

The AGORA

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

Summer 2010

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2009-2010

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From the Chair's Desk

Dear R&S Section Members,
We are gearing up for the ASA meetings in Atlanta. There are great things happening with the R&S section and we hope to see you there. Our section day is Saturday August 14. All R&S Events will be in the Marriott. Our main section events are:

2:30 Invited paper session

3:30 Business meeting and presentation of awards

4:30 Section paper session

6:30 Reception with lots of good food and a cash bar (joint with Mathematical Sociology and Evolution and Society)

You may also be interested in the "regular" session on rational choice at 10:30 on Saturday.

I am happy to announce the winners of our section election:

Chair-Elect Yoshimichi (Mitch) Sato

Secretary/Treasurer Jane Sell

Council Karen Hegtvedt

I would also like to thank the people who agreed to run for office and section members Pamela Emanuelson, James Kitts, Carter Butts, and Howard Welser and Jane Sell who chaired committees for the section year, as well as others who served on award committees, including Jacob Young, Marcel van Assen, Phillip Bonacich, Blaine Robbins, Christine Horne, Jane Sell, Carter Butts, and Werner Raub. It has been a great pleasure to work with all of you.



RATIONALITY AND SOCIETY SESSIONS

2:30 Invited session New Approaches to the Micro-Macro Link (organized by Pamela Emanuelson):

"The Length of Weak Ties" by Michael W. Macy (Cornell University)

"Small Worlds and Cultural Polarization" by Andreas Flache (University of Groningen) and Michael W. Macy (Cornell University)

"The Emergence of Social Structure as A Micro-Macro Link: Social Networking and Beyond" by Yoshimichi Sato (Tohoku University)

3:30 Business Meeting (business and award presentations)

4:30 Theories of Choice: New Perspectives and Applications (organized by Carter Butts). The past 10-15 years have seen great progress in our understanding of decision making in both individual and group settings. Among the many areas seeing rapid advancement have been evolutionary and behavioral game theory, cross-cultural perspectives on strategic behavior, altruism and other-regarding preferences, and the integration of choice models into demographic and policy analysis. This session brings together several papers that showcase some of these innovations, either in helping to advance or to apply new developments in theories of choice.

"Support in an Asymmetric Social Dilemma. A behavioral game-theoretic approach" Sonja Brigitte Vogt (University of Zurich), Jeroen Weesie (University Utrecht), Vincent W. Buskens (University Utrecht), Werner Raub (Utrecht University)

"Group Homophily and the Emergence of Upstream Reciprocity" Yen-Sheng Chiang (University of Washington), Nobuyuki Takahashi (Hokkaido University)

4:30 Session (continued):

"Individuals Manipulate Perceived Threats to Preserve Dominance in Cooperative Groups" Pat Barclay (University of Guelph), Stephen Benard (Indiana University)

"Why Marry Early When Others Wait? Interactions between Economic Potential and Marital Expectations among American Youth" Ying-chun Ji (University of North Carolina)

"The wealth of nations and the willingness to pay for environmental protection" Axel Franzen (University of Bern), Dominikus Vogl (University of Bern)

10:30 Saturday morning: regular ASA section on rational choice

"Don't Tell Him Too Much - A Simple Mobility Game for Migration Decisions of Couples" Martin Abraham (University of Nuremberg-Erlangen), Natascha Nisic (University of Nuremberg-Erlangen)

"Is Plea Bargaining a Rational Choice? Plea Bargaining as an Engine of Racial Stratification in Prisons" Douglas Savitsky (Cornell University)

"Power and Information in Exchange Networks" Danielle Lewis (University of South Carolina), Pamela E. Emanuelson (University of South Carolina)

"Rational but Caring: Modeling Homo Sociologicus in the Public Good Game" Lin Tao (Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Discussant: Phillip Bonacich (University of California-Los Angeles)



ASA 2010

*Section Award Winners
(Presentation at Business Meeting, 3:30 on Saturday the 14th):*

2010 Best Book Award (for books published in 2008-2009):

Edward J. Lawler, Shane R. Thye, Jeongkoo Yoon. Social Commitments in a Depersonalized World

