

Appendix 2. The causal network data of each case was analyzed using several network statistics, which together were used to develop an index to indicate the relative structural importance of a given node (coded factor) based on its structural properties. Adapted and extended from McGlashan et al. (2016), based on the work of Eden (2004), Oliva (2004), Koschützki et al. (2005), Costa et al. (2007), Gonzales and Parrott (2012), and Clauset (2019).

Metric	Definition	Structural importance for causal networks
Degree	The total number of edges leading to and from a given node.	Indicates the extent to which a given factor directly influences/ is influenced by other factors. The greater the number of unique causal arguments attributed during interviews to a factor, the greater the degree of the node, and therefore the more important it is considered as a driver and/or mediator of causal influence throughout the network.
Betweenness centrality	The number of shortest paths between any two nodes of the network that passes through the given node.	Indicates bridging effect of given factor, i.e. the ability to connect different clusters of causal arguments in the network. Factors with high betweenness centrality potentially mediate the flow of indirect influence between many other factors.
Eigenvector centrality	The influence of a node in a network, accounting for the relative importance of its neighbouring nodes.	A factor with high eigenvector centrality is considered to be structurally important due to its relative causal proximity to other important factors, i.e. connections to other high-scoring nodes.
Loop count	The number of unique, closed feedback loops that a given variable participates in.	Feedback is a central concept in complex systems theory, particularly in emergent system dynamics. A given factor that participates in multiple feedback loops is therefore considered to exert more potential leverage on system dynamics and is therefore considered more structurally important than a variable that participates in few or no loops.