

The AGORA

Newsletter of the Decision-Making, Social Networks, and Society Section of the American Sociological Association and the Research Committee 45 on Micro-Macro Modelling of the International Sociological Association

January 2026



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From the Chair's Desk (ASA)

Fabien Accominotti



Dear friends of the Decision-Making, Social Networks, and Society section,

I hope your 2026 is off to an exciting start, and I am honored to be writing at a time of palpable intellectual vitality in our section – a vitality which I am sure will extend into the new year and beyond. I want to stress four signs of this vitality, some of which are new initiatives that I hope many of you will take advantage of.

First, our numbers have continued growing this year. Between the beginning of 2025 and the time of this writing, our membership has increased by roughly 25 percent, and it now totals around 250 members. From an admittedly impressionistic analysis of the data, a large chunk of our growth seems driven by the addition of emerging scholars, whether graduate students or recent PhDs. This bodes well for the intellectual and organizational future of our section, and I want to thank section officers present and past, including recent chairs Daniel DellaPosta and Emily Erikson, for their tireless work in making the section a scholarly home for many of our colleagues. I also want to thank younger members who over the past few months have volunteered to serve the section in various capacities – whether by running for office or by organizing one of our sessions at next summer's

ASA. I know how busy you are, I appreciate your commitment, and I hope you keep spreading the word about our intellectual community.

Second, while numbers are important, the content of the work we promote may be even more so. In that respect, the excitement on display at our ASA sessions last summer was a thing to marvel over. To extend this excitement to the months between our annual meetings, I am pleased to share that starting this year, our section and the International Sociological Association's research committee on Micro-Macro Modelling (MMM) are launching a new series of online seminars with the goal of advancing our joint research agenda. Information and links for this "DMSNS-MMM series," which this spring will consist of two events on January 30 and April 23, can be found further down this newsletter. Do not hesitate to share this information with colleagues outside the section, though we would like to ask you not to post links directly on social media. I am most grateful to ISA's MMM president Gianluca Manzo for this initiative, and to DMSNS council member Diego Leal for making the series happen this year.

Third, organizational changes at ASA mean that our section is organizing *five* sessions at this year's annual meeting – up from three last year. We will therefore be able to better showcase the wide variety of our members' interests, with panels on middle-range theorizing (organized by Jacob Habinek), spatial mechanisms (organized by Daniel Tadmon), network approaches to culture (organized by Yongren Shi), or cutting-edge network scholarship (organized by Shay O'Brien). I am particularly thrilled for an invited session where I have asked Elizabeth Bruch, Siwei Cheng, and Izabel Aguiar to reflect on how recent advances in network research renew network analysis's classic contributions to our understanding of social structure. You can find the full calls and submit to our five sessions through ASA's submission portal.

Finally, for the first time this year we will be giving out our renamed Harrison C. White Outstanding Book Award. Acknowledging that the scholarship we care about is often published in book format, moving forward we will also give this award every other year instead of every three years. As a former student of Harrison, whom I remember not only as an intellectual giant of unbound creativity but also as the kindest person – someone who never failed to encourage you to "go your own way" – I am moved that we are

recognizing him in this way. The information for submitting your work to our White, Coleman, and Best Student Paper awards this year is available immediately below this message.

Thank you for your continued engagement with our section, and please feel free to email me with any ideas for how we may continue to improve serving our members.

Warmly,



Fabien Accominotti
Associate Professor of Sociology
University of Wisconsin-Madison
accominotti@wisc.edu

Call for Award Submissions for the ASA Decision-Making, Social Networks, and Society Section



The James S. Coleman Award for Outstanding Article
Deadline for Submissions: March 31, 2026

The section on Decision-Making, Social Networks, and Society invites nominations (including self-nominations) for its Outstanding Article Award of theoretical or empirical articles addressing issues of decision-making, social networks, or more broadly entering the traditions of analytical and computational sociology. Eligible articles must have been published within the past two calendar years (2024 and 2025). Both faculty and graduate students are eligible for the award, but an article may not be submitted both to the section's Outstanding Article Award and Best Graduate Student Paper Award. Co-authors share the award equally. Nominators should be members in good standing of the American Sociological Association. Nominations, including a .pdf version of the article, should be submitted to committee chair Lauren

Valentino (lauren.valentino@unc.edu) and committee members Kevin Kiley (kkiley@ncsu.edu), Austin Van Loon (vanloon@mit.edu), and Linda Zhao (lindazhao@uchicago.edu) by March 31, 2026.

