

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

Winter 2015/Spring 2016



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2015-2016

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From the Chair's Desk



Dear Rationality and Society Members:

A significant portion of you are reading this newsletter for the first time, as we've grown our ASA section membership to 205: A true record in sufficiently recent history! Thanks to various members for significant recruitment efforts. I'd like to welcome all new members and express my hope you'll stick around. There's lots of good stuff ahead:

This coming summer we'll have a pre-conference in Seattle, co-sponsored by the Mathematical Sociology section and the Japanese Association for Mathematical Sociology. Special thanks to Jun Kobayashi, Masayuki Kanai, Kikuko Nagayoshi, John Skvoretz and Doug Heckathorn for organizing this event!

This summer Ko Kuwabara is organizing a joint session with the Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity section focused on the phenomena "Volunteering, Philanthropy and Heroism". Our section will be contributing papers that deny their existence no matter the evidence! Thanks go to Ko Kuwabara, Steve Hitlin, Steven Vaisey and Anthony Paik



for volunteering their time to this joint section effort. Our section's two regular sessions are organized by Wojtek Przepiorka with a short open session on "Empirical Tests of Purposive Behavior" and Vincent Buskens with an open session on "Rationality and Social Structure". Thanks to Wojtek and Vincent.

We've got some wonderful awards for the coming year. Please do send your nominations for our 2016 book award to Denise Anthony (denise.l.anthony@dartmouth.edu) and for the 2016 graduate student paper award to Neha Gondal (gondal@bu.edu), by March 1. Thanks to Denise Anthony, Christine Horne, Anthony Paik, Neha Gondal, Emily Erikson and Daniel DellaPosta for their service on these committees. (See more detail in this newsletter.)

Finally, I'd like to welcome Pamela Emanuelson and chair-elect Vincent Buskens to the council and thank Jane Sell for all her efforts in putting this newsletter together.

I wish you all a happy and healthy 2016!

RATIONALITY AND SOCIETY 2016 AWARDS:



Rationality and Society James Coleman Award for Outstanding book

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 books must have been published in 2014 - 2015.

Nominations should be submitted to Denise Anthony by email (denise.l.anthony@dartmouth.edu) by March 1, 2016. Please include author's name(s), institutional affiliation and institutional address, and full contact information including preferred email address, telephone number(s) and mailing address.

Committee members:

Denise Anthony, Dartmouth College

Christine Horne, Washington State University

Anthony Paik, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

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 20-23, 2016. Multi-authored papers are eligible if none of the authors has a PhD.

Nominations should be submitted by email to Neha Gondal (gondal@bu.edu) by March 1, 2016. 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:

Neha Gondal, Boston University

Emily Erikson, Yale University

Daniel J. DellaPosta, Cornell University

NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTIONS FOR RATIONAL CHOICE SECTION, ASA:

Chair:

Wotjek Przepiorka, Utrecht University

Jane Sell, Texas A&M University

Secretary/Treasurer:

Reef Youngreen, University of Massachusetts, Boston

Neha Gondal, Boston University

Council Member:

Ashley Harrell, University of South Carolina

Katrin Auspurg, University of Munich

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

Deadline for submissions: May 11, 2016

Aim: The conference focuses on advancement of mathematical and rational choice theoretic sociology. It welcomes any topics in any discipline in the field.

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

Venue: ASA meeting place, Seattle (Washington State Convention Center & Sheraton Seattle Hotel)

Co-sponsors: ASA Rationality and Society Section, Japanese Association for Mathematical Sociology, ASA Mathematical Sociology Section

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

Abstract Submission: Send

-Title

-Author(s) and affiliation(s)

-Abstract (300–400 words, divide into “Question/Methods” and “Results/Conclusion”)

-Name and e-mail address of presenting author

-Do you want your abstract to be forwarded to a poster session if it is rejected in oral sessions?

to Jun Kobayashi (jun.kobayashi@fh.seikei.ac.jp) and Masayuki Kanai (mkanai@senshu-u.jp).

Acceptance notice: By end of May 2016

Presentation format: Oral (and posters if needed). 10-15 minutes' presentation and 5 minutes' discussion (planned)

Notes: 1. Organizers will give “Best Papers Award” to outstanding presentations at the conference.

2. Organizers will recommend some presentations to be published in *Journal of Mathematical Sociology* and *Sociological Theory and Methods*. Their editors have agreed to respectively publish special issues on the conference.

3. Fees and registration procedures will be announced shortly.

4. The conference is divided into two parts.

(1) Morning session: Training workshop. Three invited grad students or postdocs will present their on-going research. Three advisers (Andreas Diekmann, Douglas Heckathorn, and Yoshimichi Sato) and the audience will give comments to them.

(2) Afternoon session: Open presentations





Research Committee on Rational Choice RC45

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.

