

# Concepts and theories of meaning

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ESS419 International Relations Theory and Energy Security

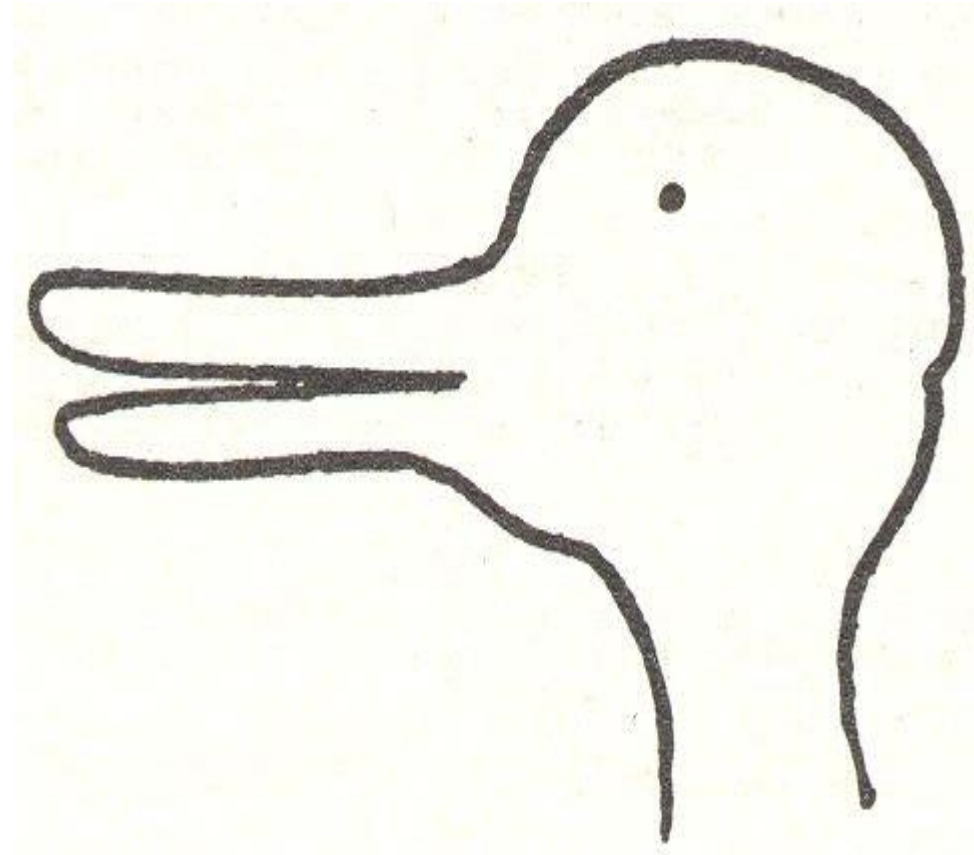
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# Outline

- What for are we using concepts?
- Theories of meaning formation.
- Essay summary.

