



Quantitative approaches to family relationships beyond household boundaries

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International Workshop The Everyday Life of Multi-Local Families

Concepts, Methods and the example of Post-Separation Families October 20th - 21st 2011
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Concepts

- **Person**
 - Single person
 - Person in social context
 - Multi-local person
- **Household**
 - Single household
 - Household in social context
- **Family**
 - Theoretical category
 - Household as family
 - Multi-household families



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Patchwork-Familie: Carl Mirwald, 36, und Petra Mirwald, 35, mit Kindern aus erster und zweiter Ehe und ihren Ex-Ehegatten

<http://www.geo.de/GEO/kultur/gesellschaft/3495.html?t=img&p=1>

Person

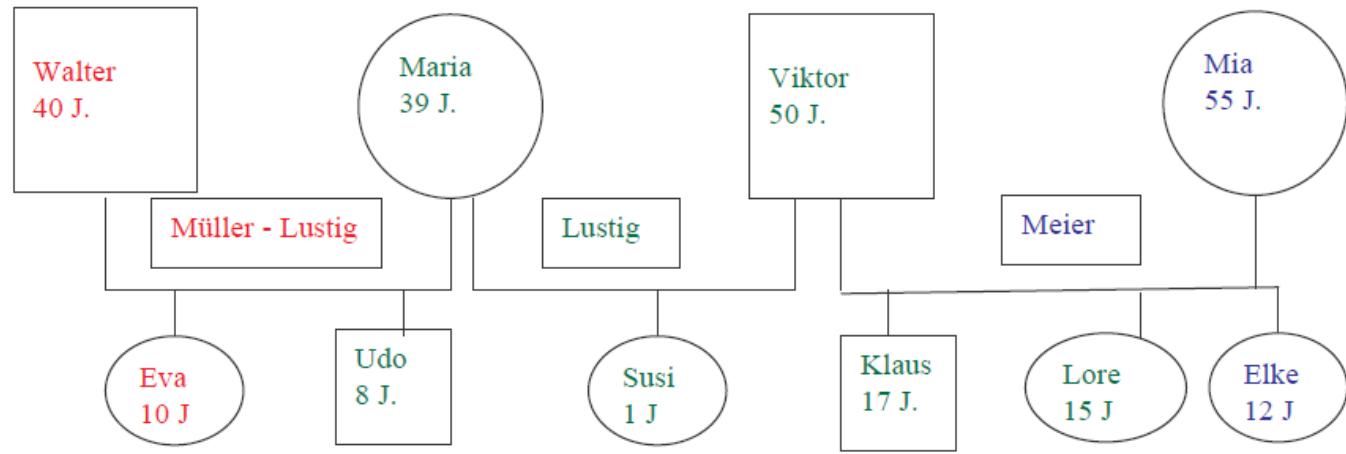
- **Person**
 - Single person
 - Man or woman
 - Person in social context
 - Family member
 - Worker
 - Friend
 - And so on
 - Multi-local person
 - Father in household 1
 - Son in household 2
 - Brother in household 3
 - And so on

Complex Family Context

- 10 individuals
- family members
- different roles

PWF-Mutter v. Elke
PWF-Mutter v. Lore
PWF-Mutter v. Klaus
Leibl. Mutter v. Susi
Leibl. Mutter v. Udo
Leibl. Mutter v. Eva
Ehefrau v. Viktor
Ex-Frau v. Walter

PWF-Vater v. Udo
PWF-Vater v. Eva
Leibl. Vater v. Susi
Leibl. Vater v. Elke
Leibl. Vater v. Lore
Leibl. Vater v. Klaus
Ehemann v. Maria
Ex-Mann v. Mia



Toch.v.Walter
Toch.v. Maria
l. Sw. v. Udo
½ Sw. v. Susi

l. Sohn v. Walter
l. Sohn v. Maria
PWF So v. Viktor
l. Br. v. Eva
½ Br. v. Susi
PWF-Br. v Klaus
PWF-Br v Lore

Tochter v. Maria
Tochter v. Viktor
½ Sr. v. Eva
½ Sr. v. Udo
½ Sr. v. Klaus
½ Sr. v. Eva
½ Sr. v. Elke

l. Sohn v. Viktor
l. Sohn v. Mia
PWF So v Maria
l.Bruder v Lore
l.Bruder v. Elke
½ Bruder v. Susi
PWF-Br.v. Udo

Tochter v. Viktor
Tochter v. Mia
PWF To v Maria
l.Schw. v. Klaus
l.Schw. v. Elke
½ Schw. v. Susi
PWF-Sw.v Udo

Tochter v. Viktor
Tochter v. Mia
l. Schw. v Klaus
l. Schw. v. Lore
½ Schw. v. Susi

