

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

2017 Summer (August)



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From the President's Desk

Antonio M. Chiesi



Dear RC45 Members,

I think many of you are already in vacation and physically far from their work place. Nonetheless, nowadays everybody keeps being in touch with the rest of the world, even in the most remote places. Being busy on other pleasant occupations, most of you will just skip this message and keep it for your return, once vacations are over.

Be that as it may, and before beginning vacations myself in a cooler latitude, I am pleased to let you know about our RC45 activities and what will be next until we meet in Toronto, next summer.

The preparation of the World Congress in Toronto is proceeding well. We are organizing nine sessions on different areas of research, both substantive and methodological and we are confident that they can attract the interest of many scholars around the world.

As you can see from other sections of Agora, our second international workshop on "Social Inequality" to be held in Utrecht is approaching. We had a lot of proposals and the meeting seems very interesting and of high quality. RC45 members in good standing will enjoy discounted fees. Moreover, our Research Committee has offered resources for travel expenses in favour of young scholars. Thanks again to Jun Kobayashi for taking the burden of a promising initiative.

Let me remind you that the "Best Student Paper Award" has been launched. This is the second edition

of the prize, which will be delivered to the winning author in Toronto.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention on a very important institutional deadline. According to its Statutes, RC45 will have a new board and a new president before the next World Congress. The present president cannot seek re-election and no member of the board can serve more than two contiguous terms. The election day will be in the month prior to the beginning of the World Congress, but the preliminary procedures have to start well before. The board determines the number of board members to be elected for the next term and appoints an Electoral Officer who is not seeking election for the upcoming term. At least twenty weeks before the election day all regular members of RC45 shall be entitled to nominate candidates for the Board. The Electoral Officer prepares a ballot listing all nominated candidates along with the respective positions on the Board. The ballot is sent to all regular and affiliated members of RC45 at least eight weeks before the election day. Regular and affiliated members send their ballots to the Electoral Officer.

As you see, the first semester of 2018 will be a busy period for our RC45 and the decisions we shall take have important consequences for the governance of our still small, but very active research Committee.

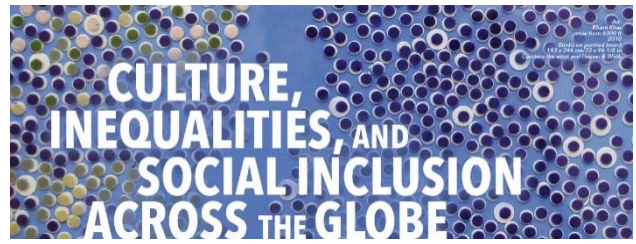
Have a nice vacation and see you in Toronto.

New Officer and Council Member at ASA Rationality and Society Section

Vincent Buskens, section chair



I am happy to announce that **Jun Kobayashi** is elected as the new Chair-Elect and **Katie Corcoran** as new council member for the upcoming year. Congratulations to them for the elections and thanks for their willingness to serve on the council.



112th ASA Annual Meeting in Montreal, August 12-15, 2017

Section on Rationality and Society Program

Be sure that our **business meeting is Tuesday, August 15, 3:30 to 4:10pm.**

1. Morality, Rationality and Collective Action

Tue, August 15, 10:30am to 12:10pm, Palais des congres de Montreal, Level 5, 512G

Description: This session contains papers that discuss morality and rationality issues related to collective action problems in the broad sense. This includes also work on social dilemmas, social solidarity, etc. We want to trigger in particular discussion on how moral and rational perspective can be combined, can complement each other or contradict each other for understanding behavior in collective action problems. The session contains theoretical as well as empirical contributions.

2. Empirical Tests of Rational Choice Models

Tue, August 15, 12:30 to 2:10pm, Palais des congres de Montreal, Level 5, 512H

3. Theoretical Advances Using Rational Choice

Tue, August 15, 2:30 to 3:30pm, Palais des congres de Montreal, Level 5, 512G

Description: This session examines new developments that promise to advance theories using rational choice. These developments center upon formal theoretical approaches.

