

Activities of the section Rationality & Society at the ASA annual meeting San Francisco, 2014

Overview:

Sat, August 16, 10:30am to 12:10pm Section session Sustainable Cooperation (087)

Sat, August 16, 2:30 to 3:30pm Section session Arbitrary Inequality? (131)

Sat, August 16, 3:30 to 4:10pm Business meeting. Announcement of winners of section awards!

Sat, August 16, 6:30 to 8:30pm Section reception (with EBS and MatSoc)

Sun, August 17, 12:30 to 2:10pm Regular Session. Rational Choice.

Detailed information on the sessions:

87. Section on Rationality and Society Paper Session. Sustainable Cooperation and Individual Interests in a Changing World

Sat, August 16, 10:30am to 12:10pm, Hilton San Francisco Union Square, Lobby Level, Golden Gate 8, Lobby Level

Session Organizer: Andreas Flache, University of Groningen
President: Anthony Paik, University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Discussant: Jacob Dijkstra, University of Groningen

Session topic: Cooperation is fundamental for society, yet precarious in the face of conflicting individual interests. Much progress has been made in understanding cooperation. Yet, relatively little is known about what makes cooperation sustainable in a changing social context. Papers address theoretically and empirically how cooperation can emerge, be sustained or decline in changing societal contexts.

Papers:

Explaining Social Change Using a Dynamic Network Model. *Yamilette Chacon, University of South Carolina; Pamela E. Emanuelson, North Dakota State University*

The Shadow of Consumption. *Michael Constantin Hahn, Stanford University; Brent Simpson, University of South Carolina*

The Social Production of Property and its Coercive Enforcement. *Pamela E. Emanuelson, North Dakota State University; David Willer, University of South Carolina; Richard Chacon, Winthrop University; Yamilette Chacon and Danielle Lewis, University of South Carolina.*

131 - Section on Rationality and Society Invited Session (one-hour). Arbitrary Inequality? Rich-get-richer Effects and the Cumulation of Economic Disadvantage

Sat, August 16, 2:30 to 3:30pm, Hilton San Francisco Union Square, Lobby Level, Golden Gate 8, Lobby Level

Session Organizer: Arnout van de Rijt, State University of New York-Stony Brook
Presider: Rembrand Michael Koning, Stanford University

Session topic: Much of inequality research is aimed at identifying characteristics of people that really shouldn't affect their economic success, but do nonetheless. However, even very similar individuals often attain drastically different economic outcomes. One explanation is pre-existing variability along unobserved dimensions that is gradually revealed through differential achievement. Alternatively, positive feedback operating on arbitrary initial advantages may increasingly set apart winners from losers, producing an ever growing gap between the haves and the have-nots. This session focuses on state-of-the-art research in the rational choice tradition aimed at identifying social mechanisms that may generate such arbitrary inequality.

Papers:

Testing Gould: How Status Ambiguity Causes Risk Taking. The Case of Formula 1. *Henning Piezunka, Stanford University; Matthew S. Bothner, University of Chicago*

Interaction-based Amplifiers and Asymmetric Distributions: Principles and Examples. *Gianluca Manzo, University of Paris-Sorbonne; Delia Baldassarri, New York University.*

131 (second part) Section on Rationality and Society Business Meeting

Sat, August 16, 3:30 to 4:10pm, Hilton San Francisco Union Square, Lobby Level, Golden Gate 8, Lobby Level

Report on section activities, discussion of future activities
Announcement and presentation of best book and best student paper awards

Joint Reception: Section on Rationality and Society; Section on Evolution, Biology and Society; Section on Mathematical Sociology

Sat, August 16, 6:30 to 8:30pm, Hilton San Francisco Union Square, Lobby Level, Golden Gate 7, Lobby Level

272 - Regular Session. Rational Choice

Sun, August 17, 12:30 to 2:10pm, Sat, August 16, 6:30 to 8:30pm, Hilton San Francisco Union Square, Lobby Level, Golden Gate 7, Lobby Level

Session Organizer & Presider: Jacob Dijkstra, University of Groningen

Papers:

Putting Power in the Right Hands: A Person x Situation Approach to Leadership and Collective Action. *Ashley Lauren Harrell* and *Brent Simpson*, University of South Carolina

Social Influence and Collective Action: An Experiment of a Simulated Social Protest. *Blaine G. Robbins*, *Steven Pfaff*, *Ross L. Matsueda*, and *Richard J. Callahan*, University of Washington

Success Breeds Success: Evidence from Field Experiments. *Arnout van de Rijt*, State University of New York-Stony Brook; *Soong Moon Kang*, University College-London; *Michael Restivo*, and *Akshay Patil*, State University of New York-Stony Brook

The Network Antidote: An Agent-Based Model of Discrimination in Labor Markets. *Károly Takács*, Corvinus University-Budapest; *Flaminio Squazzoni*, University of Brescia; *Giangiacomo Bravo*, Linnaeus University