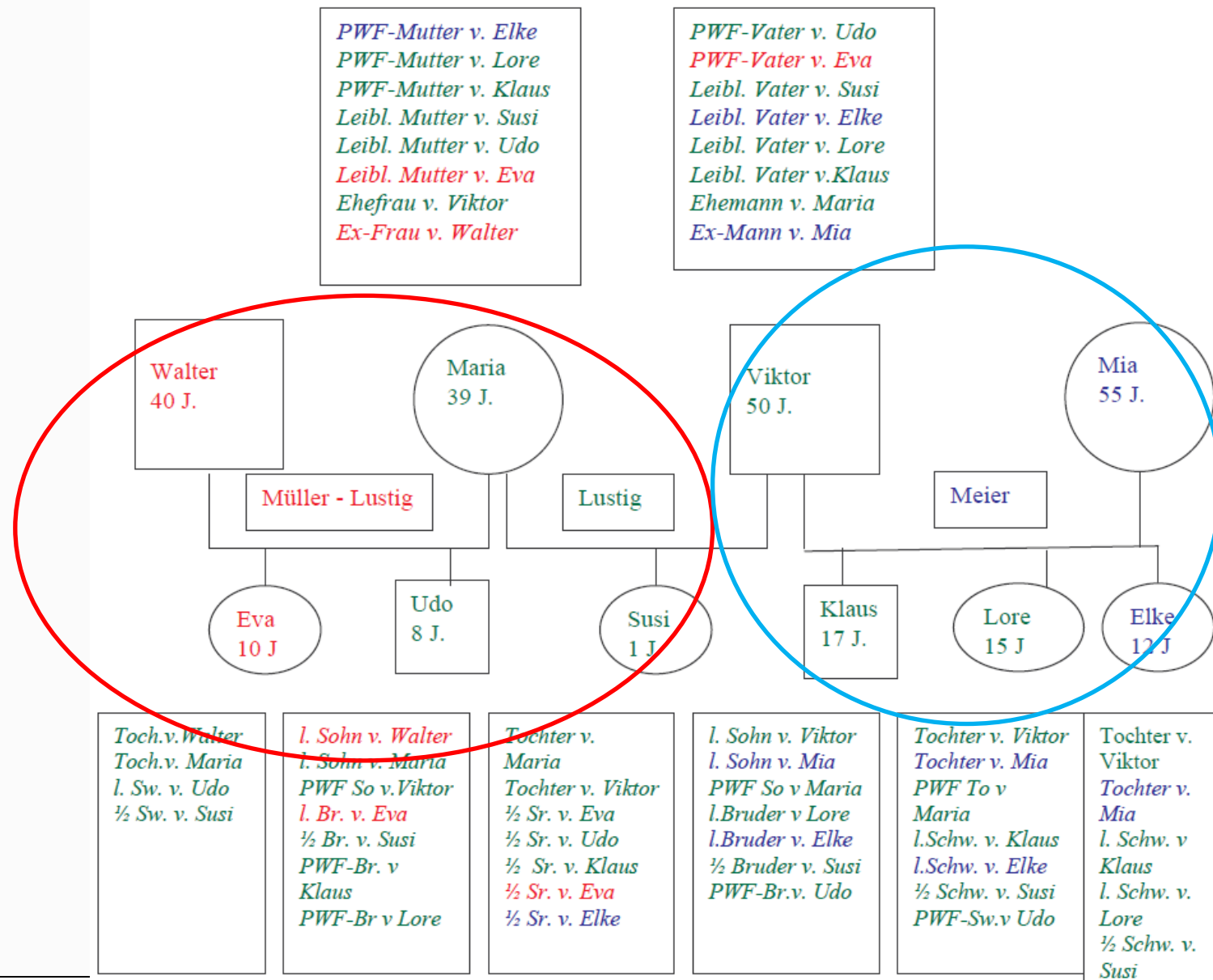
Concepts

■ Household

- Single household
 - Household definition
 - Differences in international comparative research
- Household in social context
 - Parent household - child household in one house
 - Neighborhood
 - Living apart together(LAT) two locations - one household?
 - Households of friends
 - Households of family members
 - Network of households

Complex Family Context

- Household 1
- Household 2



Concepts

■ Family

■ Theoretical category

- Something everyone speaks about, but nobody defines it precisely and therefore its easy to speak about and easy to quarrel about

■ Household as family

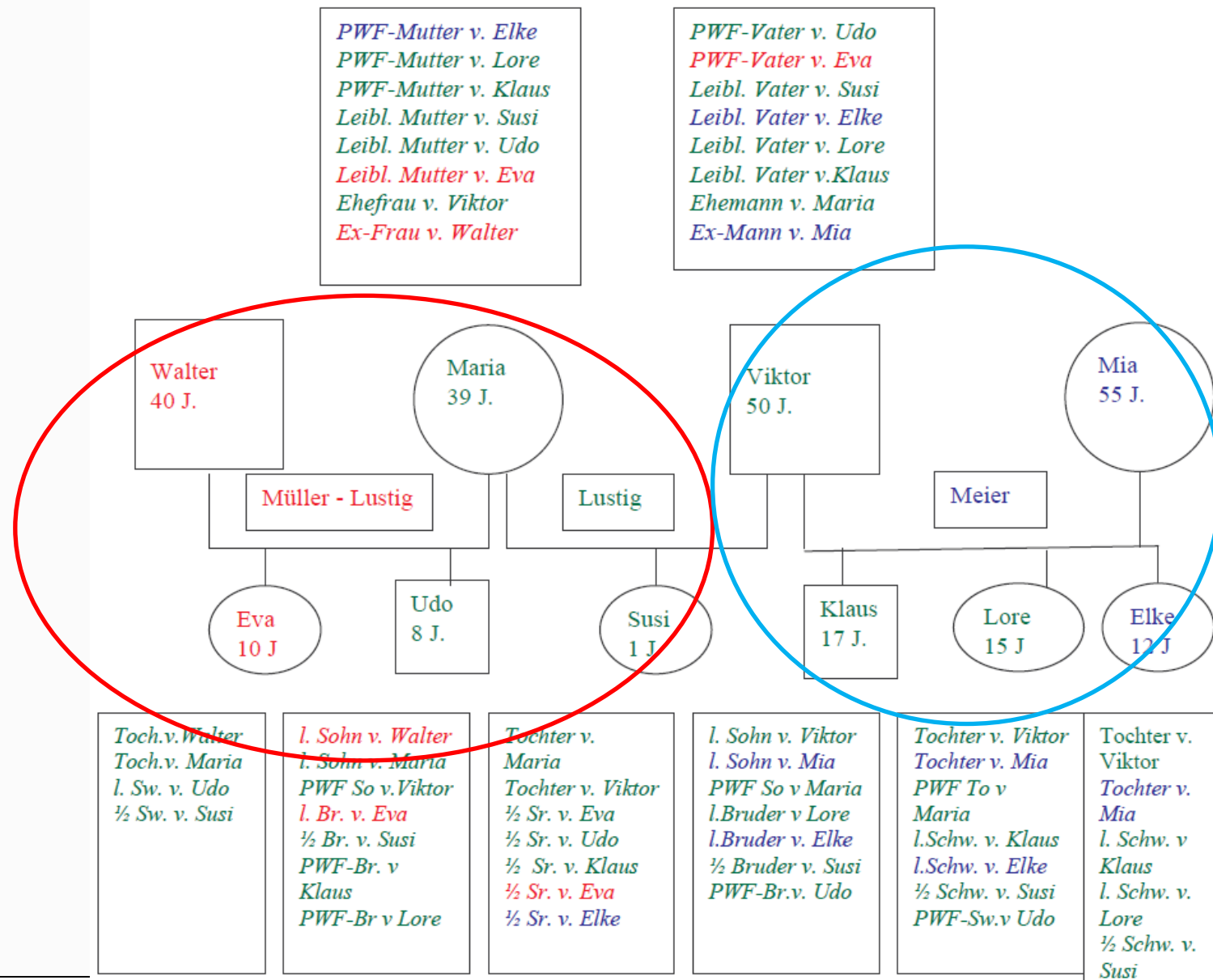
- Given a household definition, each member of the household, with some exceptions belongs to **the** family (defind by the household)

■ Multi-household families

- Living apart together
- Multigenerational families
- Post-separation family
- And so on