The Harrison C. White Award for Outstanding Book
Deadline for Submissions: March 31, 2026

The section on Decision-Making, Social Networks, and Society invites nominations (including self-nominations) for its Outstanding Book Award of theoretical or empirical books addressing issues of decision-making, social networks, or more broadly entering the traditions of analytical and computational sociology. To be eligible for the award, the book must have been published within the past two years (2024 and 2025). Both faculty and graduate students are eligible for the award. Co-authors share the award equally. Nominators should be members in good standing of the ASA. Nominations and books should be sent by March 31, 2026, to committee chair:

Scott Duxbury (duxbury@email.unc.edu)
208 W. Franklin Street, Room 2024
Chapel Hill, NC 27514, USA

and committee members:

Elizabeth Bruch (ebruch@umich.edu)
2065 Day Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104, USA

and

Paul McLean (pmclean@rutgers.edu)
Department of Sociology
Rutgers University
26 Nichol Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901, USA

Additional questions about hard or electronic copies may be addressed directly to the committee.

The Best Graduate Student Paper Award
Deadline for Submissions: March 31, 2026

The section on Decision-Making, Social Networks, and Society invites nominations (including self-nominations) for its Best Graduate Student Paper Award of theoretical or empirical papers addressing issues of decision-making, social networks, or more broadly entering the traditions of analytical and computational sociology. Authors should be students

currently enrolled in a graduate program and who will not have received their PhD by the time they submit the paper (March 31, 2026). Co-authored papers are eligible if none of the authors has received a PhD. Nominations can be for unpublished papers, or for articles published within the past two calendar years (2024 and 2025). An article may not be submitted both to the section's Outstanding Article Award and Best Graduate Student Paper Award. Please include (1) a brief statement explaining why the paper deserves this award, including the name of the author, their degree status, and their institutional affiliation; and (2) a .pdf copy of the manuscript or article. Nominations should be submitted to committee chair James Chu (jyc2163@columbia.edu) and committee members Philipp Brandt (philipp.brandt@sciencespo.fr) and Megan Kang (mshkang@princeton.edu) by March 31, 2026.

New DMSNS-MMM Seminar Series

Fabien Accominotti and Gianluca Manzo

This year, ISA's research committee on Micro-Macro Modelling (MMM) and ASA's DMSNS section are launching a new series of online seminars with the goal of advancing our joint research agenda by featuring work on micro-macro linkages and on how the complex interplay of decision-making processes and social network dynamics shapes sociological outcomes. We want to share a warm thank you with ASA's DMSNS's council member Diego Leal for making the series happen this year.

Our first seminar will take place on January 30, 2026, 11am-1pm EST and showcase the work of the DMSNS Section's 2025 award winners. Below is more information on this first panel. Please feel free to circulate this info and link with colleagues outside our section and committee, though we would appreciate it if you would not post the link directly on social media.

Showcasing the Work of the DMSNS Section's 2025 Award Winners

Friday, January 30, 2026, 11am-1pm EST (8-10am PST, 5-7pm CET)

Zoom link: <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/87833187922>

Meeting ID: 878 3318 7922

Schedule of Paper Presentations:

“Networks at Work: Officer Diversity, Network Segregation, and Police Misconduct”

Speaker: **Linda Zhao** (University of Chicago)

“Micro Effects on Macro Structure: Identification, Interpretation, Mediation, and Sensitivity Analysis for Model Selection.”

Speakers: **Jenna Wertsching** (UNC-Chapel Hill) and **Scott Duxbury** (UNC-Chapel Hill)

“Rooted America: Immobility and Segregation of the Intercounty Migration Network.”

Speakers: **Peng Huang** (University of Georgia) and **Carter Butts** (UC-Irvine)

* Due to family circumstances, **Megan Kang**, our Best Graduate Student Paper winner for 2025, will unfortunately not be able to present on January 30.

You may also want to mark your calendars for the second seminar in this year’s series. This will take place on **Thursday, April 23, 2026, 11am-1pm EST**, and focus on “Algorithms and Social Science,” with speakers:

Marc Keuschnigg (University of Leipzig)

Ana Macanovic (University of Utrecht)

Mario Molina (NYU Abu Dhabi).

We look forward to seeing many of you at these two events!

The scientific project of the Research Committee 45 on “Micro-Macro Modelling” is to advance the development of explanatory models connecting the micro and macro levels of social life. This includes the theoretical design of these models as well as the hard work needed to connect them to empirical data. At the micro-level, the Committee is especially interested in the study of decision-making mechanisms as well as in the analysis of the complex ways in which actors’ behaviours are shaped by their embeddedness in social networks. At the macro-level, the committee is open to investigations including a large variety of substantive phenomena among which distributional inequality, segregation patterns, opinion polarization, norm evolutions, diffusion dynamics or long-term historical processes. Although the Committee is especially interested in cutting-edge statistical, computational and experimental techniques to build and test micro-macro mechanism-oriented models, qualitative and quantitative perspectives are both welcome as long as the chosen method and type of data are at the service of the analysis of mechanisms underlying micro-macro dynamics.