4. Section Business Meeting

Tue, August 15, 3:30 to 4:10pm, Palais des congres de Montreal, Level 5, 512G

Awards 2017, ASA Section on Rationality and Society

Vincent Buskens, section chair

It is my pleasure to announce the 2017 Rationality and Society Award Winners. Congratulations to Damon and Minjae and thanks to the award committee consisting of Katrin Auspurg, Martin Abraham and Pamela Emanuelson for the Coleman Award and Jun Kobayashi, David Calnitsky and Masayuki Kanai for the Graduate Paper Award.

1. Coleman Award for Outstanding Article

Winner(s): **Damon Centola**, University of Pennsylvania, 2015, "The Social Origins of Networks and Diffusion," *American Journal of Sociology* 120(5): 1295-1338

Committee: Katrin Auspurg (chair), Martin Abraham, Pamela Emanuelson

Comments from the committee chair: In his paper Damon M. Centola analyses how the principle of homophily and network consolidation (i.e. the extent to which individuals' positions on different dimensions of social life are correlated, such as people having similar job positions also living in similar neighborhoods or volunteering in similar organizations) impact network topologies.

Moreover, he explores the effectiveness of different network topologies for the diffusion of social beliefs and behaviors. What we can learn from the very precise theoretical models and computer simulations is that a very high level of network consolidation triggers strongly "balkanized communities" with a poor social integration. But also too low levels of network consolidation can prevent the successful diffusion of shared social norms or practices because resulting networks lack the overlapping social groups that are needed for the social reinforcement of behavioral adaptations and cultural beliefs.

Despite dealing with a very complex topic the paper is throughout written in a very clear and compelling manner. It nicely extends former models on network formation and social diffusion. Furthermore, it provides very valuable insights how small changes of population structure might improve the social integration of societies. Therewith the paper is also of high practical impact. Many insights seem to be very beneficial in the context of current challenges such as the integration of increasing numbers of migrants and refugees in Europe or efforts to prevent societies from further fragmenting in polarized groups with more and more distinct

(political) attitudes. Therefore, the dynamics studied in the paper seem to be not only of high impact for academics specialized in network research. Also other readers interested in the interplay of network formation, social diffusion and integration might learn a lot from the author's clear and precise analyses.

2. Graduate Student Paper Award

Winner(s): **Minjae Kim**, Fourth-year PhD student, MIT Sloan School of Management, "A Man Is Known by His Cup: Signaling Commitment via Costly Conformity"

Committee: Jun Kobayashi (chair), Masayuki Kanai, David Calnitsky,



Second International Workshop of ISA RC45 on Social Inequality, Utrecht, September 1, 2017

Jun Kobayashi, organizer

ISA RC45 holds a workshop on social inequality this summer. This is cosponsored by the SSP Project in Japan (PI: Toru Kikkawa). Its program is attached at the end.

Members' Activities

Michael Hechter, "Threat, Deterrence and Penal Severity: An Analysis of Flogging in the Royal Navy, 1740-1820." *Social Science History*. Forthcoming (with Patrick Underwood and Steven Pfaff).

Michael Hechter, "The Legitimacy of Alien Rulers," *Swiss Political Science Review*. 22 (4): (December 2016) 454-469 (with Christine Horne, Pazi Ben-Nun Bloom, Kyle Irwin and Dan Miodownik).

Michael Hechter, "Center-Periphery Bargaining in the Age of Democracy." *Swiss Political Science Review*, 22 (4) (December 2016: 439-453 (with Sean Mueller and David Siroky).