Complex Family Context

- Household 1
- Household 2



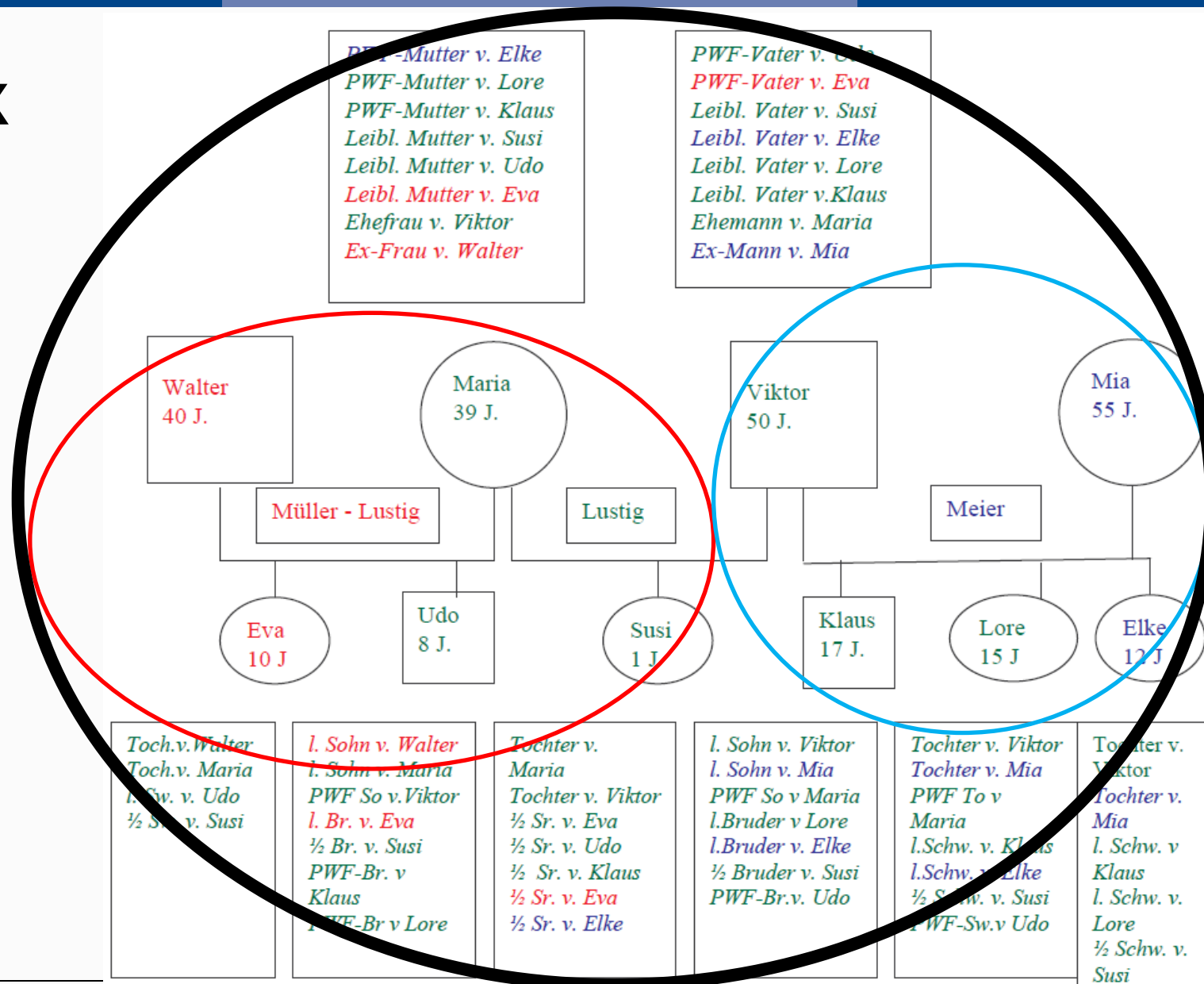
Concepts

■ Family

- Theoretical category
 - Defined by an outside person (researcher)
- Family definition 1
 - The family defined by all members as a homogenous construct - not possible
- Ego centered definition
 - Each member defines **his** own **family** - not possible
 - Each member defines his family related to a specific situation
- Family definition 2
 - Temporarily aggregation of ego centered definitions of relevant real family members
- Family definition 3
 - Temporarily aggregation of ego centered definitions of stereotype family members

Complex Family Context

- Household 1
- Household 2
- Family



Problems

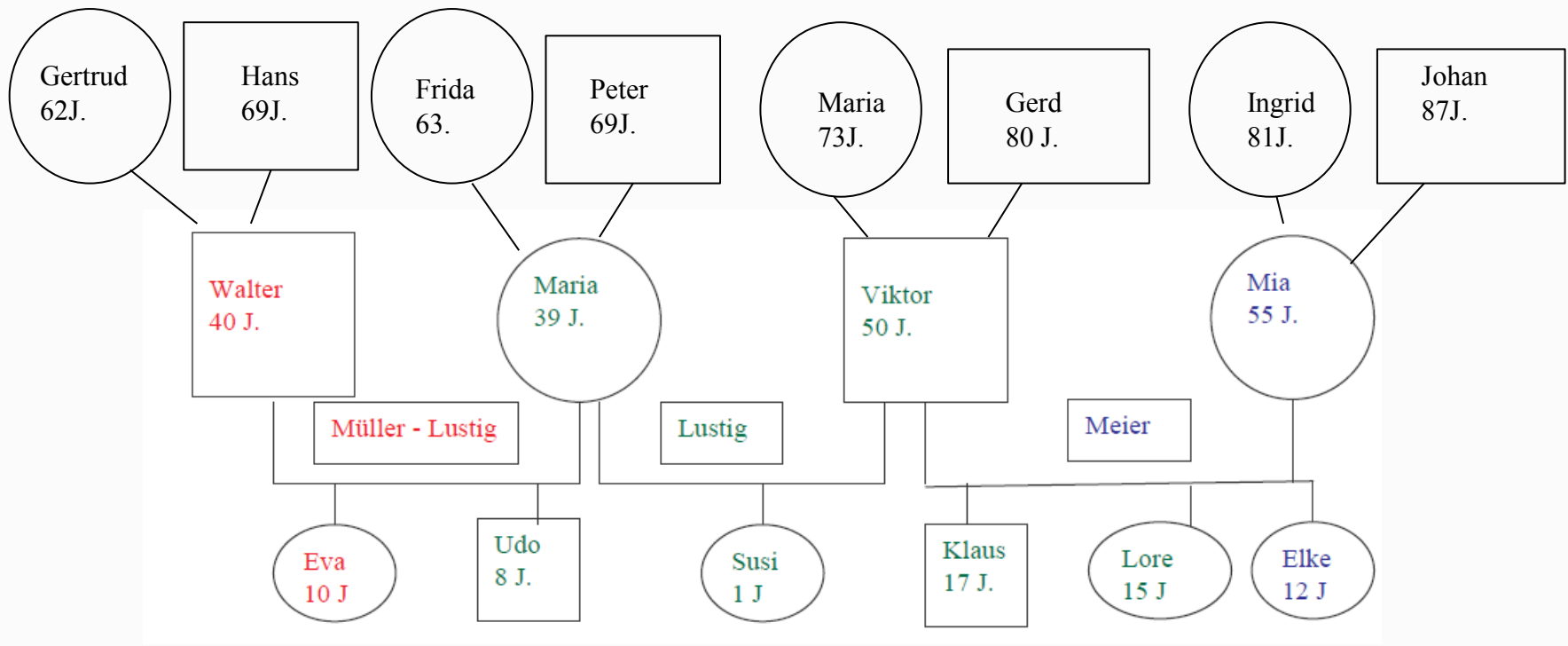
■ Family

- Each family member defines “family” in a different way, so its better to speak about - **my family**(and not our family)
 - Father’s family (his ex partners, grandparents, siblings, uncles, aunts, etc)
 - Mother’s family (her ex partners, parents, grandparents, siblings, uncles, aunts, etc)
 - Each children in a patchwork family
- Each person has a different status position for each other person
 - Father (son, son in law, brother, partner, grandfather, nephew, uncle and so on)
- Sometimes as time goes by and problems rise or vanish the definition of **my family** changes

