

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

Summer (August 6) 2015



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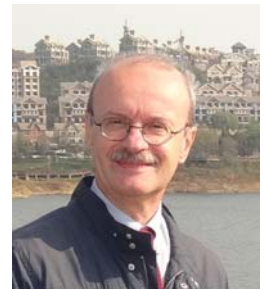
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From the President's Desk

Antonio M. Chiesi



Dear members of ISA-RC45,

The year 2015 has begun with the election of the new board, which has taken the responsibility of organizing our committee for the period 2015-2018, until the next World Congress in Toronto. The new board is the result of the first application of the new statutes approved in Buenos Aires, which gives the vote to all members in good standing through an electronic ballot, not only to those who attend the world congress.

As new chairman let me first thank warmly all those who have served in the previous board and whose experience has been fruitful in granting a rich and high quality program. These are Elisabeth Roberto, Yale University and Thess Schoenholzer, University of Berne, who has acted as secretary-treasurer. We all owe special gratitude to Rafael Wittek, University of Groningen, and Yoshimichi Sato, Tohoku University. Both of them have been past presidents and have devoted their scientific experience and wisdom to the benefit of our committee. In the past four years a dense and interesting set of initiatives has been offered to the international community of rational choice scholars. These initiatives have involved different disciplines which share the common idea that social, political and economic phenomena can be better understood through the lenses of rational choice theory. Different activities have been carried out in fruitful collaboration with the ASA.

The quality and representativeness of the new board is a warranty in carrying on the tradition of an active committee and certainly a good premise to attract new members all over the world. First of all we can count on Hanno Scholtz, who has done a great coordination of all the initiatives in the past four years as a wise and pragmatic chairman. Jun Kobayashi, Seykei University, who has already done a great job in editing our newsletters, is willing to keep this strategic function within the new board. Antonio Jaime-Castillo, who has been involved as co-organizer in several past initiatives, will serve as secretary treasurer, while Willy Jasso, New York University, will keep her position for the second term. We all know that we can still count on their experience as members of the new board.

New members have been elected who can bring new ideas and who are representative of important approaches to the study of RCT. Rense Corten, Utrecht University, is a young scholar who has done cutting edge research in network analysis and game theory. Masayuki Kanai, Senshu University, is an expert in mathematical sociology applied to RCT and social capital theory. Kazuto Misumi, Kyushu University, has extensively studied social stratification and social mobility, as well as group processes. Michael Hechter, University of Washington, has applied models of RCT to historical processes and has already been the first chairman of RC45 (1990-1994). We all are very pleased to have again on board the founder of our RC45.

Now we can look forward to the next activities. I remind you that October 31 is the deadline for the submission of papers to the “Best Student Paper Award”, which is a way to promote RCT among young scholars.

I also remind you that September 30 is the deadline for on-line submission of abstracts to the rich program of sessions at the ISA Forum in Vienna. We have a stimulating variety of topics, which range from analytical and rational choice-oriented sociology (Gianluca Manzo), to experimental approaches to the study of the emergence of social norms (Rense Corten and Wojtek Przepiorka), fairness concerns and social preferences in rational choice models (Antonio Jaime-Castillo), rational choice mechanisms of modernity and anti-modernity (Hanno Scholtz),

micro-macro link in action and relation systems (Kazuto Misumi), rational choice and inequalities in the life course (Masayuki Kanai), rational choice and social psychology (Jun Kobayashi), rational foundation of social capital and trust (Yoshimichi Sato). All in all I believe the rich program of our RC45 in Vienna can enjoy success and raise interest, as it was with the previous program in Yokohama.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you in Vienna next Summer.

Greetings from a red-hot Milan (39° today!).



ASA 2015 Annual Meeting in Chicago, August 22-25

Section on Rationality and Society Session Program (All places TBA)

Be sure that our **business meeting is Sunday, August 23, 3:30 to 4:10pm** (see program 5 below).

1. Saturday, August 22; 6:30 to 8:30pm
Joint Reception: Sections on Evolution, Biology and Society; Rationality and Society; Mathematical Sociology

2. Sunday, August 23, 10:30am to 12:10pm
206 - Regular Session. Rational Choice

Session Organizer: *Denise L. Anthony, Dartmouth College*

President: *Denise L. Anthony, Dartmouth College*

Evolution of Beliefs in Returns to Parental Investments: Formally Modelling Dynamic Intergenerational Bayesian Learning Processes - *Anders Trolle, University of Copenhagen*

Mobile Social Dilemmas in an Experiment: Mobility Accelerates the Cycle, but does not Change Cooperation - *Jun Kobayashi, Seikei University*

Relative power: Material and Contextual Elements of Efficacy in Social Dilemmas - *Dieko Marnix Bakker, University of Groningen; Jacob Dijkstra, University of Groningen*

Zelizer in Azerbaijan: Social Solidarity in an Environment of Distrust - *Dustin S. Stoltz, University of Notre Dame; Aaron Z. Pitluck, Illinois State University*

Discussant - *Anthony Paik, University of Massachusetts-Amherst*

3. Sunday, August 23, 12:30 to 2:10pm, 259 - Section on Rationality and Society Paper Session. Rationality and Social Structure

