

The AGORA

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

January 2025

 American Sociological Association

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<https://sites.google.com/view/decisionmakingsocialnetworks/home>

From the Chair's Desk (ASA)

Daniel DellaPosta



Dear Colleagues,

This is an exciting time to be involved in the Decision-Making, Social Networks, and Society Section. It has now been about a year and a half since our Section took on its new name in accordance with the membership's vote. While the discussions that went into making this shift pre-dated my time on the council, I know that one of the goals was to broaden the appeal and potential membership base of the Section. I am happy to report that in this regard the change seems to have been an unmitigated success.

Between the end of 2023 and the time I am writing this in late December 2024, the Section membership has increased by 75 percent. (If we go back further to the end of 2022, before the name change, it's a 92 percent increase.) As I began writing this, in fact, I saw that we have hit the 200 member threshold for the first time since 2015. This is consequential for how ASA allocates budget resources and sessions at the annual meetings—maintaining this level of membership as a base (and ideally continuing to grow) will give the Section more ways to support its members and organize programming that highlights the exciting work our members do at the cutting-edge of sociology. Even now, we suspect that you may have colleagues and students who would fit well in the intellectual community of the Section but may not be aware of it. We hope you will help to spread the word to anyone who you think may be interested.

Throughout my own career, I have found our Section to be a great scholarly home with a distinctive identity. My own subjective sense is that our growing membership has only strengthened that identity. The Section provides a natural home for decision-theoretic scholars with various perspectives, network analysts, analytical and computational sociologists, and others. These groups have long shared a high degree of network overlap and elective affinity, as they each

emphasize the rigorous identification of social mechanisms that link micro-motivations and individual behavior to meso-level social interactions and ultimately macro-level social outcomes. Now, our Section is well-positioned to give scholars in all these areas a supportive and intellectually stimulating community under the larger ASA umbrella.

Going forward, we hope to continue our positive momentum. We will continue to offer mentorship opportunities for graduate student members and to share information and opportunities likely to be of interest to the membership. I am also looking forward to the exciting Section programming in the works for the next ASA annual meeting in Chicago. Linda Zhao (University of Chicago) is organizing a session on “Networks, Inequality, and Social Integration” while Fedor Dokshin (University of Toronto) is organizing a session titled “Big Problems, Middle-Range Theories.” Both these open paper sessions should appeal to the broad interests of Section members, so we hope you will consider submitting to them.

As pleased as I am to brag about our Section’s successes, I certainly cannot take credit for them. I was fortunate to take over the chair position after strong leadership from past chair Emily Erikson and Neha Gondal before her. Our Section council continues to be full of brilliant and dedicated scholars whose help we are very fortunate to have. And, of course, we have a Section membership that includes so many of the scholars whose work inspires and motivates me, as well as the next generation of researchers who will keep pushing the field forward. Thank you all for your continued support of the Section and please do not hesitate to reach out to me at djd78@psu.edu with any ideas you have for how we can continue to serve our members.

Sincerely,



Daniel DellaPosta
Associate Professor of Sociology and Social Data Analytics
Pennsylvania State University

Award Announcement from the Decision-Making, Social Networks, and Society Section



Decision-Making, Social Networks, and Society Section’s James S. Coleman Outstanding **Article Award**

Deadline for Submission: March 31, 2025

Nominations, including self-nominations, are encouraged for theoretical, empirical or experimental works on or including work on decision-making, social networks, and those in the tradition of analytical and computational sociology. 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. Nominations, including a pdf of the article, should be submitted to Robert Braun at robert.braun@berkeley.edu, Cassie McMillan at c.mcmillan@northeastern.edu, and Simone Zhang at simone.zhang@nyu.edu by **March 31, 2025**.

Committee Chair: Robert Braun; Members: Cassie McMillan, Simone Zhang

Decision-Making, Social Networks, and Society Award for Best Paper by a **Graduate Student**

Deadline for Submissions: March 31, 2025

Nominations, including self-nominations, are encouraged for theoretical, empirical, or experimental works on or including work on decision-making, social networks, and those in the tradition of analytical and computational sociology. Eligible authors are students currently enrolled in a graduate program who will not have received their PhD by the time they submit the paper (March 31, 2025). Multi-authored papers are

eligible if none of the authors has a PhD. Nominations can be for an unpublished paper or for an article that was published within the last two years. An article may be submitted to the Outstanding Article Award or the Graduate Student paper award, but not both.

Please include (1) a brief statement by the nominator of the reason the paper deserves this award that includes the name of the author, their degree status, and their institutional affiliation; and (2) an electronic copy of the paper or article. Nominations should be submitted by email to Ashley Harrell at ashley.l.harrell@duke.edu, Benjamin Rosche at benrosche@princeton.edu, and Peng Huang at peng.huang@uga.edu by **March 31, 2025**.

Committee Chair: Ashley Harrell; Members: Peng Huang, Benjamin Rosche

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From the President's Desk

Gianluca Manzo



Dear RC45 fellow colleagues and friends,

First of all, please let me wish to all of you a happy New Year! Let us hope that 2025 will bring to each of us serenity in our personal life, and both energy and new ideas for our scientific activities. Let us also believe that 2025 will be the year where we will start to see concrete and durable results of the composition of all the small actions we are taking to reinvigorate our section!