Complex Family Context

The Grandparents of Elke differ from grandparents of Eva also Elke and Eva are a kind of stepsisters

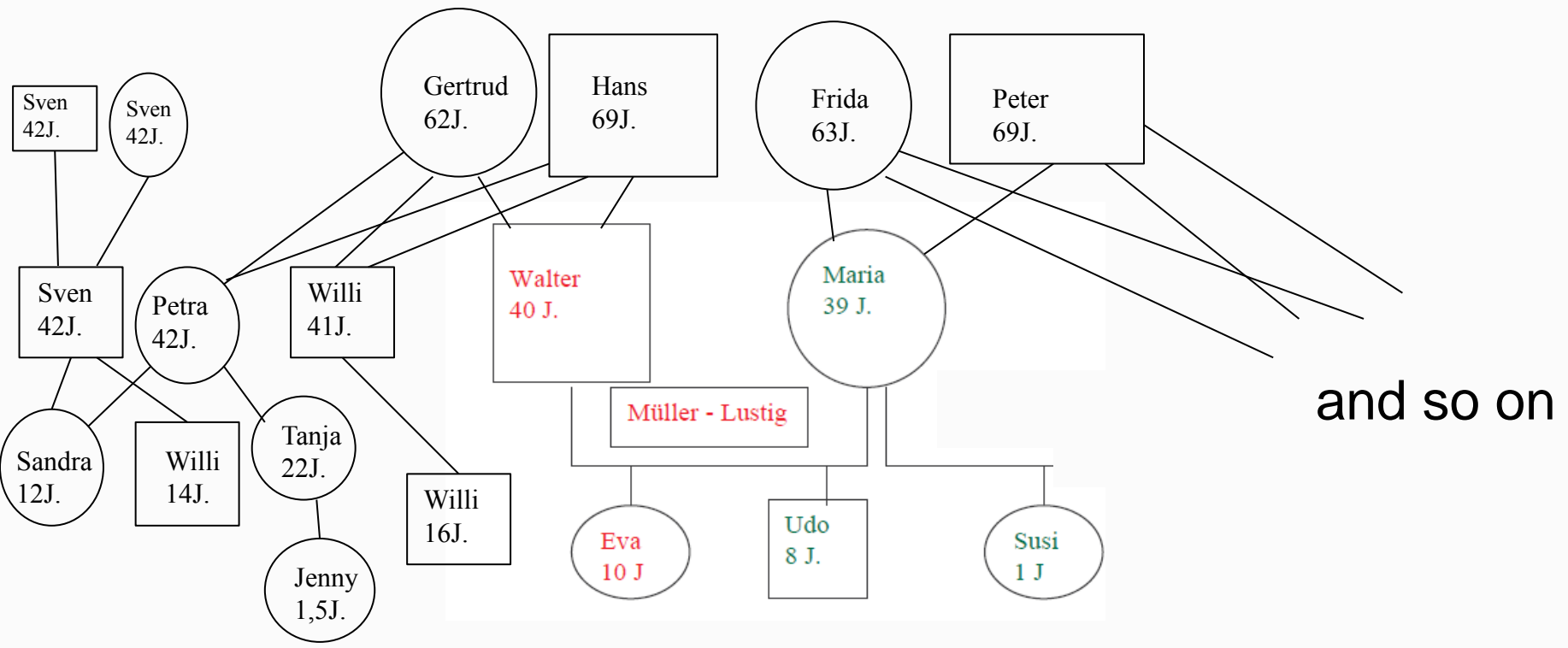
Grandparents or parents of parents



Complex Family Context

The grandpchildren of Gertrud and Hans differ from grandchildren of Frida and Peter also they are part of the family of Walter and Maria

Grandparents or parents of parents



Solution from Social network analysis

ego-centered networks

- network generator
- network interpretor

■ Family

- Different family definitions by each family member - **my family** (and not our family)
 - Use ego-centered network
- Each person has a different status for each other person
 - Define all persons by their relation to **one** common known starting person
- Sometimes as time goes by and problems rise or vanish the definition of **my family** change
 - Use different network generators

