

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

Winter 2020/Spring 2021



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From the Chair's Desk (ASA)

Stephen Benard



I hope you are well as this difficult year draws to a close. This year has made me especially appreciative of the intellectual life of our section. I'm grateful that despite the challenges this year presented, our members have cheerfully stepped in to do the work that maintains the vitality of our section. Service is often the least appreciated part of academic life, and I thank our council and committee members for all of their efforts. Our council is listed in the sidebar; I would also like to recognize our paper award committee, Patrick Bergemann, Jenny Davis, Milena Tsvetkova, our graduate student paper award committee, Minjae Kim, David Kretschmer, and Barum Park, and our nominations committee, Gianluca Manzo, Fabien Accominotti, Ivan Ermakoff, Arnout van de Rijt, and Werner Raub.

I also look forward to seeing how the work of our section members helps make sense of the pandemic and how societies respond to it. Many of the issues we now confront are those that animate the work of our members, including topics such as cohesion, conflict, cooperation, diffusion, inequality, justice, norms, networks, trust, and many others.

One opportunity to share this work approaches. As

you have likely heard, the 2021 ASA meetings will be conducted virtually. We will have three sessions, organized by Carter Butts, Emily Erikson (a themed session on computational approaches), and Michael Mäs. In a year with few opportunities to travel and share our work, this will give us a chance to connect and exchange ideas. Submissions are due February 3rd, 2021. See <https://www.asanet.org/annual-meeting-2021/submissions> for more details.

Another way to share your work is by entering our regular and graduate student paper award competitions. Graduate students are welcome to enter the regular competition, but each paper may only be submitted to one competition (to keep the service load manageable for our hardworking volunteer committee members). Details are available on our section website: <https://sites.google.com/site/rationalityandsocietysection/awards>

Finally, I want to address a challenge facing our section. While we are a highly energetic section, our membership has been declining, and currently stands at 110 members (as of November). Because of our small size, ASA is currently reviewing whether to place our section on probation. The section council has submitted a report to ASA highlighting our vitality and explaining why we should not be placed on probation. Thankfully, this report was easy to write, given the many activities of our members. In the long term, we do need to address our declining membership. In the coming year, the council will reach out to you with ideas for increasing section membership. I think – and I hope many will agree – that the core interests of our section are central to much of sociology, and it should be possible to attract new members to our section.

Thank you for the many things you do as section members, researchers, teachers, and administrators. Wishing you the best as this year ends and the new year begins.

Award Announcement from the Rationality and Society Section



2021 Rationality and Society James S. Coleman Outstanding Article Award

Nominations, including self-nominations, are encouraged for theoretical or empirical works in the rational choice tradition broadly construed, including alternative decision theoretic frameworks and applications of theory to empirical problems. To be eligible for the award, the article must be published within the last two years. Faculty and graduate students are eligible for the award. An article may be submitted to the Outstanding Article Award or the Graduate Student paper award, but not both. Co-authors share the award equally. Nominators should be members in good standing of the American Sociological Association.

Nominations should be submitted to Patrick Bergemann by email (pbergema@uci.edu) by **March 1, 2021**.

Please include (1) a brief statement (1 or 2 paragraphs) by the nominator of the reason the article deserves this award; and (2) an electronic copy of the article.

Committee members:

Patrick Bergemann (Chair), UC-Irvine
Jenny Davis, Australian National University
Milena Tsvetkova, London School of Economics

2021 Rationality and Society section award for Best Paper by a Graduate Student

Nominations, including self-nominations, are encouraged for theoretical or empirical works in the rational choice tradition broadly construed, including alternative decision theoretic frameworks and applications of theory to empirical problems. Eligible authors are students currently enrolled in a graduate program who will not have received the PhD at the time of the ASA meeting, August 7-10, 2021. Multi-authored papers are eligible if none of the authors has a PhD. An article may be submitted to the Outstanding Article Award or the Graduate Student paper award, but not both.