# What for are we using concepts?

- heuristics
- learning
- communication
- evaluation



# Pareidolia



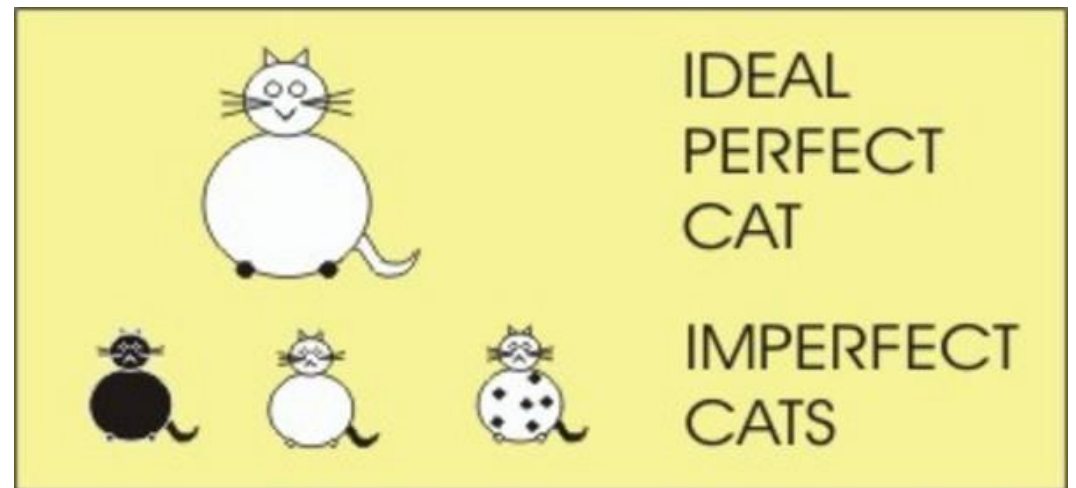
# Concrete vs. abstract concepts



# How is the meaning of concepts formed?

## Conceptual realism.

1. Concepts/words such as “justice” or “security” make sense.
2. If a concept/word makes sense, we should be able to (consensually) define it.
3. If a concept/word makes sense, and is not about some fiction, it must refer to something real.

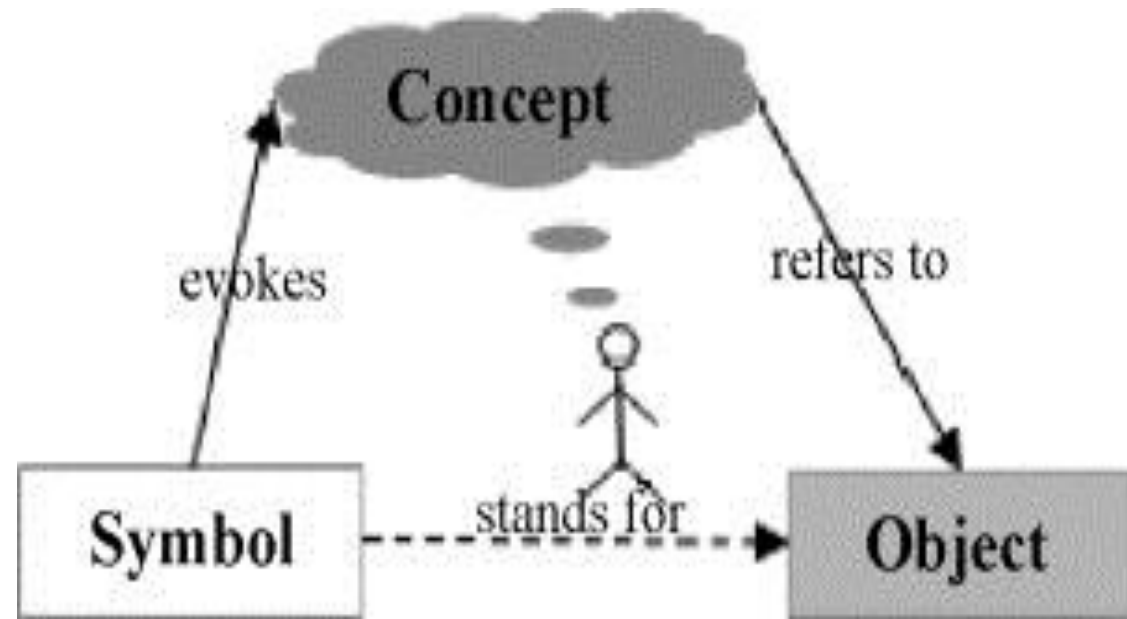


# How is the meaning of concepts formed?

Logical positivism.

- ~~1. Concepts/words such as “justice” or “security” make sense.~~
2. If a concept/word makes sense, we should be able to (consensually) define it.
3. If a concept/word makes sense, and is not about some fiction, it must refer to something real.

