

# 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

Winter 2022/Spring 2023

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## From the Chair's Desk (ASA)

Neha Gondal



I am honored to lead the Rationality & Society section in 2022-23. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing council members, Gianluca Manzo (past chair), Michael Maes (council member), Carter Butts (council member), A. Sirianni (treasurer), and Kristen Tzoc (student representative) for their contributions and service to the section. I would also like to welcome new representatives, Emily Erickson (chair elect), Wojtek Przepiorka (treasurer), Karen Hegtvedt (council member), Milena Tsvetkova (council member), and Ana Macanovic (student representative). Our section has a history of having a poor representation of women. In 2021, our section was only twenty-three percent female, the lowest of all ASA sections. Considering this, I am glad that a majority of our council representatives are women.

I am also happy to report on a successful 2022 ASA meeting in Los Angeles. We had a pre-conference organized by Kikuko Nagayoshi, Gianluca Manzo, Jun Kobayashi, Richard Edward Gardner, and Kazuhiro Kezuka. At the meeting itself, Milena Tsvetkova organized a session on Computational and Empirical Approaches to Micro-Macro Dynamics and Guillermina Jasso organized an invited session titled, 'ASA Rational Choice at 28.' I would also like to thank our award committees and congratulate our award winners. The Rationality and Society James S. Coleman Outstanding Article Award committee comprised

Arnout van de Rijt (Chair), Jane Sell, and Milena Tsvetkova. Diego Leal won the best article award for his paper, 'Network Inequalities and International Migration in the Americas.' The Best Graduate Student Paper award committee was composed of Yoshimichi Sato (Chair), Mary Brinton, and Werner Raub. Yunsub Lee won the award for his paper, 'Power-dependence relations within Structural Holes and Network Closure: Evidence from different survival mechanisms of actors and directors in the U.S. film industry.'

Please consider nominating your own work (or someone else's) for consideration for the 2023 awards. This year, we are seeking nominations for the Outstanding Article Award and the Graduate Student Paper Award. Nominations should be sent directly to award committee chairs by March 31st, 2023. The article committee is chaired by Diego Leal ([dflc@arizona.edu](mailto:dflc@arizona.edu)) and the student paper committee by Minjae Kim ([minjaekim@rice.edu](mailto:minjaekim@rice.edu)).

The section is organizing two paper sessions at the 2023 ASA meetings in Philadelphia. The first, 'Situated Decision Making: New Sociological Directions' is being organized by Fabien Accominotti. The second, 'Mathematical and Computational Approaches to Agency and Social Networks' is jointly sponsored with the Mathematical Sociology section and being organized by Tony Paik. We will host a section reception this year with Mathematical Sociology, Social Psychology, and a few other sections. Finally, we are trying something new this year – a roundtable session being organized by two graduate student members, Maurice Bokanga and Kristen Tzoc. As this is our first attempt at organizing a roundtable session for the section, I urge you to consider submitting your work or encouraging your graduate students to do so. My goal with this experiment is to showcase the work of more graduate students with the hope of expanding our student membership.

To close, I would like to draw your attention to our continuing low membership numbers. We currently stand at about 104 members, down from 112 in 2021 and 2020. This is consistent with the general declines in ASA membership during COVID era. Nevertheless, our numbers are low enough to generate concern. We had an opportunity to discuss some ways forward to encourage membership at the business meeting in Los Angeles. It is important to note that this discussion was part of an ongoing conversation about this issue, led, especially in 2021 and 2020, respectively, by our past chairs Gianluca

Manzo and Stephen Bernard. In 2020, Stephen pursued gift-membership and also created a committee to address our low membership numbers. Last year, Gianluca had conversations with several long-standing members of the section and solicited e-mails from all members to discuss possible solutions.

One of the options that emerged from these discussions was a potential change in the name of the section. Gianluca brought up this point at the business meeting and many members present at the meeting noted that the current name of the section is not a very good reflection of the scholarship of the vast majority of section members. Section members' research interests, while diverse, tend to center around themes of decision-making in the contexts of interactions, social network analysis, and the aggregation of micro interactions into macro patterns. Gianluca proposed a potential amendment to the section name to, 'Decision-Making, Social Networks, and Society.' This proposed name garnered considerable support at the meeting. Subsequently, I initiated a discussion of this proposed name with the section council via email. After some deliberation and thoughtful discussion, the motion was put to a vote, and passed unanimously. I have, accordingly, submitted a request to the ASA for this matter to be opened to all section members for a vote. If ASA agrees, you should see this matter up for a vote on the ballot in the Spring. I urge you to please exercise your voice and vote as you deem fit.