Nominations should be submitted by email to Minjae Kim (minjaekim@rice.edu) by **March 1, 2021**.

Nominations should include two electronic files: (1) A cover page with the paper title, paper abstract, author's name(s), institutional affiliation and institutional address, the name of the author's faculty

advisor, and full contact information including preferred email address, telephone number(s) and mailing address.
(2) The nominated paper, double-spaced, beginning with title and abstract but with author's name and other identifying information removed.

Committee members:

Minjae Kim (Chair), Rice University
David Kretschmer, Universität Mannheim
Barum Park, Cornell University

The Cancellation of the Seventh Joint Japan-US Conference

The Seventh Joint Japan-US Conference scheduled the day before the ASA meeting has been cancelled in response to the cancellation of the ASA meeting due to COVID-19.

We discussed the possibility of holding the conference online. However, considering the time difference and the importance of face-to-face discussions, we decided to hold the conference offline next year. We look forward to seeing you at the next year's conference.

Organizers:

Kikuko Nagayoshi, Kazuhiro Kezuka (Japanese Association for Mathematical Sociology)
Jun Kobayashi (RC45)
Gianluca Manzo (ASA Rationality and Society Section, RC45)
Richard Edward Gardner (ASA Mathematical Sociology Section)

The general objective of Research Committee 45 on Rational Choice is to advance the development of Rational Choice Theory. This includes its application to various explanatory problems across social science disciplines, its empirical test, its theoretical development and comparison with alternative approaches. The RC tries to achieve this general objective by promoting the international exchange of scientific information across disciplinary borders.

From the President's Desk

Jun Kobayashi



Dear colleagues,

Almost a year has passed since the beginning of the pandemic. Now we are busy preparing for the fourth ISA Forum of Sociology. It will be held in February 23-27, 2021, online.

The Forum had no option but to be postponed from the original dates in last July. Good news is that RC45 offers 13 fascinating presentations in six diverse oral sessions. Bad news, if any, might be its online format. True, it enables us to join the meeting from our offices or homes without long exhausting trips. Yet not at a small cost — no in-person communication. Also did it deprive us of a good reason to visit Porto Alegre.

All the RC45 sessions concentrate between February 24-26 as follows (Note that they are in the Brazilian local time; You can easily find your local times via online program). Assigned in 90-minute sessions, each paper has 30 minutes including discussion. Many thanks to those who submitted papers, volunteered for organizing and chairing sessions.

552. Wednesday, February 24, 2021, 09:00-10:30
**Causes and Consequences of Corruption:
Theoretical Models and Empirical Evidence**

Session Organizer: **Wojtek Przepiorka**

Chair: **Hiroko Osaki**

553. Wednesday, February 24, 2021, 14:15-15:45

Social Interactions and Social Inequalities

Session Organizer and Chair: **Gianluca Manzo**

554. Thursday, February 25, 2021, 09:00-10:30

**RC45 Open Oral Session on Advances in Rational
Choice Research 1**

Session Organizer: **Jun Kobayashi**

Chair: **Carola Hommerich**

555. Thursday, February 25, 2021, 10:45-12:15

**RC45 Open Oral Session on Advances in Rational
Choice Research 2**

Session Organizer and Chair: **Jun Kobayashi**

(556. Thursday, February 25, 2021, 14:15-15:45

RC45 Business Meeting)

557. Friday, February 26, 2021, 09:00-10:30

**Computational Social Science, Social Capital, and
Rational Choice 1**

Session Organizers: **Yoshimichi Sato** and **Hiroki
Takikawa**

Chair: **Yoshimichi Sato**

558. Friday, February 26, 2021, 10:45-12:15

**Computational Social Science, Social Capital, and
Rational Choice 2**

Session Organizers: **Yoshimichi Sato** and **Hiroki
Takikawa**

Chair: **Hiroki Takikawa**

Mark Thursday, February 25, 14:15-15:45 for our Business Meeting! We will discuss **revisions of Statutes and Bylaws**. Thanks to unlimited efforts of Masa, our Secretary-Treasurer, the RC45 board has proposed them in December. They included two major changes to assure efficient management and stable member counts: (1) Shortening election period from "5 months" to "2 months." (2) Introducing "life membership" for members aged 70 or higher.