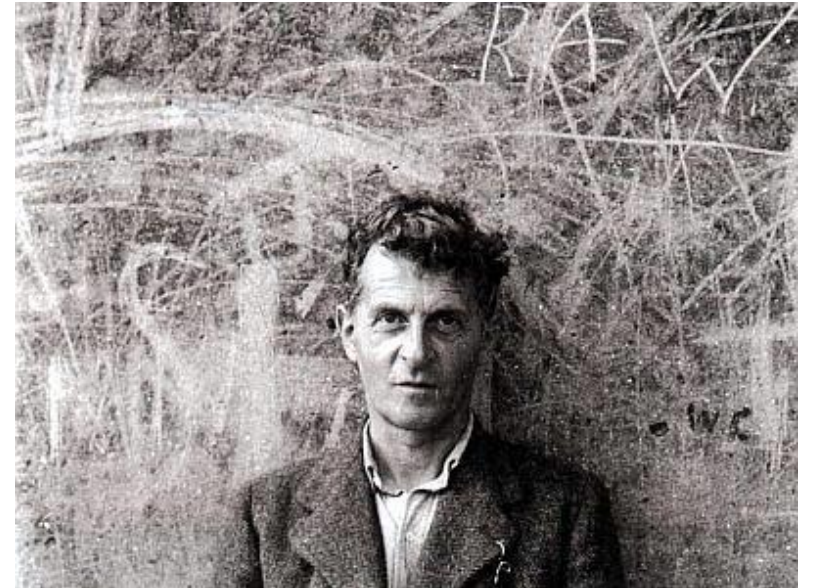
# Reference (picture) theory of meaning





# How is the meaning of concepts formed? Linguistic constructivism.

1. Concepts/words such as “justice” or “security” make sense.
- ~~2. If a concept/word makes sense, we should be able to (consensually) define it.~~
- ~~3. If a concept/word makes sense, and is not about some fiction, it must refer to something real.~~



BABY,  
*it's*  
COLD  
OUTSIDE



# Language games

- There is no essence of language.
- The meaning of concepts/words is formed by their **family resemblance**.
- “Don’t ask for the meaning, ask for the use!”

SOCCER

international sport guard assist clear kick keeper midfielder defense season time goals winger head finisher popular teams

professional money backs coaches linesman striker sweeper goalkeeper defender offside fans games box stadium penalty stopper goalie

period

FAST FOOD

super size kids tasty chicken breadsticks convenient grease hot pizza fried mustard clogging soda arteries cheap limit ketchup meat meal

education unhealthy healthcare oil tacos cheese french fries pickles fat beef drive thru advertisements buns shakes obesity burgers

JOB

CORPORATION UNEMPLOYMENT SOCIAL WORKERS ECONOMIC NUMBER WAGES ECONOMY RECEPTIONS AVAILABLE UNITED KINGDOM CYCLICAL REPUBLIC CURRENT SINCE INCLUDE

EMPLOYMENT COMPANY WAGES ECONOMY BENEFITS AVAILABLE UNITED KINGDOM CYCLICAL REPUBLIC CURRENT SINCE INCLUDE

WORK EMPLOYMENT COMPANY WAGES ECONOMY BENEFITS AVAILABLE UNITED KINGDOM CYCLICAL REPUBLIC CURRENT SINCE INCLUDE

TIME

WINTER

scarf seasons snow cold brrr flakes fireplace eggnog cold weather time freeze skating white snowflakes vacation january

christmas season shovel snowmen festive cold cloudy jack frost hibernation snowmen festive cold cloudy

snowy mittens february december new years wonderland

**BERTRAND RUSSELL**  
**LUDWIG WITTGENSTEIN**



THE FIRST RULE OF PHILOSOPHY CLUB IS THAT RULES, INsofar AS THEY CAN BE UNDERSTOOD, CAN ONLY BE UNDERSTOOD BY HOW THE COMMUNITY OF RULE FOLLOWERS PARTICIPATES IN THE ACTIVITIES INVOLVED IN THE RULE.



