

# The Mathematical Sociologist

Newsletter of the Mathematical Sociology  
\* Section of The American Sociological Association \*  
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Winter, 1998

## 1998-1999 Officers and Council Members

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Scott Feld (2001), [sofeld@lsuvm.sncc.lsu.edu](mailto:sofeld@lsuvm.sncc.lsu.edu)

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## Note from the Newsletter Editor

Barbara Meeker

With this issue, I begin a term as newsletter editor. Last year's newsletter was edited by Beth Jacobson, who will still be doing the section Webpage. Many thanks to Beth for last year and for her continuing service. This issue has a number of items of section business, including information about next year's ASA program, about nominations for officers, about our new section awards policy and call for nominations for these awards, a report of last year's activities and plans for next year. Don't skip this last- there is discussion of a possible

international conference, and of publication outlets for mathematical sociologists, as well as other section business. The newsletter also has several items of more purely intellectual interest, including announcements of new books and a book review.

Please send news items, suggestions, letters to the editor, etc to me at [meeker@bssl.umd.edu](mailto:meeker@bssl.umd.edu) or by snail-mail: Barbara F Meeker, Sociology Department, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742.

## Chair's Statement

Tom Fararo

Mathematical sociology is not something new. Pioneering work goes back at least a half-century. In the early 1950s, Anatol Rapoport and Herbert Simon, for instance, each produced work of lasting value that addressed basic problems in the formal representation of social processes. By the middle of the 1960s, Jim Coleman and Harrison White had arrived at early successes in their research programs, each of which presupposed the use of formal models. A wonderful study in the multiple logics of mathematical model building had appeared (Types of Formalization by Joe Berger, Bernie Cohen, Laurie Snell and Buzz Zelditch). By the early 1970s, to these and related contributions, one could add those represented in the first two volumes of Sociological Theories in Progress (edited by Joe Berger, Buzz Zelditch and Bo Anderson) as well as developments that later in that decade were consolidated as the social networks paradigm. The 1980s and 1990s have featured numerous continuations and also innovations in the problems treated with the employment of mathematical and related formal models, including the rise of a sociological version of rational choice theory. Finally, for

more than a decade, simulation has resurfaced as theory-driven analyses of models of social processes, so that computational sociology now forms a key part of the general field of mathematical sociology.

For all of this and much more that cannot be encapsulated in a single paragraph, many of our colleagues take little note of mathematical sociology, if they know of it at all. With an avalanche of proliferating perspectives and styles in the contemporary intellectual environment, perhaps this should not surprise us. Our section is an institutional embodiment of the evaluative idea that mathematical and related formal tools are important -- some might say, essential -- to the advance of theory in any scientific discipline. Many of our colleagues devoted to sociological theory are indifferent or even hostile to this role of mathematics in theoretical science. But others are perhaps just too overwhelmed by the publication-overload in our environment to attend to formal developments; they are not hostile to what we value, but marginalize us as part of a satisficing approach to making-do in an academic world grown too heterogeneous and confusing to master as a whole. One thing our section can do to promote our common values is to try to reach out to these non-hostile people in our disciplinary environment to acquaint them with some of the ways in which mathematical models have been informing ongoing, major research programs in our field. If we can do this without overburdening them with technicalities, all the better.

For those who are value-committed to what mathematical sociology stands for, there is another and related point. When this field was in its start-up phase, back there about a half-century ago, we saw programmatic statements about why and how mathematical models would be important to the advance of social science, especially its theory, along with first examples. Today, that half century has been filled with experience involving not just isolated examples of models of this-and-that but experience grounded in years upon years of devoted attention to deep problems in the theoretical understanding of social processes and structures. Hence, it is a proper time for us to listen to the reflections of those whose professional lives have instantiated this long-term experience.