Approval needs two-thirds of the votes at the Business Meeting. To attend it, you have to make a registration for the Forum. FYI, the Business Meeting lasts in:

14:15-15:45, Feb 25: Brasília Time, UTC-3

18:15-19:45, Feb 25: Central European Time, UTC+1

9:15-10:45, Feb 25: Pacific Standard Time, UTC-8

2:15-3:45, Feb 26: Japan Standard Time, UTC+9

Rational choice sociology is like a prince (or princess) in sociology family — Last year I had a chance to write on rational choice theory for a sociology dictionary. Then I rediscovered how deeply current ideas of rational choice originated in founding sociologists, especially Max Weber. Rationalization of modern societies. Value rationality and instrumental action versus affectual action and traditional action. Full of rationality concepts.

As always, my deepest thanks are given to our trustworthy editors: Masa and Wojtek.

See you all at the Forum. Be careful of “virtual” jet lag!

RC45 Sessions Program at the IV ISA Forum of Sociology, online, February 23-27, 2021



552. Wednesday, February 24, 2021, 09:00-10:30

Causes and Consequences of Corruption: Theoretical Models and Empirical Evidence

552.1 Scrutinizing the “Code of Silence” in a Situation of Corruption:

Testing a Team Mechanism of Deviant Behavior

Julia KLEINWIESE, Kiel University, Germany and Peter GRAEFF, Christian-Albrechts University Kiel, Kiel, Germany

553. Wednesday, February 24, 2021, 14:15-15:45

Social Interactions and Social Inequalities

553.1 Do Networks Contribute to Wage Inequality?

Lucas SAGE, Sorbonne Université - Lettres, France

553.2 Conflicts over the Division of Labor

Miriam TRÜBNER, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany and Natascha NISIC, Paderborn University, Germany

554. Thursday, February 25, 2021, 09:00-10:30

RC45 Open Oral Session on Advances in Rational Choice Research 1

554.1 Social Distrust in Divided Societies:

Evidence from Factorial Survey Experiment

Hiroko OSAKI, The University of Tokyo, Japan

554.2 Beautiful Capital:

Is Physical Attractiveness Nature or Rational Investment?

Jun KOBAYASHI, Seikei University, Japan

554.3 The Sustainability of Cooperation Under Newcomer Entry:

The Role of Normative Disagreements between Newcomers and Incumbents

Kasper OTTEN, Vincent BUSKENS, Wojtek PRZEPIORKA and Naomi ELLEMERS, Utrecht University, Netherlands

555. Thursday, February 25, 2021, 10:45-12:15

RC45 Open Oral Session on Advances in Rational Choice Research 2

555.1 Rationality and Subjective Wellbeing in Different Institutional Contexts

Masayuki KANAI, Senshu University, Japan

555.2 Cooperation in a Social Dilemma through Investments in Repeated Interactions or Contractual Agreements

Anna SOKOLOVA, University of Mannheim, Germany and Werner RAUB, Utrecht University, Netherlands

557. Friday, February 26, 2021, 09:00-10:30

Computational Social Science, Social Capital, and Rational Choice 1

557.1 Support for Social Policies Among Communities:

A Computer Simulation Approach to Divided Opinions

Naoki SUDO, Gakushuin University, Tokyo, Japan

557.2 Is the Question on Generalized Trust (GT) a Valid Measurement of Social Capital (SC)?

Antonio CHIESI, University of Milano, Italy

558. Friday, February 26, 2021, 10:45-12:15
Computational Social Science, Social Capital, and Rational Choice 2

558.1 Believe It When You See It: Dyadic Embeddedness and Reputation Effects on Trust in Cryptomarkets for Illegal Drugs
Lukas NORBUTAS, Utrecht University, Netherlands, Rense CORTEN, Utrecht University, Netherlands and Stijn RUITER, Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement, Netherlands