Solution from Social network analysis

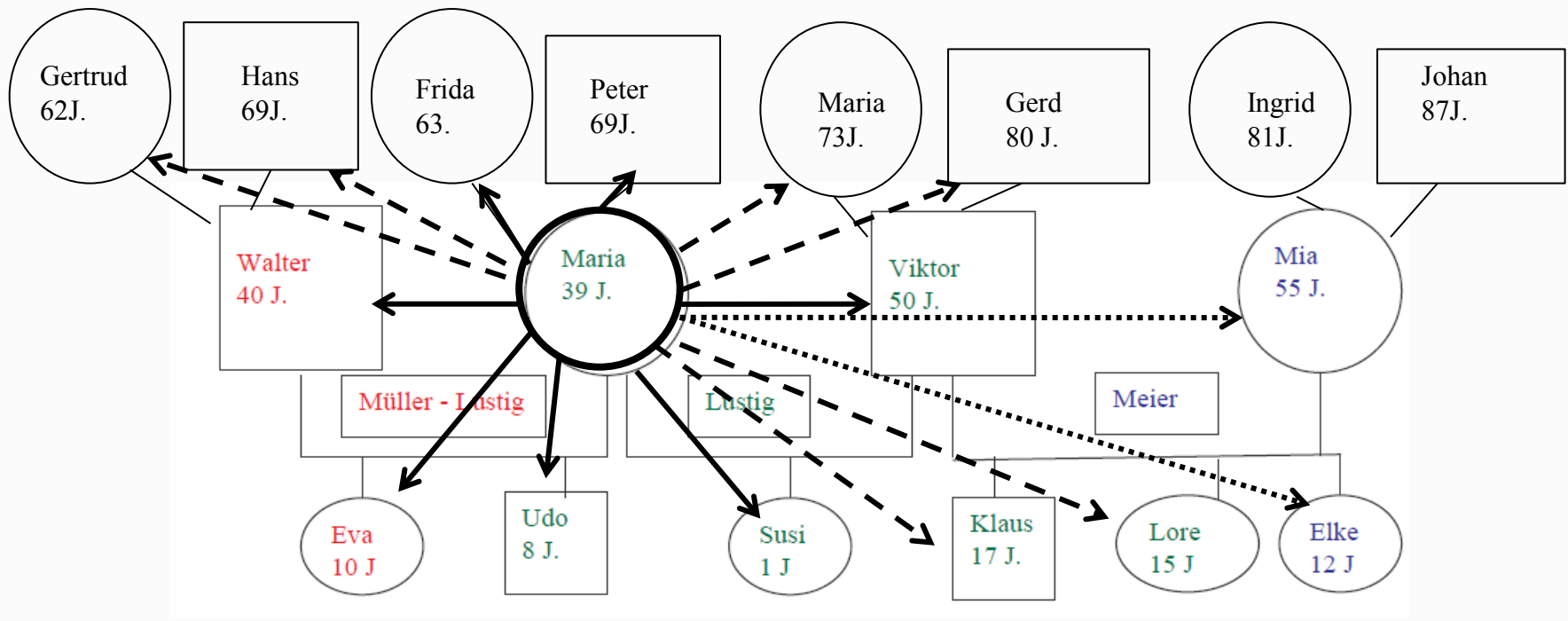
ego centered networks

- **Family**
 - Different family definitions by each family member - **my family** (and not our family)
- **Network generator**
 - Name all **your** family members
- **Network interpretor**
 - Kin relation
 - Age
 - Sex
 - Living distance
 - Communication density
 - Sympathy

Complex Family Context

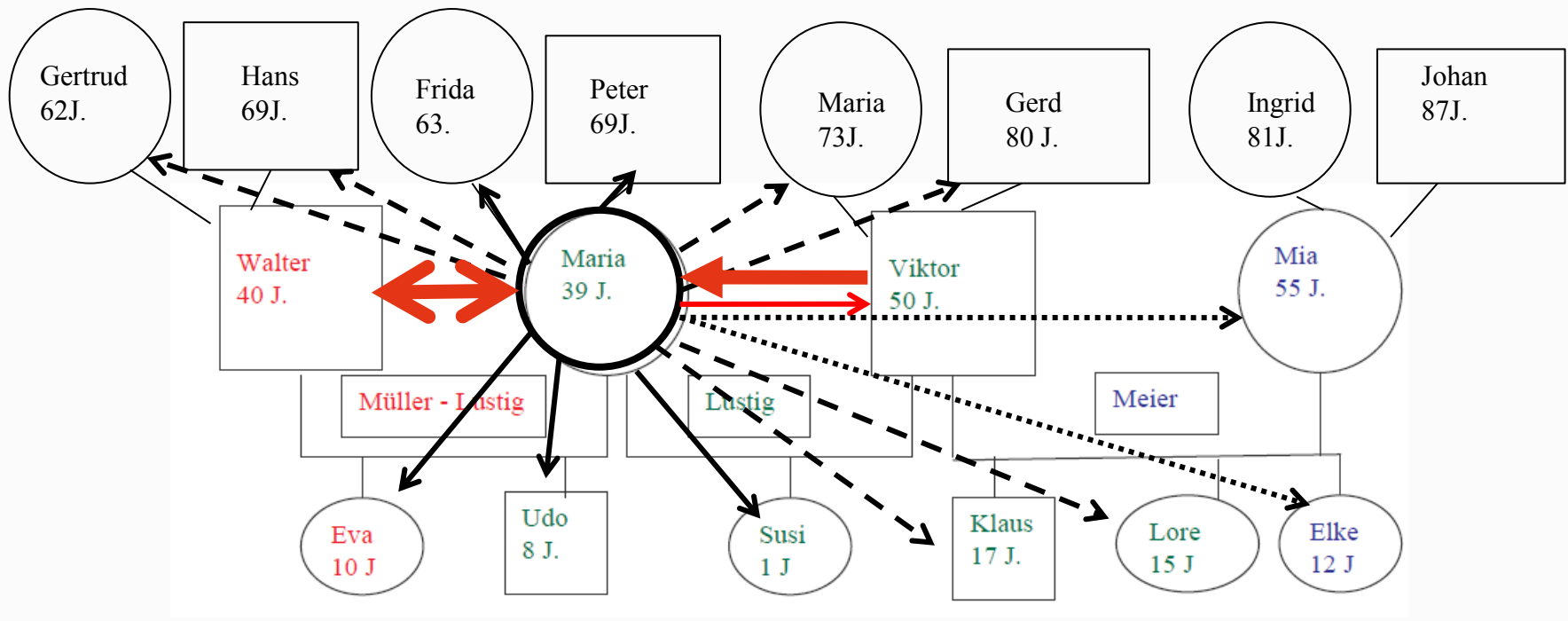
The ego-centered network of Maria describes the set of her relations, and so defines her picture of family