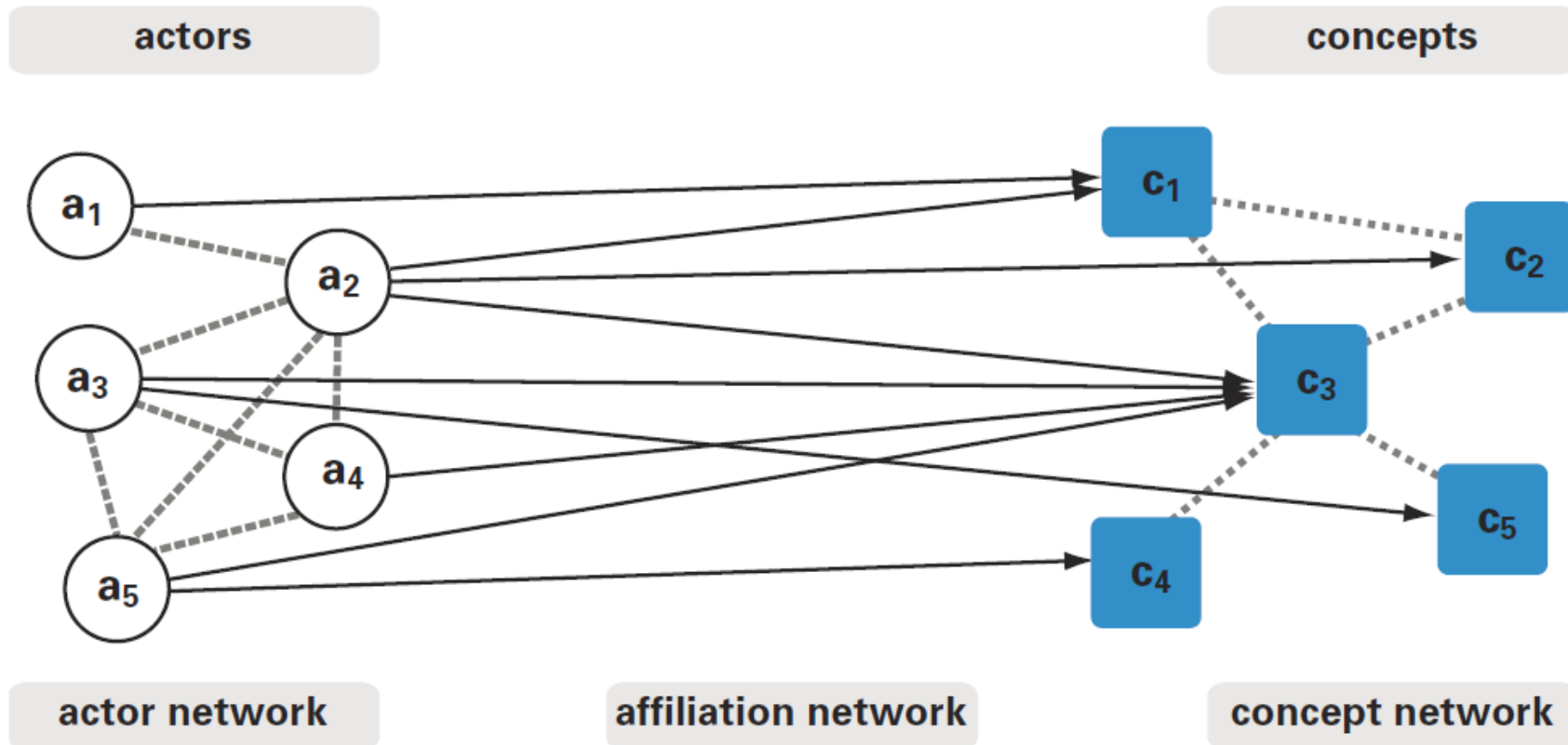
SHOULDN'T THE FIRST RULE OF PHILOSOPHY CLUB BE TO RIGOROUSLY GROUND THE RULES IN PURE, FORMAL LOGIC, TO AVOID ANY AMBIGUITIES?

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M SAYING, CAN'T HAPPEN, RUSSELL. ANY CONCEPTION OF A TRANSCENDENT RULE IS A MISUNDERSTANDING OF LANGUAGE.