Michael Hechter, "Conclusion: Center-Periphery Bargaining in the Age of Democracy." *Swiss Political Science Review*, 22 (4) (December 2016:

- 625-630 (with Sean Mueller and David Siroky).
- Michael Hechter, "Ethnicity, Class and Civil War: The Role of Hierarchy, Segmentation and Crosscutting Cleavages." *Civil Wars* 18 (1) (January 2016): 91-107 (with David Siroky).
- Michael Hechter, "Cultural Legacies and Political Preferences: The Failure of Separatism in the Swiss Jura," *European Political Science Review*, 9 (2) (May 2017): 303-327 (with David Siroky and Sean Mueller).
- Michael Hechter, "The Problem of Solidarity in Insurgent Collective Action: The Nore Mutiny of 1797," *Social Science History*, 40: 2 (2016): 247-270 (with Steven Pfaff and Katie Corcoran).
- Michael Hechter, "Grievances and the Genesis of Rebellion: Mutiny in the Royal Navy, 1740-1820," *American Sociological Review* 81: 1 (2016): 165-189 (with Steven Pfaff and Patrick Underwood). Honorable Mention for the Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Article Award by the Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section of the American Sociological Association, 2017.
- Guillermina Jasso, 2016. "Mathematical Sociology." In Janeen Baxter (ed.), *Oxford Bibliographies in Sociology*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Norbutas, L., & Corten, R. (2017). "Network structure and economic prosperity in municipalities: A large-scale test of social capital theory using social media data." Forthcoming in *Social Networks*.
- Hofstra, B., Corten, R., van Tubergen, F., & Ellison, N. B. (2017). "Sources of Segregation in Social Networks: A Novel Approach Using Facebook." *American Sociological Review*, 82(3), 625-656.
- Karl-Dieter Opp. 2016. "Exit, Voice, and the Impact of Regional, National and European Identification. An Integration and Empirical Test of Albert Hirschman's Theory and the Theory of Collective Action." Pp. 115-141 in *Dynamics of National Identity, Media and Societal Factors of What We Are*, edited by Jürgen Grimm, Josef Seethaler, and Peter Schmidt. London and New York: Routledge.
- Michael Mäs and Karl-Dieter Opp. 2016. "When Is Ignorance Bliss? Disclosing True Information and Cascades of Norm Violation in Networks." *Social Networks* 47(1):116-129.
- Karl-Dieter Opp. 2017. "Dump the Concept of Rationality into the Deep Ocean." Pp. 95-96 in *Economic Ideas You Should Forget*, edited by Bruno S. Frey and David Iselin. New York: Springer.
- Karl-Dieter Opp. 2017. "When Do People Follow Norms and When Do They Pursue Their Interests? Implications of Dual-Process Models and Rational Choice Theory, Tested for Protest Participation." Pp. 119-141 in *Social Dilemmas, Institutions and the Evolution of Cooperation*, edited by Ben Jann and Wojtek Przepiorka: de Gruyter/Oldenbourg.
- Rationality and Society* 29 (1), 2017, Special Issue Symposium: Social Dynamics of Institutional Change.
- Introduction, Douglas D Heckathorn.
- Endogenous dynamics of institutional change, Daniel DellaPosta, Victor Nee, Sonja Oppen.
- Notes toward a macro version of the Nee–DellaPosta–Oppen model of institutional change, Robert Solow.
- Ecological and rational choice models of endogenous change, Martin Ruef.
- Microfoundations of institutional change, Arnout van de Rijt.
- The local dynamics of institutional change, Christopher J Cameron, Michael Macy.
- Layers of endogeneity—How porous boundaries between state and society complicate institutional change, Paul DiMaggio.
- Strategic rationality and endogenous institutional change, Randall Calvert.

Editors' note

The ASA annual meeting is held in Montreal. Several section members organize three fabulous sessions. Jun and colleagues organize the second workshop of ISA RC45 in Utrecht after the ASA meeting. It focuses on social inequality (see an attached program for details). See you soon in Montreal or Utrecht! (Jun)



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ISA
RC45
Research Committee on
Rational Choice

SSP Project
Stratification and Social Psychology

Second International Workshop of ISA RC45 on Social Inequality *Preliminary Program (August 8)*

Date: September 1, 2017, 9:00am to 5:00pm

Venue: Sweelinck Room, Drift 21, Utrecht, The Netherlands

Invited discussants: **Antonio M. Chiesi** (University of Milan, RC45 president), **Gianluca Manzo** (University of Paris, editor of *Analytical Sociology*)



Chiesi



Manzo

Organizers: **Jun Kobayashi** (Seikei University, RC45 board member), **Masayuki Kanai** (Senshu University, RC45 board member), **Carola Hommerich** (Hokkaido University, SSP Project board member), **Vincent Buskens** (Utrecht University, local organizer)



Kobayashi



Kanai



Hommerich



Buskens

Cosponsors: International Sociological Association Research Committee 45 on Rational Choice, Stratification and Social Psychology Project (SSP Project)

Website: www.isc.senshu-u.ac.jp/~thh0808/utrecht/

Notes: 1. Each presenter has 15 minutes for oral presentation and 10 minutes for discussion (including comments from invited discussants).