Grandparents or parents of parents



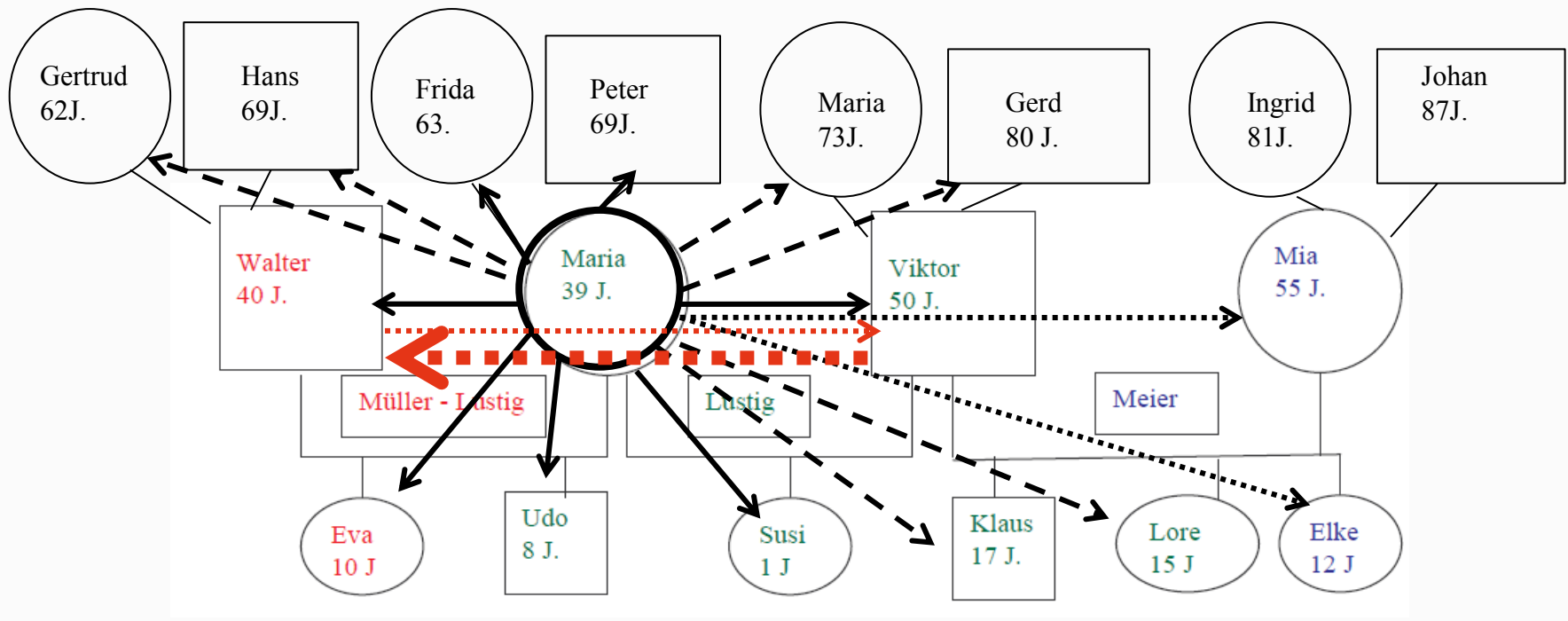
Complex Family Context

Ego-centered relations and attributed relations to spouse and ex spouse



Complex Family Context

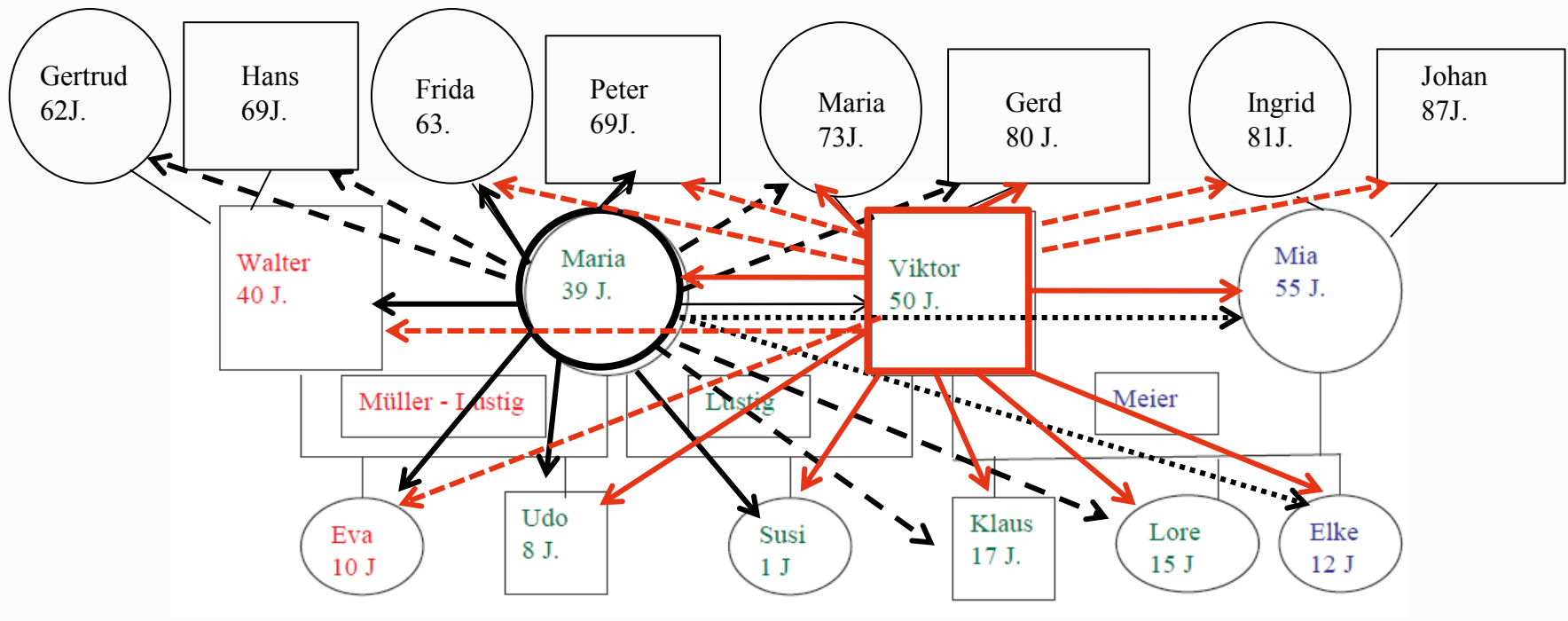
Ego-centered relations and attributed relations between spouse and ex spouse



Complex Family Context

Maria and her partner Viktor have different ego-centered networks and also the relation between them may be seen very differently from both.

