Program in the Department of Preventive Medicine, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California

Using Social Network Analysis to Understand and Change Health Behavior

Thursday, October 23, 2008 ☞☞ 1:30 – 3:00 pm
1-451 Moos Tower

Abstract

Prof. Valente will describe the field of social network analysis and present data from individual and community level studies that describe how network factors influence behavior. He will also present data on the effectiveness of network-based interventions and explore the utility of social network data for accelerating diffusion of innovations. Data and evaluation derived from studies of tobacco use, substance use, children's health insurance coalitions, and many other settings.

Thomas W. Valente is a Professor and Director of the Master of Public Health Program in the Department of Preventive Medicine, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California. He is author of Evaluating Health Promotion Programs (2002, Oxford University Press); Network Models of the Diffusion of Innovations (1995, Hampton Press); and over 85 articles and chapters on social networks, behavior change, and program evaluation. Valente uses network analysis, health communication, and mathematical models to implement and evaluate health promotion programs designed to prevent tobacco and substance abuse, unintended fertility, and STD/HIV infections. He is also engaged in mapping community coalitions and collaborations to improve health care delivery and reduce healthcare disparities. Valente received his BS in Mathematics from Mary Washington College, his MS in Mass Communication from San Diego State University, and his PhD from the Annenberg School for Communication at USC. He was recently a visiting scientist at NIH for 6 months.

This seminar is free and open to the public. For more information, call 612-624-6151.