

# Network Photo Project

Honors 120: Living in a Networked World  
University of North Carolina Wilmington

## Introduction

As Manuel Lima exclaims, “Networks are Everywhere”. Some are physical while some are more abstract – our challenge is to learn to recognize the networks around us. Learning to look thoughtfully and carefully is one of the things that art and science have in common. The overarching goals of this class project is for us to practice seeing the networks around us and understand their power.

Specifically, the primary **learning objectives** of this activity are:

- Practice observing relationships that are or can be networks;
- Apply network science concepts;
- Have fun with networks; and
- Practice effectively using social networks.

## Project Description

### Images

Your assignment is to take photos (or short videos) of the networks you see in your environment during the semester. You will then select at least four to share with the class (and global community) through a class related group on the social media site **Flickr**. The group address for this class is [https://www.flickr.com/groups/uncw\\_networks\\_f15/](https://www.flickr.com/groups/uncw_networks_f15/).

For each photograph, you will need to:

1. Upload your photograph to your own personal Flickr account, and then submit it to the class group (“UNCW Networks Fall 2015”).
2. Write a description of the photo that accurately identifies a network concept or principle that you recognize as visible or involved in the image. What is the network? The description should also generally identify where and when the photograph was taken.
3. Provide useful tags for the images to help people find the content online. At a minimum, each photo should contain the following tags: UNCW, network, hon120, and #uncweteal.

As the point of this assignment is to get you looking for networks, I am generally leaving the specific subject matter of the photographs up to you. However, you must be able to clearly identify the network or network concepts or principles at work in the image (or behind the scenes).

I must apply a few restrictions. First, your photos (videos) and behavior on the site must meet the Flickr [Community Guidelines](#). This includes meeting the criteria for “Safe” images, as our group is designated safe. Second, your conduct must meet the [UNCW Academic Honor Code](#). Third, cyberbullying of any kind will not be tolerated. Any student found violating these requirements will earn a zero on this assignment. In addition, I expect you to be good public ambassadors for networks, the region, and UNCW. Further, please do not submit photographs of pets for this assignment, and no more than one photograph can be a selfie. Given these restrictions, I am looking forward to seeing the networks you find.

## Critical Reflection

At the end of the project, you will write a short reflection essay on the project (about a page). In your reflection, please address the following: What did you learn about networks and living in a networked world through this project? What made the project informative? Fun? Please save your essay as a PDF, name the file “YourLastName\_NetPhoto.pdf”, and email it to me by the due date. Please include “hon120 : NetPhoto Reflection” in the subject line.

## Getting Started with Flickr

Flickr is a social media site for sharing photographs and short videos. It is a convenient way for us – and the global community – to see our photos and document the networks around us. Its also a way to investigate the power of online social networking.

Flickr accounts are free, but you will need to register for the account using a Yahoo email address. If you don’t have a Yahoo email address, you can create one for free. The websites should guide you through this processes with ease, but let me know if you have any trouble. I only use my Yahoo email address for my Flickr account. Once you have created your Flickr account, please email me your Flickr ID so that I can invite associate your account with your classwork.

There are several ways to upload photos to Flickr. First, you can upload digital images to Flickr from a computer using a web browser (click on the *Upload* button near the top of your Flickr page). This works well once you have digital images on a computer. Second, if you have a smart phone, you can use the Flickr app to upload photos directly from your phone. You can add the required description and tags to the photo and submit it to the group from within the app. I believe you can also pass photos to Flickr from an Instagram account, if you are an Instagram User.

Photographs and videos posted on the web are a form of intellectual property. When you submit a photo to Flickr, you can select the level of copyrights that you want to retain – including All Rights Reserved. This would legally mean that although others can view your photos, they could not use the image for any purposes without your express permission. Alternatively, there are a variety of Creative Commons licensing options that you

might also select. For example, you might select the Attribution-NonCommercial Creative Commons license for your photographs. This would let someone legally use the photo for non-commercial purposes as long as they give clear attribution to you the creator. This kind of license would legally let a college professor use your photos in lecture materials without having to directly contact you for express permission, but would expressly prohibit a commercial photo clearing house from selling your work. You can learn more about Creative Commons licensing at <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/>.

