

The AGORA

Newsletter of the Rationality and Society Section of the American Sociological Association and the Research Committee 45 on Rational Choice of the International Sociological Association

2016 Summer (August)



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From the President's Desk

Antonio M. Chiesi



Dear RC45 Members,

I am writing to you directly from Vienna, where the ISA Forum is going to its successful conclusion. Almost 4,200 people attended hundreds of sessions. The University of Vienna made its best to offer a perfect organization and logistics. We only had to face a variable weather ranging from sunny 36 degrees to stormy and windy 18 degrees. Sudden showers did not discouraged many of us to take part to a pleasant and cheerful dinner in a typical Viennese restaurant. The tables were repaired under huge umbrellas, which could not completely save everyone from the rain.

All the nine sessions organized by RC45 had a good attendance, some had been so successful that people had to stand because all the seats were taken. We shall take this into consideration for the next World Congress in Toronto, in order to accommodate everyone comfortably in larger rooms.

During a much-participated business meeting, I was very pleased to award Benita Combet (University of Berne) and Joël Berger (ETH, Zurich) with a certificate for having won the first edition of the "Best Student Paper Award". Our Research Committee launched this prize to promote Rational Choice approaches among PhD students and young scholars all over the world. During the business meeting, we decided to have a second edition of the prize next year.

As part of the future activities, the assembly willingly accepted Jun Kobayashi's proposal to organize an international workshop at the end of the next summer, probably in Europe, on a subject of common interest for Rational Choice practitioners, especially for the younger ones. We will keep you all informed on the program.

I warmly thank those of us, who have joint their efforts in organizing such successful sessions. A special thank goes to those who have presented interesting papers and have discussed them in a very open, rich and stimulating way. I am sure, we all have learned a lot from each other.

We still are a small Research Committee in comparison with many others within the ISA, although the number of members in good standing is slowly growing up. Still, I am convinced that we have all the potential to feed increasing interest among social scientists. This interest is not limited to those who develop rational choice theory, test it experimentally or make empirical applications. Let me believe that what we do could capture the interests of all those who give importance to methodological individualism, who share the idea that the social sciences should avoid metaphors, should be guided by the principle of falsification, and are in search of what analytical sociologists call "mechanisms" in the explanation of social phenomena.

From the Chair's Desk

Arnout van de Rijt



Dear Rationality and Society members:
Summer has arrived and many of us will soon meet at ASA's annual meeting in Seattle. Let me point you to some interesting rationality-related events at the meeting – I'm sure I missed some important others. We've got our annual section paper sessions on Monday morning, this year "Rationality and Social Structure" organized by Vincent Buskens, and "Empirical tests of Purposive Behavior" organized by

Woitek Przepiorka.

New this year is the first installment of a "Bridging Rationality and Altruism" series of joint annual sessions with the Altruism, Morality and Social Solidarity section. Steve Hitlin and Ko Kuwabara will lead this first session named "Volunteering and Selfishness" on Saturday morning. You may also want to visit Ivan Irmakoff's presentation "On the frontiers of Rational Choice" on Sunday morning in a regular Sociological Theory session, or Peter Krafft and collaborators' talk on "Collective Rationality in the Dynamics of Popularity" in the Math Soc regular session on Monday afternoon.

Last but not least we've got the pre-conference co-sponsored by the Math Soc section and the Japanese Association for Math Soc the day before ASA. Special thanks again to Jun Kobayashi, Masayuki Kanai, Kikuko Nagayoshi, John Skvoretz and Doug Heckathorn for organizing!

I'd also like to take the opportunity to once more congratulate our award winners about which you can read more in this newsletter. And my appreciation to the award committees for their hard work. Finally, a big thank you to Jun Kobayashi for putting this newsletter together and all the other volunteers in our community who contribute to our thriving section!

Looking forward to seeing you all in Seattle, enjoy your summer.



ASA 2016 Annual Meeting in Seattle, August 20-23

Section on Rationality and Society Session Program

Be sure that our **business meeting is Monday, August 22, 8:30 to 9:30am**, Washington State Convention Center, Room 616, Level Six.

