

Ditchley Foundation - Bridging Divides With Graph Networks

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Overview of the Data Fellowship

My Data Fellowship at Ditchley Foundation was divided into three key strands:

- **Network Analysis:** This task involved researching existing members of Ditchley's global network to understand their professional backgrounds and areas of expertise
- **Quantitative Data Analysis:** I learned to use Neo4j and Cypher query language to explore patterns and insights within Ditchley's extensive graph database
- **Open-Source Research:** I conducted targeted research to identify potential new members, focusing on key thematic areas

Together, these projects combined qualitative research, data analysis, and strategic thinking, allowing me to contribute to Ditchley's mission of strengthening dialogue and understanding on global issues.

Data Analysis

For the quantitative strand of my fellowship I decided to explore thematic structure and event alignment within Ditchley's network. Using Neo4j and Cypher query language, I analysed how participants and events were connected through shared themes.

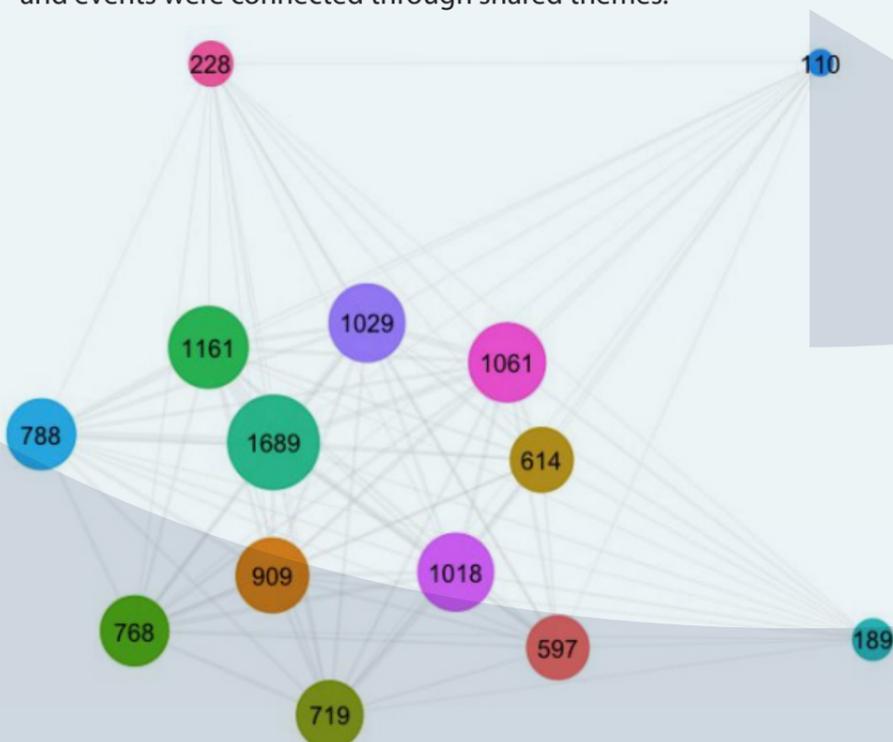


Fig 1. shows thematic co-occurrence across themes and contacts. Each node represents a theme and the lines demonstrate their connection.

My analysis was guided by three areas of enquiry: How can themes be assigned systematically to events? Are events mono-thematic or multi-thematic in nature? To what extent do themes co-occur across events?

These three areas of enquiry aimed to uncover Ditchley's thematic landscape and patterns of engagement.

Monothematic vs Polythematic

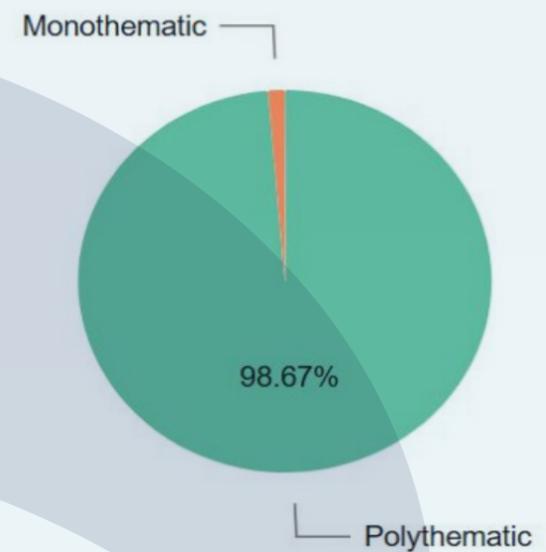


Fig 2. is an example of an outcome of the analysis I was able to do of event themes after I derived these from existing contact themes.

Findings

- Preliminary analysis revealed that Ditchley's events tend to span multiple, overlapping themes rather than fitting neatly within single categories, highlighting the interdisciplinary nature of the discussions.
- The analysis also showed that some themes were significantly more common than others, indicating a skew in the network's focus areas.
- Patterns of thematic co-occurrence demonstrated that participants often engage with topics that intersect across multiple domains, such as defence, technology, and governance.
- Overall, these findings provide insight into how Ditchley's network aligns with its mission of fostering dialogue on complex, interconnected global issues.

Key Skills Learnt

Research, Analysis and Technical Skills : I strengthened my ability to conduct both qualitative and quantitative research, synthesising open-source information on complex global issues and learning data skills.

Communication, Networking and Professional Engagement: Presenting weekly findings to colleagues and participating in discussions and remote networking opportunities enhanced my ability to communicate insights clearly and work effectively.

Confidence: Above all, the fellowship built my self-assurance — in my knowledge, research abilities, and capacity to contribute meaningfully in a professional and international context.