## Due Dates

Project Components	Due Date
Register Account	August 31
Image 1	Sept. 14
Image 2	Oct. 5
Image 3	Oct. 26
Image 4	Nov. 16
All comments and reflection essay	Nov. 30

## Camera Access

Completion of this assignment clearly requires access to a camera of some type and the means to generate a digital photograph (video) to upload to Flickr. If you do not have or have access to a digital camera to use for this assignment, please let your instructor know as soon as possible so that we can find a solution. The cameras on most smart-phones are more than adequate for this assignment.

## Assessment

This is an Network assignment, not a photography class assignment. As such, your photographs (including the required description) will be judged primarily based on their completion and accurate description of the network and/or network science observed. Here are guidelines for successful completion of this assignment.

### Minimum criteria to earn a C (Satisfactory)

1. All photographs (videos) are submitted with clear network science content that is accurately identified in the description. It is your responsibility to explain why or how the network concept or principle is at work in the image. I encourage you to do a bit of research about the topic if necessary.
2. The photographs are submitted by the due date and contain the required tags.
3. Photographs are taken during the course of the semester enrolled in hon120.
4. Pets are not photographed as subject matter.

5. No more than one submitted photograph is a selfie.
6. Thoughtful reflection essay turned in on time.

Failure to meet the above criteria will detract from your grade on this assignment.

**Criteria to earn a B** In addition to the minimum criteria to earn a C, B level work must include a combination of the following:

1. The descriptions of the network phenomenon are clear, rich with detail (i.e., applying network concepts), and well written.
2. The photos exhibit a diversity of network phenomenon or subject matter.
3. Student accurately identifies an additional network or network concept or principle in a Flickr comment on an image submitted by another student in the class. This must be a concept or principle not already identified for the photograph by the original student or subsequent comments.
4. Student submits each of their project photos to the UNC Wilmington Flickr group (<https://www.flickr.com/groups/uncw/>).
5. Student submits at least one of their class photos to an additional Flickr group of their choice.

**Criteria to earn an A (Exemplary)** In addition to the criteria to earn a B, exemplary work may include the following:

1. Student accurately identifies an additional network or network concept or principle in a comment on another student's photo/video that the original student and previous commentators did not identify. Two more than required for a B will help elevate a student's overall assessment from a B to an A.
2. Student submits at least one of their class photos to an additional Flickr group of their choice. Two more than required for a B will help elevate a student's overall assessment from a B to an A.
3. If any of a student's photograph(s) receive more "favorites" (i.e., likes) than students enrolled in the course, and/or more than 400 views on Flickr. From my experience, these performance measures are difficult to achieve, especially if you are new to Flickr. Thus, they are not required to earn an A. However, if achieved they will quickly elevate the project grade. To accomplish this, you will need to apply what we learn about networks to enable and encourage people to view and favorite your images. For example, making your images visible to the Public (not Private), providing rich text descriptions and relevant tags, adding your photos to relevant Flickr groups, distributing your images via other social networking sites (Facebook, Twitter), etc.

Other positive comments on photos in the group will earn the student respect and warm fuzzies.

While your photographs will not be judged on their quality, interesting and beautiful photographs will be much appreciated. If you are a novice photographer, you might find these tips for better photos helpful (<http://www.betterphoto.com/exploring/tips.asp>). In addition, the Rule of Thirds is generally helpful (<http://www.betterphoto.com/exploring/tips/thirds.asp>).

## Examples

Figure 1 shows four example photos that could have been submitted for this assignment, and what follow would be good (if not exemplary) descriptions.

Fig. 1a highlights two bumblebees pollinating the flower of a prickly pear cactus in North-western New Mexico. Ecologists construct pollination networks to model the relationships among plants and the animal pollinators.

Fig. 1b shows the network of a spider web. This is a physical network in which the edges are the spider silk and the nodes are the silk intersections. Its purpose is to catch prey. The geometry of the network (spacing between threads) as well as placement in the environment is critical for its effectiveness.

Fig. 1c is an image of a pancake network drawn in my kitchen. The original network was composed of 7 nodes and 8 edges, and had two components. The bottom image shows the fragmented network that resulted from trying to flip the pancakes.

Fig. 1d shows a dialogue between two people via Facebook messenger. The two people do not know each other, but the person initiating the message realized that they had two very different friends in common. They identified and tried to fill what the sociologists call a structural hole in their social network.