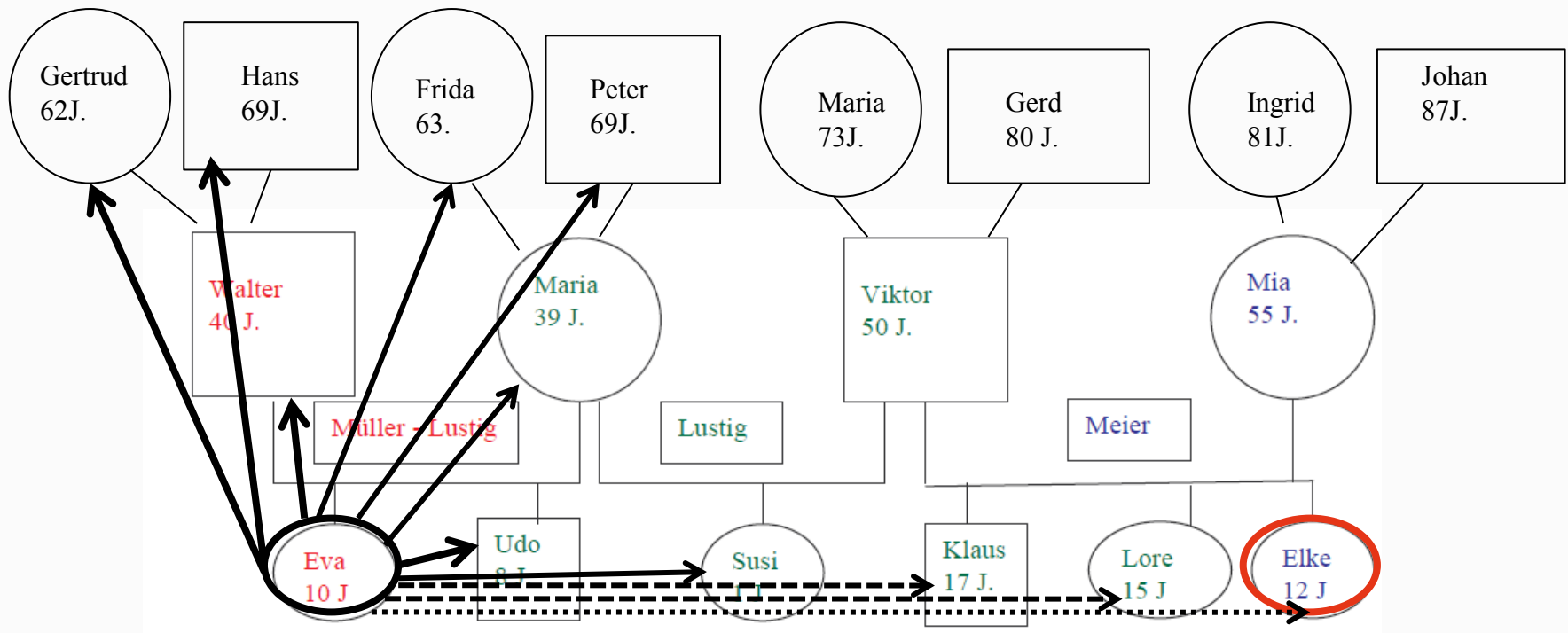
Grandparents or parents of parents



Complex Family Context

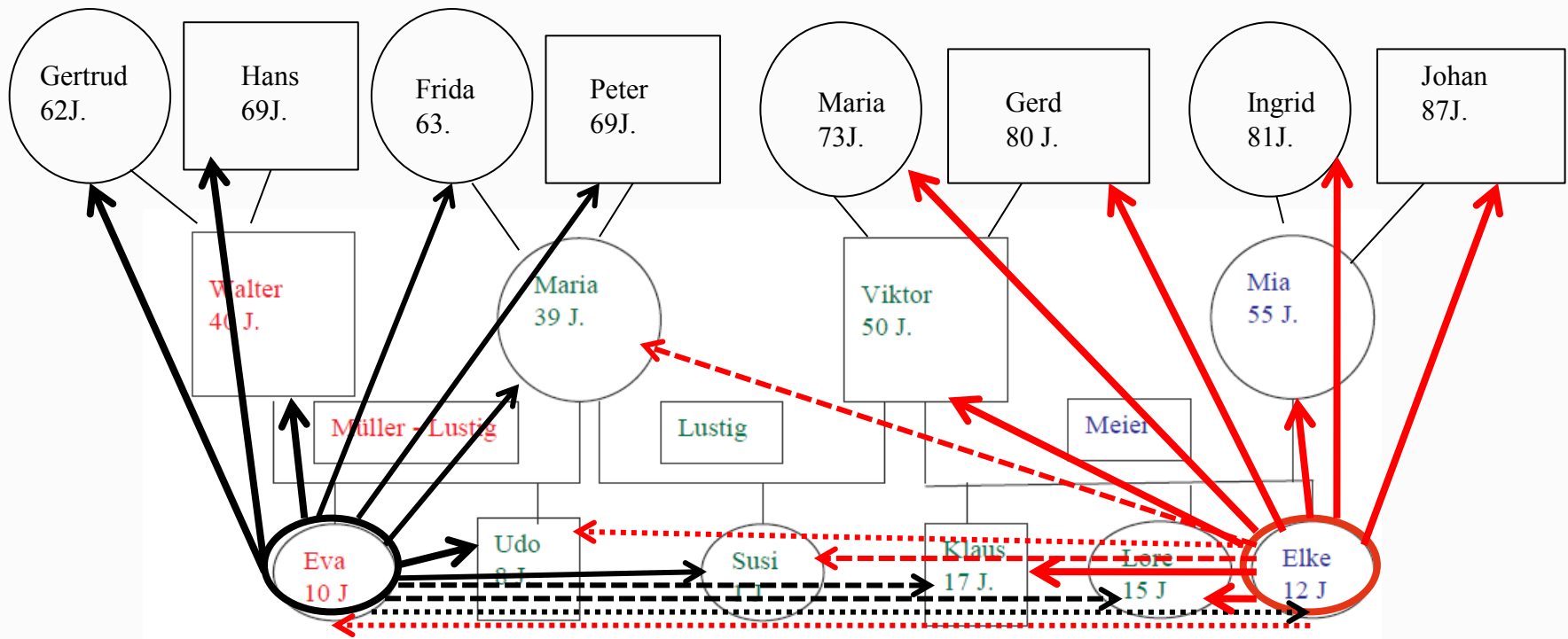
Grandparents of **Elke** are very different from grandparents of Eva also **Elke** and Eva are a kind of stepsisters

Grandparents or parents of parents



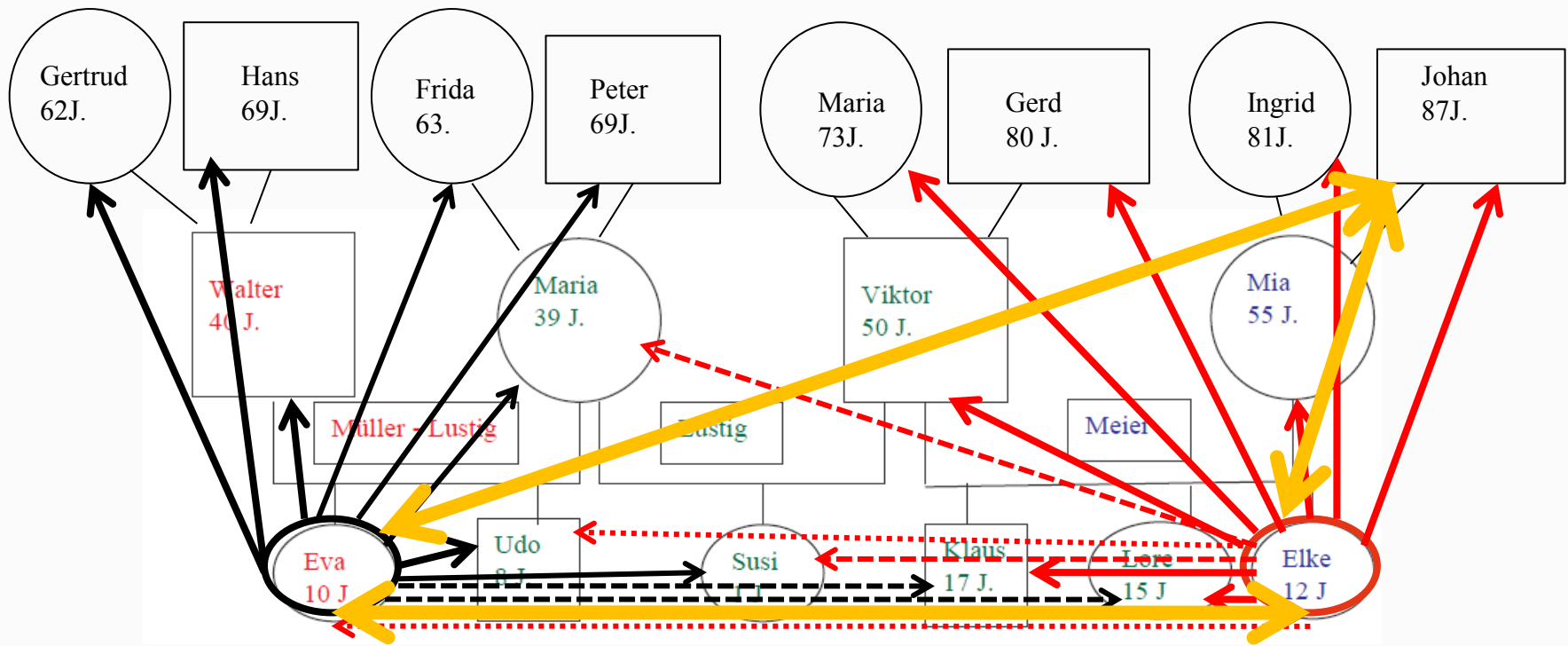
Complex Family Context

Grandparents of **Elke** are very different from grandparents of Eva also **Elke** and Eva are a kind of stepsisters and so the show very different ego-centered family networks