In this respect, let us first consider membership. Compared to October 2023, when ISA officially put us under probation, we have gained 10 members. On January 6, 2025, we actually reached 48 active members. This is highly encouraging but please let me emphasize that our efforts must continue. If in October

2025 our membership will not be above 50, ISA will demote us from a “research committee” to a “thematic group”. Consequences of not having 50 active members are very concrete even now: for instance, we are not eligible to the ISA research activity grant nor to the registration grant. Not being able to benefit from these opportunities make our efforts to consolidate the section even more challenging. Thus I invite those members whose membership expired on the 31th of December 2024 to renew their adhesion; more largely, I count on all of you to invite new colleagues to join our section, in particular by drawing their attention to our new scientific project.

We made clear progresses on that front, too. Please let me remind that, following the result of the section's consultation by e-mail during October 2024, we finally agreed to ask ISA to modify our section name to “Micro-macro modelling” and to adopt the following section's new program:

“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.”

A formal document requesting these changes was sent to ISA Research Council (ReCo) on October 31, 2024. ISA officially confirmed that the document was safely received, and that it will be included in the agenda of the meeting of the Research Coordinating

Committee (RCC) in January 2025. If approved, our request will then be included in the agenda of the meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) in March 2025. Should then the request be approved by that committee, too, the name change could be implemented before the Rabat forum; the new section's description will instead become official only if we will formally approve it by vote at the business meeting in Rabat. Let us then hope in a positive answer from ISA as a first step.

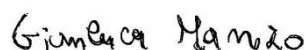
Rabat forum to be held from 6 to 11 July is a third source conveying encouraging signs for the path our section has undertaken. As you may remember, 24 colleagues voluntarily cooperated to organize, or to co-organize, 15 different sessions. We now know the full list of accepted abstracts by session. Please follow this link [<https://shorturl.at/eaq5m>] to navigate it, and please join me in thanking all sessions' organizers and authors submitting a paper proposal for their contribution to the life of our section.

What I would like to highlight is that it is highly positive to see that, among the 65 abstracts finally accepted, by considering the papers' first authors (as registered on the ISA website when submitting the abstracts), 52 papers out of 65 were proposed by colleagues who have never been members of our section. Thus, should all first authors of accepted abstracts confirm their presence, the Rabat forum will have the potential to transform considerably the dimensions of our section.

To make this possible, it is really important to realize that, for a paper to be on the final conference program, and then to be orally presented in Rabat, at least one co-author must pay registration fees by **March 22, 2025**. Thus I invite all session organizers to actively remind each contributor to their session to become an ISA and RC45 member before that date.

With the wish, and the hope, that the Rabat forum will really can act as a game changer for the scope and the scale of our section, I will wish you again a great start with 2025!

Sincerely,



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)

[Sage Research Methods](#) (including Green Books)

[Current Sociology](#)

[International Sociology](#)

Join or renew your membership today!

Conferences and Workshops

SUNBELT 2025

<https://sunbelt2025.org/>

Dates: June 23-29, 2025

Venue: SciencesPo - Sorbonne University, Paris, France

Abstracts: February 20, 2025

11th International Conference on Computational Social Science

<https://www.ic2s2-2025.org/>

Dates: July 21-24, 2025

Venue: Norrköping, Sweden

Abstracts: February 24, 2025.

Conference on "Social Norms. Comparison, Conflict and Change"

Organised by Jorg Rossel (University of Zurich) and Andreas Diekmann (ETH Zurich)

https://www.suz.uzh.ch/en/SocialNorms_MonteVerita.html

Dates: April 30 to May 3, 2025

Venue: Centro Stefano Franscini (CSF), Monte Verita, Ascona, Switzerland

Recent Publications of Interest

Articles:

Klebel, Thomas, Federico Bianchi, Tony Ross-Hellauer, and Flaminio Squazzoni. 2024. "The Paradox of Competition: How Funding Models Could Undermine the Uptake of Data Sharing Practices." OSF Preprint. <https://doi.org/10.31222/osf.io/gb4v2>

Manzo, Gianluca. 2024. "Antecedents of Generative Thinking in Analytical Sociology: The Contribution of Tom Fararo." *The Journal of Mathematical Sociology* 1-22.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/0022250X.2024.2423946>

Pistocchi, Vieri, Moris Triventi, and Filip Agneessens. 2024. "Interreligious Bullying and Academic Achievement Among Muslim and Non-Muslim Early Adolescents in Germany." *The Journal of Early Adolescence* 0(0):02724316241273445.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/02724316241273445>

Vit, Eszter, Federico Bianchi, Marco Castellani, and Károly Takács. "Friends Can Help to Aim High: Peer Influence and Selection Effects on Academic Ambitions and Achievement." *The Journal of Early Adolescence* 0(0):02724316241273427.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/02724316241273427>

Books:

Gupta, Ayan-Yue. 2022. *The Pragmatics of Governmental Discourse: Resilience, Sustainability and Wellbeing*. Routledge Advances in Sociology. Abingdon, Oxon; New York, NY: Routledge.

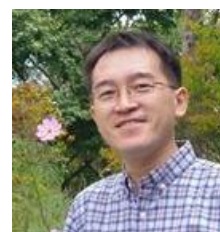
Editors' note

The year 2025 began with exciting news: both the ASA and ISA communities experienced a significant increase in membership. We thank current and past community leaders for their proactive and thoughtful initiatives to foster a new horizon of vibrant scholarship. However, our ISA community is still on the path to revival. As Gianluca suggests, encourage our colleagues and friends to join this promising community!

Following the ISA secretariat's new policy, newsletter issues will be named after months rather than seasons. From now on, *Agora* will be published every January and July. July issues may be released earlier in June when ISA Forums and World Congresses occur. If you have announcements to include in the newsletter, such as publications or calls, please don't hesitate to send them to the co-editors, Lucas and Masa, at any time.



Lucas Sage
lucas.sage2@gmail.com



Masayuki Kanai
mkanai@senshu-u.jp