2. Please try to keep time so that participants can move from one room to another.

3. Only presenters' names appear in this program.

4. Lunch and coffee are included in registration fees.

Program:

9:00am Reception opens

9:20-9:30 Opening remarks

Antonio M. Chiesi, Toru Kikkawa, Jun Kobayashi

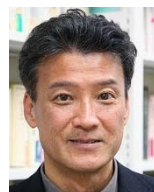
9:30-10:30 Keynote speeches

Guillermina Jasso (New York University, RC45 board member), *Theoretical insights for empirical inequality research*

Toru Kikkawa (Osaka University, SSP Project PI), *Examining social change in Japan based on social research practice*



Jasso



Kikkawa

10:30-10:45 Coffee break

10:45-12:00

Session 1 Culture, Social capital (Room=Sweelinck Room, Discussant=Gianluca Manzo, Chair=Vincent Buskens)

Kazuto Misumi, *Social capital and disaster: Rationality to hold free riders*

Xavier Hussain, *Dividing the faithful: The role of religion in Latin American inequality*

Jun Kobayashi, *Cultural inequality and freedom: Empirical analyses of SSP 2015 data*

Session 2 Well-Being (Room=Room 104, Discussant=Antonio M. Chiesi, Chair=Carola Hommerich)

Yuto Hashizume, *Scar effect of unemployment experience on subjective well-being*

Nabarun Majumdar, *Bauls of Bengal and their melas in west Bengal (India) and Bangladesh*

Masayuki Kanai, *Changes in the effect of social mobility on subjective wellbeing in Japan: Evidence from the SSM surveys 1985-2015*

12:00-1:15pm Lunch

1:15-2:05

Session 3 Social psychology, Gender (Room=Sweelinck Room, Discussant=Gianluca Manzo, Chair=Jun Kobayashi)

Atsushi Ishida, *A Bernoulli model of class identification*

Sehar Ezdi, *The elderly missing women phenomenon: Excess female mortality as a result of social inequality*

Session 4 Policy (Room=Room 104, Discussant=Antonio M. Chiesi, Chair=Masayuki Kanai)

Kikuko Nagayoshi, *In what conditions social vulnerability affect support for redistributive policies?*

Carola Hommerich, *Income inequality and public support for social welfare policy: Where does liberalization end?*

2:05-2:20 Coffee break

2:20-3:10

Session 5 Education (Room=Sweelinck Room, Discussant=Gianluca Manzo, Chair=Vincent Buskens)

Ryotaro Hazama, *The educational gap of the present-orientation in Japanese youth*

Nils Lerch, *Is the educational attainment a relative or absolute good?*

Session 6 Policy (Room=Room 104, Discussant=Antonio M. Chiesi, Chair=Carola Hommerich)

Elena Tuparevska, *The 2015 Declaration on promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education (Paris Declaration) and the conceptualization of social exclusion and social inequality in EU adult education policies*

Takashi Ito, *Social Inequality and voter participation in contemporary Japan*

3:10-3:25 Coffee break

3:25-4:15

Session 7 Social psychology (Room=Sweelinck Room, Discussant=Antonio M. Chiesi, Gianluca Manzo, Chair=Vincent Buskens)

Sebastian Hülle, *Attitudes toward distributive justice: Change and stability over the life-course*

Hiroshi Kanbayashi, *The changing of images of social stratification in Japan*

4:15-4:30 Coffee break

4:30-5:00 Award ceremony, closing remarks

Masayuki Kanai, Carola Hommerich, Vincent Buskens