With these considerations in mind, I obtained the agreement of the council of the section that one of our two sessions be an invited one with the theme, "Formal Models and Research Programs: Reflections from Experience." Acting as organizer, I am very pleased to let you know that there will be four presenters, each with three to four decades of experience in the field: Peter Abell, Joe Berger, David Heise and Harrison White. Peter Abell has been at the forefront of British sociology for many years, with interests that include the formal algebraic analysis of action structures and the use of rational action models in sociology. Joe Berger, already

mentioned above, has been at the forefront of the expectation states research program for decades. David Heise's creative research program involves the rigorous analysis of symbolic interaction, blending such tools as control systems thinking, the measurement of meaning, and theory-driven simulation. I've mentioned Harrison White above in connection with some of the earliest successes in mathematical sociology; more recently, he has employed mathematical models in pushing economic sociology to new levels of sophistication. In addition to these four presenters, the session will feature John Skvoretz as moderator-discussant. I hope you will join me in attending this unusual and important session at the 1999 meetings. Bear in mind that, in accordance with the ASA's scheme for arranging these matters, our section day is the very last day of the meetings this time. So, please, do make a special effort to be there.

An issue of great concern to members relates to *The Journal of Mathematical Sociology*. Everyone knows that over the past several decades, the leading disciplinary journals - notably *ASR* and *AJS* - have become quite welcoming of formal work. Nevertheless, specialty fields can only nurture their particular interests and styles by having one or more periodicals of their own. Our membership includes a diversity of interests - e.g., rational choice and game theorists, group process theorists, stochastic process model-builders, social network analysts, and so forth. These interests, in some cases, have specialty publications (e.g., *Rationality and Society*). Nevertheless, since its inception in 1971, *The Journal of Mathematical Sociology* has been the flagship specialty journal of this field of sociology. The earliest issues featured papers, for instance, whose influence still reverberates in the most frontier work of today. To state just two examples: the Lorrain and White paper on the algebraic foundations of structural equivalence and Thomas Schelling's article on the dynamics of segregation via a cellular automata implementation of a micro-macro logic. After Pat Doreian became editor of *JMS* in the early 1980s, he instituted special issues that have been notable for capturing and reporting frontier developments in progress and stimulating further innovations (e.g., on network evolution in a recent volume).

Yet, the resource crunch that university libraries have been experiencing, together with what we regard as overpricing of institutional (and individual) subscriptions by the publisher of *JMS*, have created dissatisfaction in the community of scholars who wish to see mathematical sociology thrive. Therefore, one issue taken up by the officers of the section has been the publication situation in our field and, in particular, the possibility of making a transition to a better situation in regard to *JMS*.

There are two interrelated aspects to any transition. First, can anything be done in regard to the publisher of *JMS* to improve the situation from that side? Second, can anything be done with regard to finding

another publisher? The interrelatedness of the two aspects is that if a second publisher is found, this means (a) that the name itself, JMS, probably must be different for the new journal because that name is owned to by the current publisher, and this means a loss of a prestigious resource, and (b) it does not necessarily mean that JMS will cease publication but it may mean that "outsiders" (e.g., natural scientists) would be offered the journal by its publisher. Ideally, IF we start a new journal, we would like to make a transition to a publisher with a better pricing policy and retain the name JMS. But we may not be able to do both. Perhaps the current publisher can be persuaded to do something about its pricing, especially to institutions. As I have indicated, these matters are currently in process without resolution. A complication is

that an interested publisher of a new journal is currently being sold to another, larger publisher and we have to await the culmination of that deal, in any case.

While Pat attempts to improve the situation, one way or another, it would be useful if members would respond to the question at the bottom of page 7 of this newsletter as quickly as possible -- the results will be useful to Pat, since the current publisher has refused to make their own data available to him. In addition, if you have any thoughts on JMS and the notion of a "successor" journal (whose subscription rates would be more reasonable), please send an e-mail message to Pat Doreian (pitpat+@pitt.edu) or to me (tjf2+@pitt.edu).

## Section Awards

A policy statement about section awards has been formulated by a committee appointed by the section Council in August. This committee consisted of Tom Fararo, Phil Bonacich, Kathleen Carley, John Skvoretz, and Dave Willer.

### *AWARDS POLICY OF THE MATHEMATICAL SOCIOLOGY SECTION*

September 28, 1998.