I wish you all happy holidays!

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### **Award Announcement from the Rationality and Society Section**



**2023 Rationality and Society James S. Coleman Outstanding Article Award**

*Deadline for Submission: March 31, 2023*

Nominations, including self-nominations, are encouraged for theoretical, empirical or experimental works in the tradition of analytical and computational sociology, including research on various action theory

frameworks. To be eligible for the award, the article must be published within the last two years. Faculty and graduate students are eligible for the award. An article may be submitted to the Outstanding Article Award or the Graduate Student paper award, but not both. Co-authors share the award equally. Nominators should be members in good standing of the American Sociological Association.

Please include (1) a brief statement (1 or 2 paragraphs) by the nominator of the reason the article deserves this award; and (2) an electronic copy of the article.

Nominations should be submitted to Diego Leal by email ([dflc@arizona.edu](mailto:dflc@arizona.edu)) by **March 31, 2023**.

**2023 Rationality and Society section award for Best Paper by a Graduate Student**

*Deadline for Submissions: March 31, 2023*

Nominations, including self-nominations, are encouraged for theoretical, empirical or experimental works in the tradition of analytical and computational sociology, including research on various action theory frameworks. Eligible authors are students currently enrolled in a graduate program who will not have received the PhD at the time of the ASA meeting, August 5-9, 2022. Multi-authored papers are eligible if none of the authors has a PhD. An article may be submitted to the Outstanding Article Award or the Graduate Student paper award, but not both.

Nominations should include two electronic files: (1) A cover page with the paper title, paper abstract, author's name(s), institutional affiliation and institutional address, the name of the author's faculty advisor, and full contact information including preferred email address, telephone number(s) and mailing address; and (2) The nominated paper, double-spaced with author's name and other identifying information removed.

Nominations should be submitted by email to Minjae Kim ([minjaekim@rice.edu](mailto:minjaekim@rice.edu)) by **March 31, 2023**.

The general objective of Research Committee 45 on Rational Choice is to advance the development of Rational Choice Theory. This includes its application to various explanatory problems across social science disciplines, its empirical test, its theoretical development and comparison with alternative approaches. The RC tries to achieve this general objective by promoting the international exchange of scientific information across disciplinary borders.

### From the President's Desk

Jun Kobayashi



Dear colleagues,

What did year 2022 mean to you? RC45 has prepared for the upcoming ISA World Congress, which lasts from June 25 to July 1 next year in Melbourne, Australia.

After the abstract deadline and some coordination, RC45 hosts the following 7 diverse sessions with 27 cutting-edge papers. I cannot hesitate to thank paper submitters as well as session organizers.

What makes sociology credible?

Session Organizer(s): Gianluca Manzo

Computational Social Science and Rational Choice

Session Organizer(s): Rense Corten, Yoshimichi Sato, Bas Hofstra, Hiroki Takikawa, Kazuto Misumi

Dynamics of Capitals and Social Inequality from the Rational Choice Perspective

Session Organizer(s): Masayuki Kanai

Evolution of Social Norms and Cooperation

Session Organizer(s): Andreas Diekmann

Rational Choice and Unintended Consequences amid Social Crisis

Session Organizer(s): Naoki Sudo

RC45 Open Oral Session on Advances in Rational Choice Research

Session Organizer(s): Jun Kobayashi

A business meeting is planned as usual. Time and dates are unavailable for all the sessions at this point.

According to the ISA, all program participants (paper givers, session organizers, chairs, discussants, etc.) must pay a full registration fee before March 22, 2023. For a co-authored paper, at least one co-author must pay the congress registration fee by the deadline. Registration is now open at

<https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/wc2023/registration/call.cgi>.