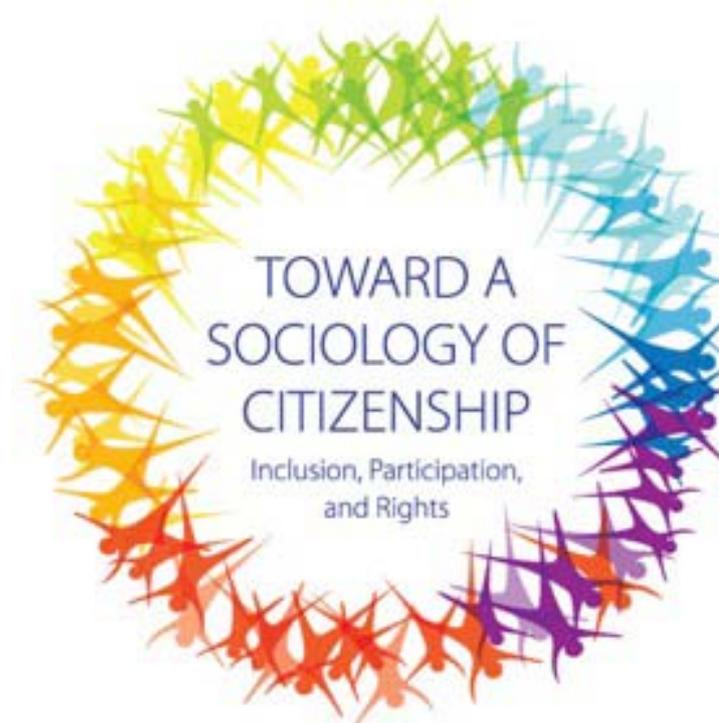
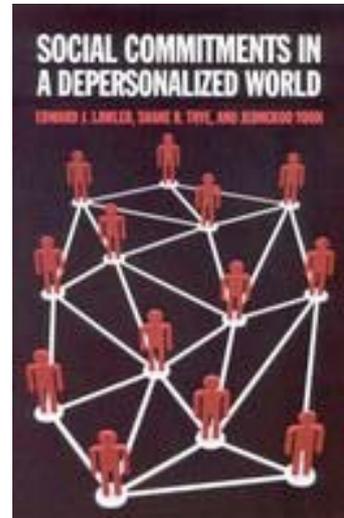
Best Graduate Student Paper, 2010 (Awarded to both papers):

Ashley Harrell

[<harrella@mailbox.sc.edu>](mailto:harrella@mailbox.sc.edu) U South Carolina "Religion, Rewards and Prosocial Behavior"

Jacob Young

[<jtny@u.washington.edu>](mailto:jtny@u.washington.edu) Washington "Misperception of Peer Delinquency and its Consequences: Examining the Microfoundations of Social Influence and Delinquency"





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From the President's Desk Rational Choice Theorists Get Together in Gothenburg from Around The World

Research Committee on Rational Choice (RC45) of the ISA sponsors ten sessions at the XVII ISA World Congress of Sociology in Gothenburg, Sweden on July 11-17. The sessions cover a wide range of topics rational choice theorists are interested in—from migration to social identity to irrationalities. Detailed



information on the sessions is posted at:

<http://isa2010.aimit.se/2453/Sessions>

RC45 also cosponsors with RC04 (Sociology of Education) and RC28 (Social Stratification) an integrative session on “Rational Choice Approaches to Educational Inequality and Social Stratification.” Please take a look at: <http://isa2010.aimit.se/16864/SessionPapers>

Another session rational choice theorists are attracted to is an Author-Meets-Critics session with Peter Hedström. Three leading rational choice theorists—Rafael Wittek, Andreas Diekmann, and Kenji Kosaka—critique his book *Dissecting the Social: On the Principles of Analytical Sociology* from various perspectives. Detailed information on the session is found at:

<http://isa2010.aimit.se/16847/SessionPapers>

I do hope to meet many of the members of Section on Rationality and Society and of RC45 in Gothenburg. See you there.