1. Fri, August 19, 9:00am to 5:00pm

Joint Preconference: Section on Mathematical Sociology; Section on Rationality and Society; Japanese Association for Mathematical Sociology
Sheraton Seattle Hotel, Virginia Room, Fourth Floor

2. Sat, August 20, 10:30am to 12:10pm

068 - Section on Altruism, Morality and Social Solidarity Invited Session. Bridging Rationality and Altruism: Volunteering and Selfishness (co-sponsored with Section on Altruism, Morality and Social Solidarity)
Sheraton Seattle Hotel, Virginia Room, Fourth Floor

3. Mon, August 22, 8:30 to 9:30am

339 - Section on Rationality and Society Paper Session and Business Meeting. Empirical Tests of Purposive Behavior
Washington State Convention Center, Room 616, Level Six

4. Mon, August 22, 10:30am to 12:10pm

376 - Section on Rationality and Society Paper Session. Rationality and Social Structure
Washington State Convention Center, Room 615, Level Six

5. Mon, August 22, 6:30 to 8:00pm

Joint Reception: Section on Evolution, Biology and Society; Section on Mathematical Sociology, Section on Rationality and Society
Sheraton Seattle Hotel, Jefferson Room A, Fourth Floor

Awards 2016, ASA Section on Rationality and Society

Below are this year's award winners. Congratulations!

1. Best Graduate Student Paper

Winners: David Calnitsky and Jonathan Latner (University of Wisconsin-Madison), "Basic Income in a Small Town: Understanding the Elusive Effects on Work."

Committee: Neha Gondal, Emily Erikson, Daniel J. Della Posta

2. Honorable Mention

Winner: Valentina Assenova (Yale University), "A Bayesian Learning Model of Adoption Behavior in the Presence of Social Heterogeneity and Inequality"

3. James Coleman Award for Outstanding Book

Winner: Emily Erikson (Yale University), *Between Monopoly and Free Trade*

Committee: Denise Anthony, Christine Horne, Anthony Paik

The Futures We Want: Global Sociology and the Struggles for a Better World



3rd ISA Forum of SOCIOLOGY



Best Student Paper Award 2016, ISA RC45 on Rational Choice

The first prize was given to Benita in Vienna. Congrats, Benita and Joël!

Winners: Joël Berger (ETH, Zurich) and Benita Combet (University of Berne), "Late School Tracking, Less Class Bias in Educational Decision-Making?: The Uncertainty Reduction Mechanism and Its Experimental Testing"

Committee: Antonio M. Chiesi, Antonio M. Jaime-Castillo, Jun Kobayashi, Rense Corten, Michael Hechter, Guillermina Jasso, Masayuki Kanai, Kazuto Misumi, Yoshimichi Sato, Hanno Scholtz



(Award ceremony at ISA Vienna business meeting)

Members' Activities

Guillermina Jasso delivered the 2016 Karl F. Schuessler Lecture in Social Science Methodology at Indiana University, Bloomington, in April 2016. Prof. Schuessler (1916-2005), whose long and distinguished career was based at Indiana University (PhD, 1947; faculty, 1947-1985; department chair, 1961-1969; founder of the Institute of Social Research, 1963), made many contributions to sociology and sociological methodology and served the discipline as editor of *American Sociological Review* (1969-1971) and *Sociological Methodology* (1977-1979). The title of Jasso's talk was "Inputs and Outcomes, Theory and Empirics, and Causality."

Editors' note

The ASA annual meeting is fast approaching. Thanks to Arnout, we have three exciting sessions. Jun and colleagues organize an ASA pre-conference that bridges us to Section on Mathematical Sociology and Japanese Association for Mathematical Sociology (its program is attached). See you soon in Seattle! (Jun)



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The Sixth Joint Japan-US Conference on Mathematical Sociology and Rational Choice



Program (August 15 updated)



Date: August 19, 2016 (a day before ASA meeting)

Venue: Virginia Room, Fourth Floor, Sheraton Seattle Hotel (ASA meeting place)

Cosponsors: ASA Section on Rationality and Society, Japanese Association for Mathematical Sociology, ASA Section on Mathematical Sociology

Organizers: Jun Kobayashi (Seikei University), Masayuki Kanai (Senshu University), Kikuko Nagayoshi (Tohoku University), John Skvoretz (University of South Florida), Douglas Heckathorn (Cornell University)

Conference website: http://www.jams-sociology.org/?page_id=1534

Registration: Presenters and participants must register at the conference website.

Notes: Each oral presenter has 10 minutes for presentation and 5 minutes for discussion. Each training workshop presenter has 20 minutes for presentation, 15 minutes for comments from advisers, and 10 minutes for discussion. Posters are up to A0 size.