Important dates are summarized below:

March 22, 2023, Registration deadline for all program participants

June 25 to July 1, 2023, ISA World Congress

See Deadlines and rules for submitters at

<https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress/melbourne-2023/deadlines-2023>.

As always, my deepest gratitude goes to our editors, Lucas and Masa. Hope you all spend relaxed holidays and have a great new year!

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### Call for Applications:

#### Registration Grants for the XX ISA World Congress, Melbourne, 2023

#### What are the [registration grants](#)?

The Registration Grants exempt the [registration fees](#) for the Congress. ISA members in good standing (i.e. who have paid their individual membership fees) who participate in the program (presenters, chairs, discussants, session organizers) are eligible to apply for a registration grant. Applications for a grant cannot be submitted to more than one RC/WG/TG.

#### Who are eligible to apply for RC45's seats?

A member in good standing of RC45 as of January 31, 2023. Enrollment in RC45 must be completed before January 31 for those who are not current members of RC45. You can join or renew your RC45 membership at <https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/login>.

### Priority if the number of applicants exceeds the budget allocation to RC45

1. Presenters or co-authors of the papers in the RC45 sessions
2. Chairs or session organizers of the RC45 sessions
3. Participants in the program in other RC/WG/TG sessions

In each category, early career researchers are prioritized.

### How to apply?

Fill out the form

<https://forms.gle/QtJKaHXTzoCASj8eA>

by **January 31, 2023**.

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### Recent Publications of Interest

#### Articles:

Jasso, Guillermina. 2022. "Notes on the History of Social Science Research: In Celebration of Its 50th Anniversary." *Social Science Research* 108:102780. Version of record published 2 November 2022.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssresearch.2022.102780>.

Jasso, Guillermina. 2022. "On the Essential Unity of Mathematics, Science, and Art: The Justice Evaluation Function and the Golden Number." Pp. 57-84 in Nima Rezaei (ed.), *Transdisciplinarity. Integrated Science, Vol 5*. Cham, Switzerland: Springer. Published online 14 November 2022.

[https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-94651-7\\_4](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-94651-7_4).  
Sharelink <https://rdcu.be/cZCNh>.

Woodward, Kath, Hannah Bradby, Guillermina Jasso, and Sin Yi Cheung. 2022. "Editorial: Lessons from Covid-19: Building a Fairer, Healthier, Inclusive and Sustainable Post-Pandemic Society." *Frontiers in Sociology* 7:1100563. Published online 6 December 2022.

<https://doi.org/10.3389/fsoc.2022.1100563>.

### Books:



Opp, Karl-Dieter. 2022. *Advanced Introduction to Social Movements and Political Protests*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

#### Description:

This Advanced Introduction is an accessible and critical review of the most important theories and concepts in the field of social movements and political protests. Karl-Dieter Opp precisely outlines the strengths and weaknesses of the different approaches and investigates how they can be unified into a structural-cognitive model. This is a micro-macro model with a broad rational choice theory as the micro foundation.

#### Key Features:

- ✓ Application of general action theory
- ✓ Investigation of the conditions for deterrence and concessions by autocracies
- ✓ Analysis of the influence of social networks and social media on protests and protesters
- ✓ Precise definitions of central concepts and clear formulation of explanatory hypotheses.

This timely Advanced Introduction will be crucial reading for scholars interested in political participation, political protest, and social movements as well as those looking for an excellent introduction to this fascinating ever evolving area of study.

#### Contents:

Preface

1. Introduction to Social Movements and Political Protests
2. Social movements and political protests as collective action

3. Extending the context of protest: political opportunities and societal resources
4. Extending the motivational basis of protest I: framing, cognitive balance, and the goals-beliefs theory
5. Extending the motivational basis of protest II: the identity perspective
6. When protests change politics: explaining the behavior of the protest targets
7. When protests change protesters and bystanders
8. How to put all this together: the structural-cognitive model, the Protestant Reformation, the protests against the Russian invasion of the Ukraine, and some guidelines for explaining social movement phenomena

References

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### Editors' note

XX ISA World Congress of Sociology in a hybrid format is approaching for the first time in five years. We have noticed the significance of informal conversation during in-person conferences. Looking forward to seeing many of you again in Melbourne. (Masa & Lucas)



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