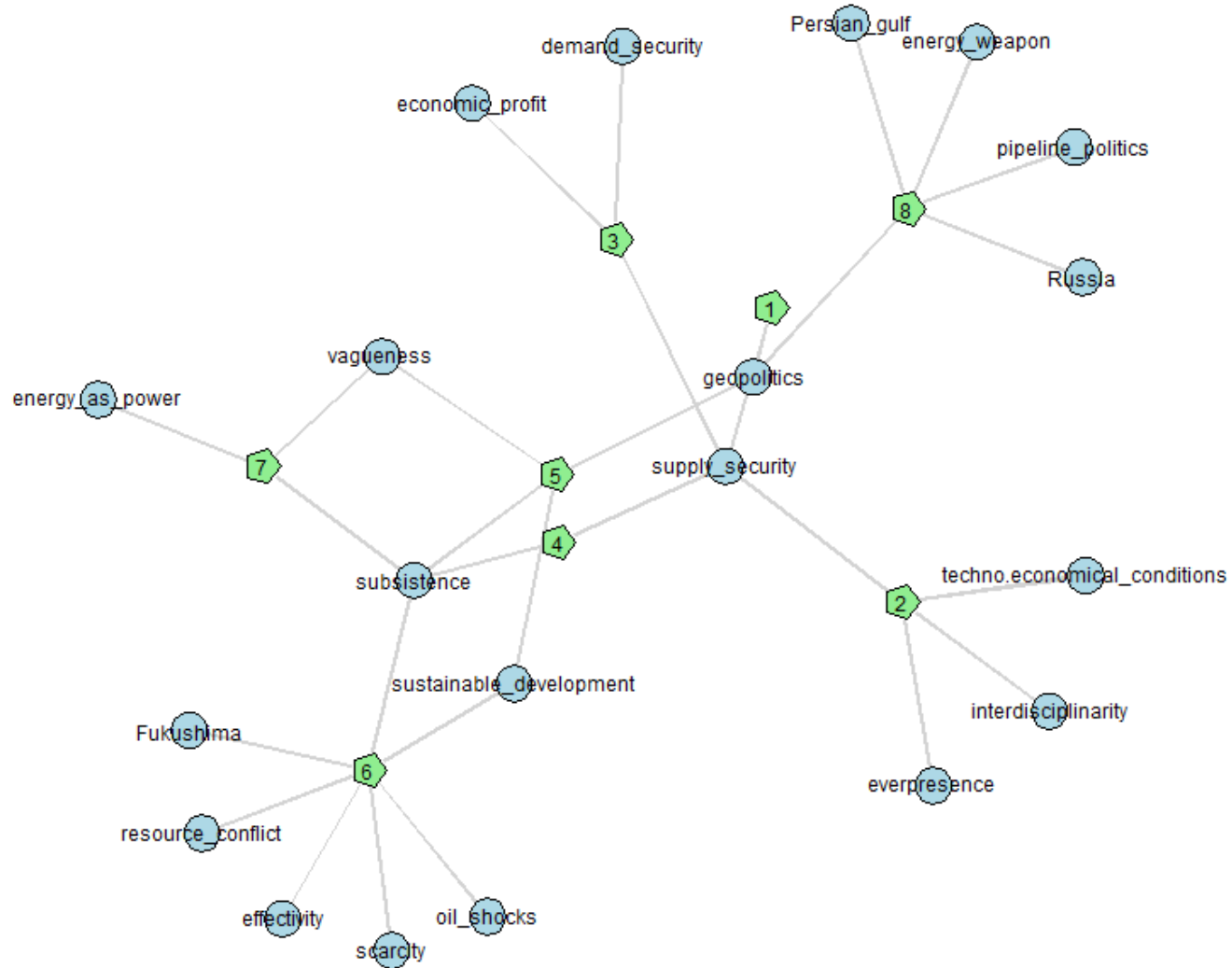


# Discourse network

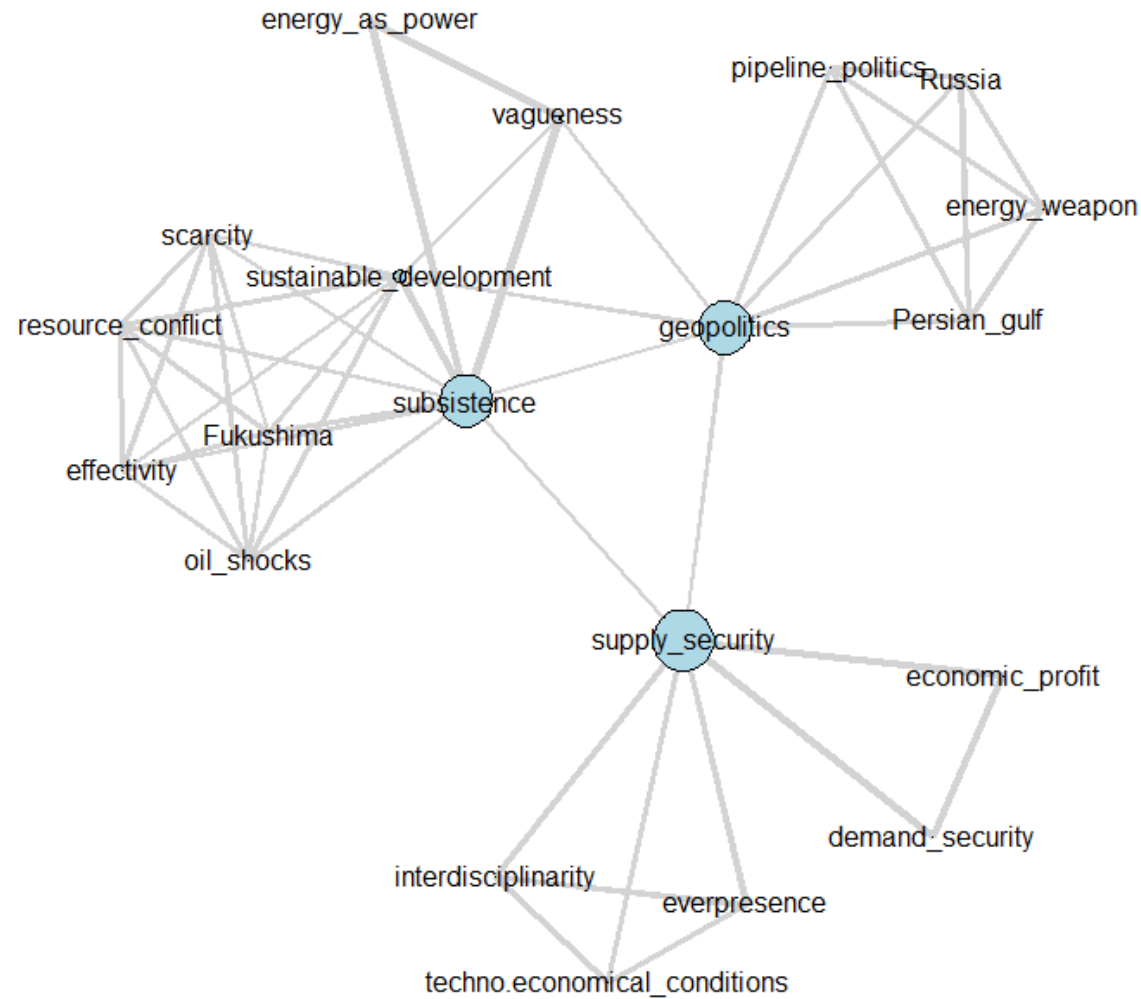
- A **bipartite network** that consists of actors and concepts.



# Essays: energy security

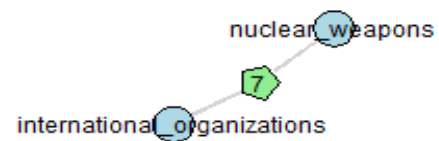