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Antonio M. CHIESI, University of Milano, Italy,
antonio.chiesi@unimi.it

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Newsletter Editor

Jun Kobayashi, Japan

jun.kobayashi@fh.seikei.ac.jp

From the President's Desk:

Dear RC45 members,

The ISA Forum in Vienna is approaching and I would like to keep you informed about its preparation.

I am glad to let you know that we had numerous proposals of papers coming from colleagues of many countries in different continents for presentation in all the planned sessions. The research committee has decided to admit 48 abstracts allocated to 9 sessions. In order to give the possibility of presentation to a larger number of authors, we decided to open a poster session too. I hope that this poster session is very successful, as it was two years ago in Yokohama.

We have reallocated a number of abstracts to different sessions, in order to give sufficient time to everyone for presentation and discussion.

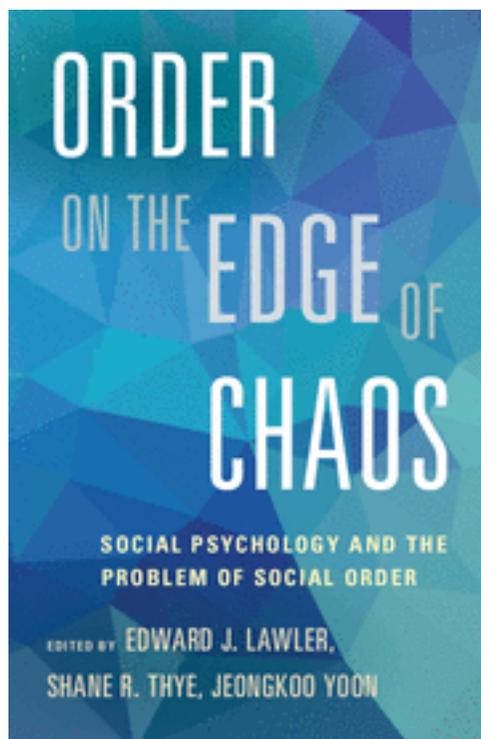
Because of this allocation we foresee around 4-6 papers equally distributed in each session. The sessions' arguments range from substantial and well-consolidated subjects such as social preferences and expectations, the micro-macro links, inequalities, social capital and trust, collective behavior. Some sessions collect papers with a common method, such as experimental approaches or standard survey. One promising session is devoted to the debate on the specificities and similarities of Rational Choice Theories vs. Analytical Sociology.

I would like to thank the members of the board of RC45, for the nice work they have done in order to get all the premises for an interesting and fruitful Forum.

I wish you all a bright incoming year of successful research activities and I am looking forward to meeting a lot of you in Vienna next summer.

Recent Publications of Interest

ORDER ON THE EDGE OF CHAOS: Social Psychology and the Problem of Social Order (Cambridge University Press, January 2016)



Editors: Edward J. Lawler (Cornell University), Shane R. Thye (University of South Carolina), Jeongkoo Yoon (Ewha Women’s University, South Korea)

Order and stability are highly tenuous and fragile in the world today. People have to work to create and sustain a semblance of stability and order in their lives and in their organizations and larger communities. This book compares different theoretical ideas about how people coordinate and cooperate to do this. The ideas come from “micro-sociology,” and they offer new answers to the classic question of Thomas Hobbes: “How is social order possible?” The most common answers in sociology, political science, and economics assume a fundamental tension between individual and group interests. This volume reveals that social orders are problematic even without such tension, because when people interact with each other, they verify their identities, feel and respond to emotions, combine different goal frames, and develop shared responsibility. The ties of people to groups result from many aspects their social interactions, and these cannot be explained by individual self-interest.

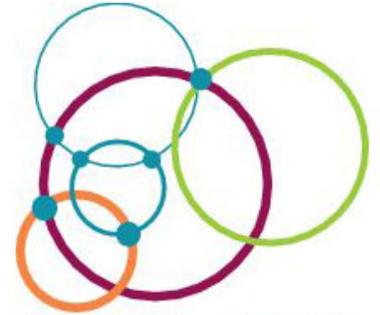
Guillermina Jasso. 2015. “Thinking, Saying, Doing in the World of Distributive Justice.” *Social Justice Research* 28:435-478. DOI: 10.1007/s11211-015-0257-3.



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



3rd ISA Forum of SOCIOLOGY



July 10–14, 2016
Vienna, Austria

RC45 Rational Choice

Program Coordinator:

Antonio M. CHIESI, University of Milano, Italy,

antonio.chiesi@unimi.it

Sessions:

Analytical and Rational-Choice-Oriented Sociology: Friends or Foes?

Experimental Approaches to the Study of the Emergence of Social
Norms

Fairness Concerns and Social Preferences in Rational Choice Models

Individual Interest and the Future "We" Want: Rational Choice
Mechanisms of Modernity and Anti-Modernity

Micro Macro Link in Action and Relation Systems

Rational Action Theory and Applications

Rational Choice and Inequalities in the Life Course

Rational Choice and Social Psychology: Theory and Applications

Rational Foundation of Social Capital and Trust