The following policy statement for section awards has been adopted by the Council in September of 1998. The award-types and procedures are subject to evaluation and possible revision at the Council meeting in August of 1999. It is anticipated that the (possibly revised) statement will be incorporated into the By-Laws of the section, following this evaluation.

(1) *Graduate Student Paper Award.* Each year, the section will form a Committee for Outstanding Graduate Student Paper in Mathematical Sociology. The awardee will be provided with sufficient funds by the section to cover roundtrip transportation to the meeting at which the award is conferred.

A call for nominations will be placed in the section's newsletter and in the ASA Footnotes. Eligible papers must have been written while the author was still a graduate student and over the past three years. Papers can be published or unpublished. A dissertation chapter, but not the entire dissertation, is eligible, as is a paper based on the dissertation.

(2) *Publication awards.* Each year, the section will form a Committee for Outstanding Publication in Mathematical Sociology.

A call for nominations will be placed in the section's newsletter and in the ASA Footnotes. Eligible publications must have been published over the past three years for the case of articles, and over the past five years for books. The Committee may make a maximum of two awards, one for an article-length publication and a separate one for a book-length publication.

(3) *Distinguished career award.* No award for a distinguished career will be made until the section has sufficient experience with awards for publications, as outlined above in paragraph (2) above. See additional notes (5) below.

(4) *Size and formation of the award committees.* Each committee will have five members. After consultation with and advice from the Council, the various award committees will be formed by the section chair, who also will appoint the chair of each such committee.

(5) *Additional notes.*

(a) The Council meeting in August of 1999 will discuss the type 3) award to determine if sufficient experience has occurred to enable a judgment about whether and how such an award should be made, including its starting year.

(b) The award committees are urged to come to a decision that excludes a tie. However, if this is not possible, then at most two authors may share a given award in a given year.

(c) The committees have the right to decide no submission or nomination merits an award in a given year. This may reflect a quality judgment, but it also may reflect a desire to see greater competition for any given type of award. However, the general policy of the section is that committees should actively encourage submissions and/or nominations in sufficient number to enable an award on merit to given each year for each of the categories of award, i.e., (1) and (2) above.

Consistent with these policies, the section Chair, Tom Fararo, has appointed two committees. These are:

#### **Committee for Outstanding Publication in Mathematical Sociology:**

Guillermina Jasso (Chair)  
Kathleen Carley  
Scott Feld  
John Skvoretz  
Harrison White

#### **Committee for Outstanding Graduate Student Paper:**

Gene Johnsen (Chair)

Edward Brent  
Bob Hanneman  
Thomas Schott  
Joe Whitmeyer

Tom has worked with the chairs of these two committees as they have formulated the call for nominations, which appears below and also will be published in the ASA Footnotes.

## Call for Nominations for Section Awards for 1999

### Outstanding Publication Award

To recognize outstanding contributions to mathematical sociology, each year up to two awards may be given, one for an article and the other for a book. Articles eligible for a 1999 award must have been published in calendar years 1996-1998; books eligible for a 1999 award must have been published in calendar years 1994-1998. Please send preliminary nominations to the Committee Chair by **February 1, 1999** (preliminary nominations may be e-mailed); formal nominations, copies of the nominated article or book, and additional supporting materials must subsequently be sent to all committee members, reaching them by **March 1, 1999**. Address communications to: Professor Guillermina Jasso, Chair, Mathematical Sociology Award Committee, Department of Sociology, New York University, 269 Mercer Street, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10003-0831. E-mail address: [gj1@is3.nyu.edu](mailto:gj1@is3.nyu.edu)

### Graduate Student Paper Award

The Graduate Student Paper Award is for the best paper in mathematical sociology written or published during the previous three calendar years. The award consists of sufficient funds to cover roundtrip travel for one person to the ASA Annual Meeting at which the award is conferred.

All authors of a nominated paper must have been graduate students at the time the paper was written. An award for a multiply-authored paper will be shared equally by the authors. For each author the following information must be supplied by the nominator: name, address, telephone number, e-mail address (if available), institutional and departmental affiliation while a graduate student, title of graduate degree and date at which award of the degree occurred or is expected.