Complex Family Context

Grandparents of **Elke** are very different from grandparents of Eva also **Elke** and Eva are a kind of stepsisters but maybe they have within in this complex structures a very stable and symmetric view, because they like each other and (Step) Grandfather Johan



Solution from Social network analysis

ego centered networks

■ Family

- Each person has a different status for each other person
 - Defined by a common known starting person

■ Network generator

- You know Walter, he is son of Gertrud and Hans and lives in ...
 - Name his parents
 - Name his parents in law
 - Name his siblings
 - Name his siblings in law
 - Name his children
 - And so on

■ Network interpretor

- Same collection as before, maybe without kin relation
-

Solution from Social network analysis

ego centered networks

■ Family

- Sometimes as time goes by and problems rise or vanish the definition of **my family** change

■ Network generator

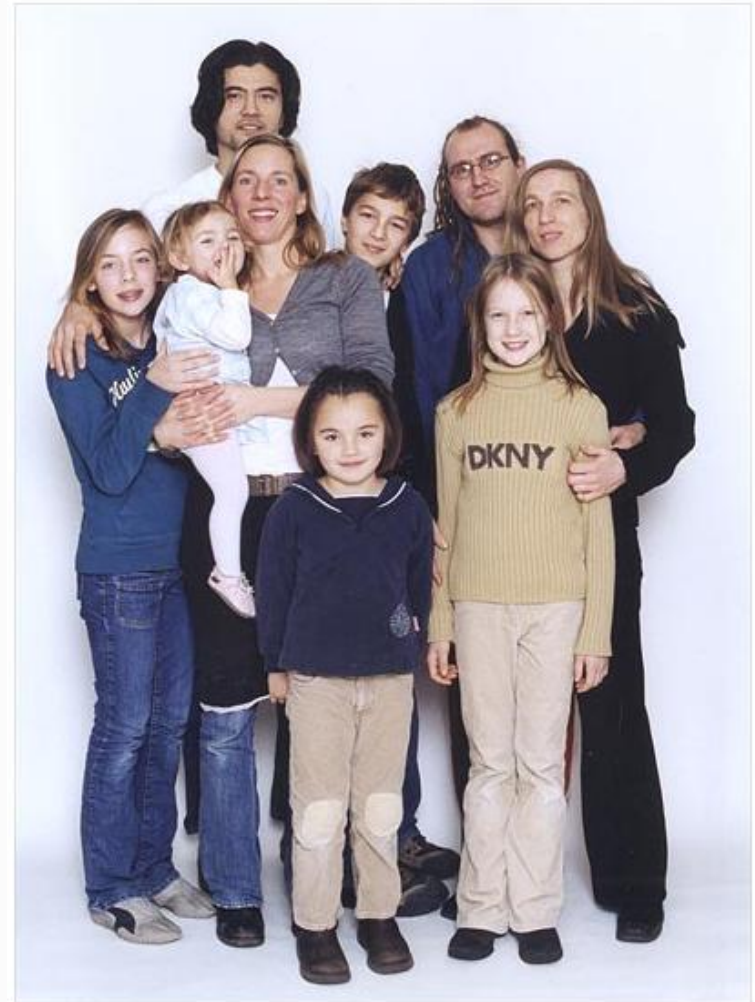
- Name all **your** household members
- Name all persons
 - to whom you have a strong personal relationship
 - giving you help if you really need it
 - you would give help if they really needed it
 - you speak with about really relevant personal issues
 - and so on

Network interpretor

- Same collection as before

Analytical Concepts

- **Person**
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 - Multi-local person
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Analytical Concepts

■ Person

■ Single person

- Attributes of person Data sheet row = person, column=value, rows = independent

■ Person in social context

- Pair of person,
 - attributes of relations Data sheet row = relationship, column=value, rows = independent
 - Structure of pairs Data sheet row = relationship, column=value, rows = are dependent in some way dependent son-father; son-father = grandfather - grandson
- Triple of persons
 - Triad census
- Persons in complex family structures

■ Household

■ Single household

- attributes of relations Data sheet row = relationship, column=value, rows = independent

Analytical Concepts

■ Household

■ Single household

- Attributes of a household Data sheet row = household, column=value, rows = independent

■ Household in social context

- Person combinations in complex household structures
 - Structure of pairs Data sheet row = relationship, column=value, rows = are dependent in some way (son-father; son-mother; daughter-father; daughter-mother; son-daughter, father-mother)
- Attributes of pairs of households (mother household - father household)
 - Data sheet row = Pair of households, column=value, rows = independent
- Attributes of connected pairs of household (mother hh- father hh) (mother hh - mothers parents hh) (father hh - father parents hh) mother parents hh - father parents hh, and so on
 - Data sheet row = relationship, column=value, rows = are dependent in some way

Analytical Concepts

■ Family

■ Multi-household families

- Persons combinations in complex multi- household structures
 - Structure of pairs Data sheet row = relationship, column=value, rows = are dependent in some way (son-father; son-mother; daughter-father; daughter-mother; son-daughter, father-mother (differentiated by biological and step-parent)
- Attributes of pairs of households (mother household - father household)
 - Data sheet row = pairs of household, column=value, rows = independent
- Attributes of connected pairs of household (mother hh- father hh) (mother hh - mothers parents hh) (father hh - father parents hh) mother parents hh - father parents hh, and so on
 - Data sheet row = relationship, column=value, rows = are dependent in some way

Summary

- **Families sometimes have really complex structures**
 - Social network concepts like network generators and network interpreters can help to generate a lot of relevant information
 - Social network analysis tools may help you analyze your data
 - If you collect too much or too complex data, also such tools will not help you, so more important than highly sophisticated collection and analyzing tools is
 - **Small is beautiful**
 - Define what you really want to know
 - Collect only data you need
 - Think of analyzing strategies before collect data
 - A good theory and good hypotheses are better than drowning in complexity