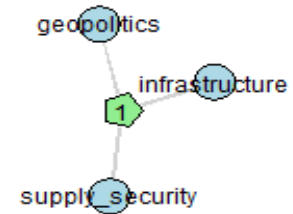
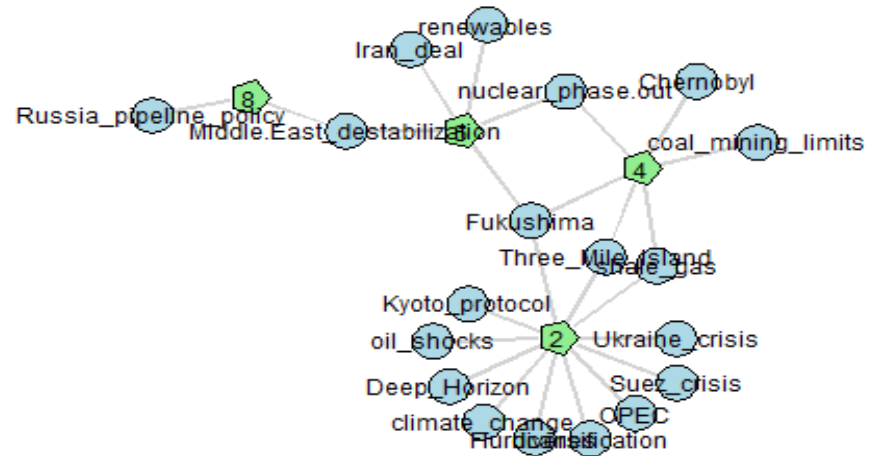
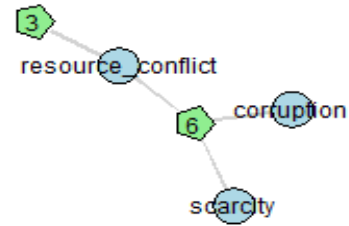


# Essays: energy security





# Essays: issues



# Essays: issues