Session Organizer: *David Willer, University of South Carolina*

Presider: *David Willer, University of South Carolina*

Cooperation in One-Shot and Two-Shot Simultaneous and Sequential Prisoner's Dilemmas Under Incomplete and Complete Information - *Jacob Dijkstra, University of Groningen; Marcel Van Assen, Tilburg University*

Heterogeneity Promotes Cooperation in the Second-Order Free Rider Dilemma - *Andreas Diekmann, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology ETH Zurich; Wojtek Przepiorka, Utrecht University*

In Vivo Experimental Study of Emergent Mobilization in Online Collective Action - *Gabriela Gonzalez, State University of New York-Stony Brook; Juhi Tyagi, State University of New York-Stony Brook; Afife Idil Akin, State University of New York-Stony Brook; Fernanda Raquel Page Poma, State University of New York-Stony Brook; Arnout van de Rijt, State University of New York-Stony Brook; Michael Schwartz, State University of New York-Stony Brook*

Social Control, Social Learning, and Cheating. Evidence from Lab and Online Experiments on Dishonesty - *Martina Kroher, Leibniz University Hanover; Tobias Wolbring, University of Mannheim*

Discussant - *Mamadi Corra, East Carolina University*

4. Sunday, August 23, 2:30 to 3:30pm 302 - Section on Rationality and Society Paper Session (one-hour). Analytical Sociology

Session Organizer: *Arnout van de Rijt, State University of New York-Stony Brook*

A Mathematical Analysis of the Potential Function Method of Cooperative Relationships - *Robert Hideo Mamada, Arizona State University*

The Generalized Matthew Effect in Science - *Tobias Wolbring, University of Mannheim; Rudolf Farys, Universität Bern*

Discussant - *Neha Gondal, The Ohio State University*

5. Sunday, August 23, 3:30 to 4:10pm Section on Rationality and Society Business Meeting

Best Papers Award 2015, ASA Section on Rationality and Society

1. Rationality and Society section award for best article

Andreas Diekmann, ETH Zurich; Ben Jann, University of Bern; Wojtek Przepiorka, Utrecht University; Stefan Wehrli, ETH Zurich

Diekmann, Andreas, Ben Jann, Wojtek Przepiorka, and Stefan Wehrli. 2014. "Reputation formation and the evolution of cooperation in anonymous online markets." *American Sociological Review* 79: 65-85.

Committee: *Jacob Dijkstra (chair), Mamadi Corra, and Michael Mäs*

2. Rationality and Society section award for best paper by a graduate student

Daniel J. Della Posta, Cornell University

Della Posta, Daniel J. "Bridging the Parochial Divide: Closure and Brokerage in Mafia Families."

Committee: *Marcel van Assen (chair), Yoshimichi Sato, and Pamela Emanuelson*

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



3rd ISA Forum of SOCIOLOGY



Third ISA Forum of Sociology, Vienna, Austria, July 10-14, 2016

Call for Abstracts, Due September 30, 2015

The Third ISA Forum will be convened in Vienna, in July 10-14, 2016 on the theme "The Futures We Want: Global Sociology and the Struggles for a Better World." RC 45 calls for abstracts in the following 9 sessions. See

<https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/forum2016/webprogram/abstract/Symposium310.html> for details.

Program Coordinator: *Antonio M. Chiesi, University of Milano*

Sessions

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

Organizer: *Gianluca Manzo, CNRS*

2. Experimental Approaches to the Study of the Emergence of Social Norms

Organizers: *Rense Corten, Utrecht University, Wojtek Przepiorka, Utrecht University*

3. Fairness Concerns and Social Preferences in Rational Choice Models

Organizer: *Antonio M. Jaime-Castillo, Universidad de Málaga*

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

Organizer: *Hanno Scholtz, University of Konstanz*

5. Micro Macro Link in Action and Relation Systems

Organizer: *Kazuto Misumi, Kyushu University*

6. Rational Action Theory and Applications

Organizer: *Antonio M. Chiesi, University of Milano*

7. Rational Choice and Inequalities in the Life Course

Organizer: *Masayuki Kanai, Senshu University*

8. Rational Choice and Social Psychology: Theory and Applications

Organizer: *Jun Kobayashi, Seikei University*

9. Rational Foundation of Social Capital and Trust

Organizers: *Yoshimichi Sato, Tohoku University, Antonio M. Chiesi, University of Milano*

Editors' note

The ASA annual meeting will be held in Chicago this year. Chicago is a special place for some of us... Tony, Arnout, and I graduated from the University of Chicago. Thanks to Tony, we have four exciting sessions. And congratulations, Andreas, Ben, Wojtek, Stefan, and Daniel, for the section award! Hope to see you all in Chicago. (Jun)



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Recent Publications from Our Members

Ermakoff, Ivan. 2015. "The Structure of Contingency," *American Journal of Sociology*, 121(1): 1-61.

Berger, Joël; Diekmann, Andreas. 2015. "The Logic of Relative Frustration: Boudon's Competition Model and Experimental Evidence." *European Sociological Review*, online first, doi: 10.1093/esr/jcv071