From the President’s Desk

Gianluca Manzo



Happy New Year! 2025 is now behind us and we can safely say that it was an important year for our research committee.

First, the process for changing the description of our scientific project and name was successfully completed and approved by ISA: both the website and

our statutes are now modified and updated. Please visit the [website](#), and do not hesitate to circulate it through your academic networks. Second, we had a rich and well attended set of paper sessions at ISA forum in Rabat where many of us had the chance to meet in person and exchange about the future of our section. Finally, membership has continued to grow. Our research committee currently counts 63 members, well above the minimum threshold of 50 that is required not to lose the status of a “research committee.”

The most practical consequence of this trend is that we now are in position to claim access again to ISA grants. For research committees of size between 50 and 74, the amount is small (840 Euros max). It is nevertheless certainly sufficient to implement new actions with the potential to continue to increase the attractiveness of our research committee, in particular among early career scholars. One of these actions we agreed upon at the business meeting in Rabat was to redesign the RC45 publication prize. Let us hope for 2026 that ISA will support this project by allocating to us one of its “activity grants” that we may then devote to reward our prize winner(s), symbolically and materially!

But new initiatives are already in place for the New Year. Among future activities brainstormed in Rabat, it was mentioned the possibility to launch an *on-line* research seminar for members in order to offer our community more tangible scientific benefits as well to create some continuity in our exchanges between the forum and the world congress. Since then, I worked a bit more on that idea. In particular, the historical proximity and the overlap of our scientific program with that of the “Decision-making, Social Networks, and Society” (DMSNS) section at ASA led me to approach (last August) DMSNS council to propose to our fellow colleagues to join our forces for the organization of a common activity. I would like to thank, first, Daniel DellaPosta, the DMSNS’s outgoing chair, for having accepted to initiate this discussion, and, then, Fabien Accominotti and Diego Leal, DMSNS incoming chair and council member respectively, for collaborating over the last months to make the project concrete.

For its first edition, the *DMSNS-MMM Seminar Series* will take the form of a bi-annual event. The first session will be organized by the ASA section, and it will showcase the work of the DMSNS section's 2025 Award Winners; the second session will be organized

by our research committee, and it will be devoted to discuss challenges and limitations of the use of various forms of algorithms for sociological research. The two events are open to the members of both sections with the goal to consolidate and develop our common focus on rigorous sociological research. In order to cultivate interest in sections' activities and related scientific sensibility, it was decided to let the events also accessible to outside participants.

The seminar will take place on-line according to the following program:

January 30, 2026 (11am-1pm EST)

Invited speakers: Megan Kang (Princeton University), Scott Duxbury (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill), Linda Zhao (University of Chicago) & Carter Butts (University of California, Irvine)

April 23, 2026 (11am-1pm EST)

Invited speakers: Marc Keuschnigg (University of Leipzig), Ana Macanovic (University of Utrecht) & Mario Molina (NYU Abu Dhabi)

Please do not hesitate to advertise the *DMSNS-MMM Seminar Series* in your network, and invite new colleagues to become member of the RC45 so that they can fully benefit from the vitality of our activities.

With the hope that this new action will contribute to enlarge the scope and the scale of our research committee, let me wish to all of you that 2026 bring serenity in your personal life as well as new energy and ideas in your academic activities.

Sincerely,

Gianluca MANZO

Gianluca Manzo

Professor of sociology (Sorbonne University)
EAS (European Academy of Sociology) Fellow

Expand Your Academic Network with ISA RC45

Joining the ISA RC45 community has numerous benefits, including access to journals and publications. What's more, with ISA membership, you won't have to worry about renewing your membership every year as it covers four calendar years. If you are a part of the

ASA section on Decision-Making, Social Networks, and Society, we encourage you to join ISA RC45, our sister community.

Membership fees

Regular Member: \$309 for 4 years (just **\$77/year**)

Student: \$149 for 4 years (only **\$37/year**)

Life Member (70+): One-time fee of \$345 for lifetime access

Member benefits

Online access to:

[SAGE Sociology Collection](#) (83 journals)

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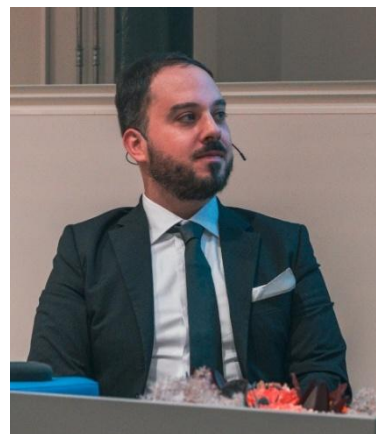
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Join or renew your membership today!