Papers may be published or unpublished. A thesis or dissertation chapter or a paper based on a thesis or dissertation, but not the entire thesis or dissertation, is

eligible provided its content and references are self-contained and its comprehension does not require the reading of parts of the thesis or dissertation not represented in the paper. Awardees need not be members of the ASA, nor of the Mathematical Sociology Section, and may be graduate students in any department of any university in the world. Papers submitted for nomination should be written in English and should adhere to the guidelines of the American Sociological Review or similar sociological journals. A nomination may come from any qualified nominator and self-nominations by authors are permitted and encouraged.

A nomination consists of a cover letter, in which the nominator gives a detailed justification for granting the award for the nominated paper, plus five copies of the paper and an associated abstract of up to 250 words, including the author information specified above. Nominations for papers written or published in calendar years 1996, 1997 and 1998 should be sent to Eugene C. Johnsen, Graduate Student Award Committee Chair, Department of Mathematics, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA, 93106, e-mail: [johnsen@math.ucsb.edu](mailto:johnsen@math.ucsb.edu), fax: +(805) 893-2385, to arrive no later than **April 15, 1999**.

## Nominations Needed for Next Year's Section Officers

By **December 15** please send names of section members whom you would like to nominate for the two free council positions and for the position of chair-elect. The Nominations Committee will then recruit from these names three nominees for each position who are willing to run. **Send the names to**

Phil Bonacich, [bonacich@soc.ucla.edu](mailto:bonacich@soc.ucla.edu),  
or Phil Bonacich,  
Department of Sociology,

University of California, Los Angeles, CA 90095.

### Nominations Committee:

Phil Bonacich, Chair  
Ron Breiger  
Eugene Johnsen  
Barbara Meeker

## 1999 Sessions at ASA

Since we surpassed the 200 membership threshold, The Mathematical Sociology Section has two sessions at the Chicago meetings in 1999.

One session is an open submissions session, organized by Aage Sorenson with the title "**Modeling Social Mechanisms**."

The other session is an invited session, organized by Tom Fararo and co-sponsored by the

## Theory Section, with the title, "**Formal Models and Research Programs: Reflections from Experience.**"

*Note: the initial ASA Call for Papers lists Tom's session as an open submission session; it is not! See his 'Chair's Statement' for a description of the invited session.*

There is also a general session on the ASA program, set up by the ASA program committee and organized by Dave Willer titled **Mathematical Sociology**. It is an open submission session.

Look for instructions on submitting papers either to Aage Sorenson's section session or to Dave Willer's general ASA session in the ASA Call for Papers. The deadline is **January 10, 1999**. You can also contact either of these people for more information about their sessions.

## **Annual Report, 1998**

### **Mathematical Sociology Section**

This report was prepared by Phil Bonacich, section Chair for 1997-98, and submitted to ASA in response to their requirement of an annual report from each section. Minutes of council meeting were prepared by John Skvoretz, Secretary-Treasurer

### **Council Meeting of the Mathematical Sociology Section**

All officers and council members, except P. Doreian and K. Yamaguchi, were in attendance.

1. Gene Johnsen proposed and John Skvoretz seconded a by-laws amendment:  
"III.B. In the election for any position other than Regular Council Member, the candidate receiving the largest number of votes shall be elected. In the case of a tie vote, the tie shall be broken by a random process conducted by the Committee on Nominations. In the election of Regular Council Members (normally with at least four candidates for two positions), each voter shall have two votes and the two candidates with the largest number of votes shall be elected. In the case of a tie vote for either one or both Council seats, the tie shall be broken by a random process conducted by the Committee on Nominations. Unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws, a simple majority of the members voting on an issue or referendum shall determine the outcome. Newly elected Officers of the section shall assume office immediately upon the adjournment of the next Annual Meeting of the ASA."

The amendment passed unanimously.

