

Tuesday, 12 November 2013

Place of the talk: Instituto de Filosofía y Ciencias de la Complejidad (IFICC)

Title of the talk: Agent-based Modeling and Types of Causality: Insights from A Sociological Example.

Talk Outline: In this talk, I address the question of the extent to which agent-based modeling can be used for causal analysis. In particular, first, I discuss three different understandings of causality and, then, I build on a specific sociological agent-based model to show that: 1/ agent-based modeling does allow to implement a manipulationist and a generative understanding of causation; 2/ under certain conditions, causal connections established *in silico* are informative of causal connections in the real world.

Readings:

1/ Goldthorpe, J. (2001). Causation, statistics, and sociology. *European Sociological Review*, 17 (1): 1–20.

2/ Manzo G. (2007) “Variables, mechanisms, and simulations: can the three methods be synthesized? A critical analysis of the literature”, *Revue Française de Sociologie*, 48 (Supplement: *An Annual English Selection*), 35-71.

3/ Manzo G. (2011). “Educational Choices and Social Interactions: A Formal Model and A Computational Test”, *Comparative Social Research*, 30, 47-100.

4/ Manzo G. (2011). “Relative Deprivation in Silico: Agent-based Models and Causality in Analytical Sociology”, in P. Demeulenaere (ed.), *Analytical Sociology and Social Mechanisms*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, ch. 13, 266-308.

Wednesday, 13 November 2013 (morning)

Place of the talk: Universidad de Santiago (USACH), at the Programa de Acceso Inclusivo, Equidad y Permanencia en Educación (PAIEP)

Title of the talk: Educational Choice and Stratification: A Simulation-based Study.

Talk Outline: In this talk, I present a theoretical model of sequential educational choices combining cost-benefit reasoning and imitative behaviors. By using French survey data as benchmark, I show under which individual- and interaction-level conditions the agent-based implementation of this model is able to generate realistic macroscopic patterns of educational stratification.

Readings:

Manzo, G. (2013). “Educational Choices and Social Interactions: A Formal Model and A Computational Test”, *Comparative Social Research*, 30, 47-100.

Wednesday, 13 November 2013 (afternoon)

Place of the talk: Universidad Diego Portales (UDP)

Title of the talk: The Emergence of Reputational Hierarchies: A Simulation-based Study.

Talk Outline: In this talk, I present a theoretical model of deferential gestures based on simple heuristic-driven reasoning. I show under which individual- and interaction-level conditions the agent-based implementation of this model is able to generate realistic macroscopic patterns of deference-based, status inequality.

Readings:

Manzo, G. and D. Baldassarri (under review) “Cumulative advantage, symmetry concern, and status inequality: an agent-based model of deference exchange in dyadic encounters”.

Thursday, 14 November 2013

Place of the talk: Instituto de Sistemas Complejos de Valparaíso (ISCV)

Title of the talk: Analytical Sociology: The Core Principles.

Talk Outline: In this talk, I introduce what one may consider the basic theoretical and methodological principles defining the research program of analytical sociology. I argue that only the intersection of these principle allows to see the distinctiveness of this research program within contemporary sociology.

Readings:

1/ Manzo, G. (2010) “Analytical Sociology and Its Critics”, *Archives Européennes de Sociologie/European Journal of Sociology*, 51, 1, 129-170.

2/ Manzo, G. (2013) “On the Distinctiveness of Analytical Sociology”, *Theory* (The Newsletter of the Research Committee on Sociological Theory), International Sociological Association, Spring/Summer 2013, pp. 13-18.

3/ Manzo, G. (2013) “Is rational choice theory *still* a rational choice of theory?”, *Social Science Information*, 52, 3, 361-382.

4/ Manzo, G. (2014), Data, Generative Models, and Mechanisms: *More* on the Principles of Analytical Sociology, in Manzo G. (ed.) (2014) *Analytical Sociology: Actions and Networks*, New York, John Wiley & Sons Inc, (Wiley Series in Computational and Quantitative Social Science), In Press (forthcoming).