Emerging Scholars on the Market

Hendrik Erz



Hendrik Erz recently successfully defended his PhD Thesis *On the Record: Understanding a Century of Congressional Lawmaking through Speech and Vote Behavior*. In his thesis, he explores both the determinants of Congressional speech as well as the influence of speech on voting behavior of representatives. Across three dissertation papers, he can on the one hand show that representatives are sensitive to external events and react to economic shocks. On the other hand, he can show not just how patterns of polarization are mirrored in the issues representatives address in their speeches, but that speech has a predictive effect on representatives' vote behavior. To explore mechanisms of lawmaking, he utilizes computational text analysis with Large Language Models (LLMs), GLMs, and network

analysis.

On the Record: Understanding a Century of Congressional Lawmaking through Speech and Vote Behavior

<https://doi.org/10.3384/9789181182828>

A private full digital version (*but not intended for public distribution!*) of the published thesis can be found at

https://hendrik.zettlr.com/on_the_record_thesis.pdf

Conferences and Workshops

18th Annual Conference of the International Network of Analytical Sociology

<https://www.nuffield.ox.ac.uk/our-research/sociology/inas-conference-2026/>

Dates: July 1–3, 2026

Venue: The University of Oxford, UK

Abstracts: February 1, 2026

International Conference on Environment and Society

<https://international-environmental-conf26.com/>

Dates: June 17–19, 2026

Venue: Mainau Island, Constance

Abstracts: January 31, 2026

Mentorship Program

European Academy of Sociology Mentorship Programme

<https://www.european-academy-sociology.eu/mentor-programme>

Recent Publications of Interest

Articles:

Feltham, Eric, Laura Forastiere, and Nicholas A. Christakis. 2025. "Cognitive Representations of Social Networks in Isolated Villages." *Nature Human Behaviour* 9, 1737–1753.

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-025-02221-6>

Gelastopoulos, Alexandros, Lucas Sage, and Arnout

van de Rijt. 2025. "Reinforcement Generates Systematic Differences without Heterogeneity." *PNAS* 122(23), e2408163122.

<https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2408163122>

Jasso, Guillermina. 2026. "How Probability Distributions Felled the Case for the Beneficial Effects of Income Inequality: And Other Adventures of Probability Distributions on the Knowledge Quest." *Social Science Research* 134, 103277.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssresearch.2025.103277>

Sharelink thru 26 January 2026:

<https://authors.elsevier.com/a/1mEZ4,17Roknwd>

Lee, Jaemin, David Lazer, and Christoph Riedl. 2025. "Complex Contagion in Social Networks: Causal Evidence from a Country-Scale Field Experiment." *Sociological Science* 12(28), 685–714.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.15195/v12.a28>

Lu, Qianyi Sinyee, and Kevin Leicht. 2025.

"Low-Waged Hourly Employment as a Form of Precarious Work: Racial and Ethnic Disparity and Its Implications." *Social Indicators Research* 180, 1765–1795.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11205-025-03725-4>

Mueller, Georg P. 2025. "Revolutions and Social Time: A Theoretical Analysis." *SN Social Sciences* 5, 166.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s43545-025-01203-9>

Song, Hyang-gi, William Foley, Arnout van de Rijt, and Klarita Gërxhani. 2025. "Choice Homophily on Social Origin and Race: Experimental Evidence from a US University." *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility* 100, 101103.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rssm.2025.101103>

Zhao, Linda. 2025. "Uneven Mixing, Network Segregation, and Immigrant Integration." *American Sociological Review* 90(3), 521–559.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/00031224251336471>

Books:

Brandt, Philipp. 2026. *Inside Data Science: Hackers and the Making of a New Profession*. New York: Columbia University Press.

<https://cup.columbia.edu/book/inside-data-science/9780231214094/>

Manzo, Gianluca. (ed.). 2025. *Boudon Reexamined: Nuts and Bolts for Contemporary Sociological Science*. Paris: Sorbonne University Press.

The book is fully downloadable on the publisher's

website:

<https://sup.sorbonne-universite.fr/catalogue/philosophie-et-sciences-sociales/lintelligence-du-social/boudon-reexamined>

Editors' note

The launch of the *DMSNS-MMM Seminar Series*, scheduled for January 30 and April 23, is exciting news that will highlight our communities' academic vitality. Many thanks to Gianluca Manzo, Daniel DellaPosta, Fabien

Accominotti, Diego Leal, and others for their great leadership!



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