Program:

9:00 am - 9:10 am **Opening Remarks**

9:10 am - 9:50 am **Keynote Speech**
Douglas Heckathorn (Cornell University)



9:50 am - 10:00 am **Break**

10:00 am - 11:30 am **Training Workshop** (Presider: Jun Kobayashi)
Marc Höglinger (ETH Zürich), *Can Social Norms Help to Overcome a Public Good Dilemma? The Case of Organ Procurement*
Shinya Obayashi (University of Tokyo/Japan Society for the Promotion of Science), *Group Expansion by Collective Reputation: Game-theoretic Analyses of Collective Action*
Advisers: Andreas Diekmann (ETH Zürich), Douglas Heckathorn (Cornell University), Yoshimichi Sato (Tohoku University)



11:30 am - 12:00 pm Break

12:00 pm - 12:45 pm Poster Session

Saburo Akahori (Tokyo Woman's Christian University), *Observing Disintegrative Trends of Modern Society: Toward Restructuring of Self-Description*

Sean M. Fitzhugh (U.S. Army Research Laboratory) and Arwen H. DeCostanza (U.S. Army Research Laboratory), *Intra-organizational Tie (De)activation During Crisis*

Masayuki Kanai (Senshu University), *Who is the Reference Point in Judging One's Well-being?: Comparison between Three Types of Relative Deprivation Measure*

Jun Kobayashi (Seikei University) and Carola Hommerich (Hokkaido University), *Do Happiness and Unhappiness have the Same Causes?: Analyses of SSP 2015 Survey, Japan*

Akio Koyabu (Waseda University), *Widening the Social Radius of Trust: Results from a Nationwide Social Capital Survey in Japan*

Yunsub Lee (Cornell University), *Respondent-Driven Sampling for Unhidden Population Studies: How to Solve the Problem of Homophilous Selection Bias in Web-based RDS*

Robert Mamada (Arizona State University), *The Determination of the Intrinsic Characteristics of the Fitness in the Bianconi-Barabasi Fitness Model*

Akira Motegi (University of Tokyo), *Mate Search Behavior of Women in Japan and the United States*

Kikuko Nagayoshi (Tohoku University), *Impacts of Temporal and Cumulative Social Exclusions on Social Isolation*

Yoshio Sakurai (Kagoshima University), *A Defense of Interpretative Sociology by a Viewpoint of Bio-Darwinism*

12:45 pm - 1:00 pm Break

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Oral Session 1 (Presider: Carter Butts)

Yosuke Kira (Tokyo Institute of Technology / Japan Society for the Promotion of Science), *Social Norms With and Without a Meta-Norm: Costly Punishment in Repeated Games Sustains Not Only Cooperation but Also Unpopular Norms*

Maoxin Ye (Tohoku University), *SNS Usage and Social Capital: The Perspective of Inequality*

Kazuhiro Kezuka (Tohoku University / Japan Society for the Promotion of Science), *Late Marriage and Transition from Arranged Marriages to Love Matches: A Search-Theoretic Approach*

Kazuo Yamaguchi (University of Chicago), *Substantive Behavioral Theory Building Based on Thought Experiments: A Case of Ultimatum Game*

2:00 pm - 2:20 pm Break

2:20 pm - 3:20 pm Oral Session 2 (Presider: Atsushi Ishida)

Justin Charles G. See (Ateneo de Manila University) and Emma E. Porio (Ateneo de Manila University), *Quantifying Social Vulnerability and Resilience to Flooding in Metro Manila Using Principal Component Analysis and System Dynamics Modelling*

Tetsuro Okazaki (Takushoku University), *Time Consciousness and Punctuality: An Explanation of Cultures from the View Point of Coordination*

Guillermina Jasso (New York University), *What Can You and I Do to Reduce Inequality?*

Yoshiya Shiotani (Tohoku University), *Why Nobody Hires Me as a Regular Worker?: The Selection Mechanism in Japanese Young Labor Market*

3:20 pm - 3:40 pm Break

3:40 pm - 4:40 pm Oral Session 3 (Presider: Arnout van de Rijt)

Yoshimichi Sato (Tohoku University), *A Theory of Rationality: Born to Be Rational, Learn to Be Rational, or Born to Learn to Be Rational?*

Wojtek Przepiorka, Lukas Norbutas, and Rense Corten (Utrecht University), *Information Sharing Promotes Cooperation in Illicit Causes: Evidence from an Online Market in the Dark Web*

Mito Akiyoshi (Senshu University), *Children Are Not for Everyone: A Set Theoretic Analysis of Parenthood and Happiness*

Nikki M. H. van Gerwen (Utrecht University) and Vincent Buskens (Utrecht University), *Partner-specific Behavior in Social Networks: Coordination among Actors with Heterogeneous Preferences*

4:40 pm - 4:50 pm Award Ceremony

4:50 pm - 5:00 pm Closing Remarks