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


**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 Opper.

Notes toward a macro version of the Nee–DellaPosta–Opper model of institutional change, Robert Solow.

Ecological and rational choice models of endogenous change, Martin Rief.

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.

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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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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*)

**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)

**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/](http://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*

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