The Data
1837 case files of political crimes evaluated at the provincial courts of Vienna in 1935.

Taking a Look inside the Data
In (anonymized) case no. 173, a 20 years old unmarried metal worker organized in the Socialist Youth was charged alongside other members with incitement against the government (§300), hostility against common values, property, and oral justification of such acts (§305), spreading rumors (§308) and gathering illegally (§310). He was found guilty of §300 and §305 in June 1935, and detained for two months in auxiliary imprisonment, followed by a ten month incarceration at BG Margereten until June 1936.

Sample Network: Cooperation Structures in Convictions

Political Judiciary in the Corporate State
Following a „coup d’état“ in March 1933, Chancellor Engelbert Dollfuß (1933-34) and his successor, former minister of justice, Kurt Schuschnigg (1934-38) re-modeled the Austrian republic to an autocratic “austrofascist” so-called corporate state using emergency decrees.
One of the first actions of this new regime was to criminalize any oppositional political engagement, to ban other political parties, and to strengthen the vigor of the police in the fight on the streets and civil unrests that characterized the early years of the regime.
Consequently, the criminal law was aggravated. A police judiciary, and previously unconstitutional legal practices were introduced, such as double judiciary, and previously unconstitutional police judiciary, and previously unconstitutional criminal law was aggravated.

The Methodology &
We examine network relations of specializations and cooperations of judges and prosecutors, and their patterns of political prosecution applying network analysis to a historical data set.
A Mixed methods approach, combining
• historical network research,
• quantitative analysis, and
• qualitative evaluation.

⇒ Which structures of political judiciary were evident in both provincial courts of Vienna in 1935?
⇒ Is there evidence for cooperation of judges and prosecutors influencing the trial’s outcome?
⇒ Was there a bias evident against a particular political group?

Next Steps
⇒ Which configurations are significant as to whether certain charges are cooccurring? Can we explain tie formation behavior using ERGM?

Networks of Political Judiciary in the Corporate State: The provincial courts of Vienna in 1935
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