558.2 Covid-19 Vulnerability and Perceived Lockdown-Norm Violations Predict Loss of Social Trust
Sergio LO IACONO⁽¹⁾, Wojtek PRZEPIORKA⁽¹⁾, Vincent BUSKENS⁽¹⁾, Rense CORTEN⁽¹⁾ and Arnout VAN DE RIJT⁽²⁾, (1)Utrecht University, Netherlands, (2)European University Institute, Italy

558.3 Positive Reputation Bias in Cryptomarkets: Validating Quantitative Ratings with Automatic Analyses of Feedback Texts
Ana MACANOVIC, Utrecht University, Netherlands, Wojtek PRZEPIORKA, Utrecht University, Netherlands

Recent Publications of Interest

Benard, S., and Doan, L. 2020. "When is Retaliation Respected? Status and Vengefulness in Intergroup and Interpersonal Contexts." *Socius* 6: 2378023120967199.

Barclay, P., and Benard, S. 2020. "The Effects of Social vs. Asocial Threats on Group Cooperation and Manipulation of Perceived Threats." *Evolutionary Human Sciences* 2: e54. <https://doi.org/10.1017/ehs.2020.48>

Buskens, V., Corten, R., and Snijders, C. eds. 2020. *Advances in the Sociology of Trust and Cooperation. Theory, Experiments, and Field Studies*. Berlin: De Gruyter. <https://www.degruyter.com/view/title/565441?language=en>

Ermakoff, Ivan. 2019. "Causality and History: Modes of Causal Investigation in Historical Social Sciences," *The Annual Review of Sociology* 45:581-

606.

Ermakoff, Ivan, and Marko Grdesic. 2019. "Institutions and Demotions: Collective Leadership in Authoritarian Regimes." *Theory and Society* 48(4): 559-587.

Ermakoff, Ivan. 2020. "Law against the rule of law: Assaulting Democracy," *Journal of Law and Society*, 47(S1):S164-86. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jols.12253>

Jiao, Ruohuang, Wojtek Przepiorka and Vincent Buskens. 2021. "Reputation Effects in Peer-to-Peer Online Markets: A Meta-Analysis." *Social Science Research*: forthcoming. doi: 10.1016/j.ssresearch.2020.102522.

Mueller, Sean, and Michael Hechter, "Centralization through Decentralization? The Crystallization of Social Order in the European Union." *Territory, Politics, Governance* October 2019.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/21622671.2019.1676300>

Manzo, Gianluca, and Arnout van de Rijt. 2020. "Halting Sars-Cov-2 by Targeting High-Contact Individuals." *Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation* 23(4):10. doi: 10.18564/jasss.4435.

Otten, Kasper, Vincent Buskens, Wojtek Przepiorka and Naomi Ellemers. 2020. "Heterogeneous Groups Cooperate in Public Good Problems Despite Normative Disagreements About Individual Contribution Levels." *Scientific Reports* 10:16702. doi: 10.1038/s41598-020-73314-7.

Przepiorka, Wojtek, Loes Bouman and Erik W. de Kwaadsteniet. 2020. "The Emergence of Conventions in the Repeated Volunteer's Dilemma: The Role of Social Value Orientation, Payoff Asymmetries and Focal Points." *Social Science Research* 93:102488. doi: 10.1016/j.ssresearch.2020.102488.

Siroky, David S., Sean Mueller, Andre Fazi, and Michael Hechter, "Containing Nationalism: Culture, Economics and Indirect Rule in Corsica." *Comparative Political Studies* October 2020. Online First. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0010414020957671>

Editors' note

Unfortunately, this issue does not feature the interview on rational choice theory and “Students on the Market.” Self-nominations and recommendations for both sections are always welcome! (Wojtek and Masa)



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