2. Pam Paxton reported on her recruitment of 19 new student members.
3. It was called to our attention that membership forms can be found on the section's home page.
4. We discussed joint membership in sections and joint participation in activities such as receptions.
5. We discussed a joint meeting with the Japanese Mathematical Sociology Society to be held sometime in

June in Hawaii. Gene Johnsen suggested a local arrangements contact be found. John Skvoretz expressed willingness to help organize. Kathleen Carley suggested a contact in Japan who could be approached for acquiring corporate sponsorship of the conference and she will email details to Phil Bonacich for further action. About 8 of us expressed interest in attending. It was also noted that NSF funding is available to attend overseas conferences to increase American presence abroad. Phil Bonacich will look into the matter. {Since this was written, the conference has been postponed to 2000. See part VI below.}

6. Barbara Meeker volunteered to be next year's newsletter editor.

7. Tom Fararo reported on interest at JAI Press in starting an "Advances in Mathematical Sociology" series. He proposed and David Willer seconded that he and Phil Bonacich be the first series editors. The motion passed unanimously. Suggestions for material for the series included republishing the best paper of the year with invited commentary and publishing the paper that wins the best graduate student paper of the year. {Since this was written, this idea has been put on hold in favor of working on the journal problem discussed in the Chair's statement above.}

8. Tom Fararo suggested that we use the first issue of the newsletter to ask section members to contact their libraries to see if they carry JMS. Phil Bonacich noted that personal subscriptions are now \$60 to ASA members and are available through the web.

9. We discussed the advisability of preprint papers made available through a website. Phil Bonacich reported that the methodology and rational choice sections are interested in cosponsoring such a site. The general sentiment of the group was in favor of providing this service to our members as long as it does not jeopardize their ability to publish such work in regular journals. Gene Johnsen and John Skvoretz volunteered to help explore setting up such a site.

10. We discussed dues and reached a consensus that raising dues above the ASA minimum was not advisable at the present time.

11. We agreed that officers of the section and any volunteers (of which there was only one, David Willer) constitute the committee to decide on section awards for next year.

12. We discussed our sessions for next year and agreed that one should be an invited session.

### **II Business Meeting**

27 members in attendance

Many of the same issues were discussed in both the Council and Business meetings.

The by-law amendments proposed by Eugene Johnsen that had been approved by the council were approved unanimously. {Final approval by the membership is required and the amendment will appear on the ballot in

next Spring's election.} The joint meeting with Japanese mathematical sociologists was discussed. The possibility of a web site for preprints was discussed.

### **III. Nominating Procedure for Section's Election**

The Chair of the section Nominations Committee was Eugene Johnsen, Past Chair. The remaining four members of the Committee were recruited by the Past Chair from a prioritized list of candidates prepared by section Council. All members of section Council had the opportunity to nominate and vote on candidates for this list. The resulting members of the Nominating Committee were the top four of the list, all of whom accepted Committee membership.

The Nominations Committee then proceeded to select candidates for the four open positions for 1998-99: Chair-Elect, two regular Council member seats and the Student Council member seat. For each position the Committee nominated three candidates, all of whom indicated their willingness to run for election to these positions and, if elected, to serve. Those elected for 1997-98 were

Chair-Elect: Kathleen Carley

Council member (3 year term): Scott Feld

Council member (3 year term): David Willer

Student Member (1 year term): James W. Moody

### **IV Operating budget for coming year**

Sent to ASA as an attachment

### **V Review of current year's activities**

The section organized two sessions at the ASA, one general session, organized by Ken Land, and the other on Computational Sociology, organized by Kathleen Carley. There was also a joint reception with the Theory Section.

### **VI Plans for the coming year.**

The section is planning a joint conference with the Japanese Mathematical Sociology Society in Hawaii in June 2000. The conference will have sessions on social network models, rational choice models, stochastic models, and social psychological models. Both Japanese and American sociologists will serve as organizers of the sessions.

The section is contemplating sponsoring a web site for preprints, unpublished drafts of papers whose availability might speed scientific progress. The Methodology and Rational Choice Sections are also interested in joining in this activity.

In the coming year we will be able to give our first awards. Next year awards will be given for an outstanding graduate student paper and for an outstanding book or article.

## **New Publications**

*Status, Power, and Legitimacy*, by Joseph Berger and Morris Zelditch (Transaction Publishers, ISBN: 1-5600-343-X) presents methodological, theoretical, and

empirical essays by two of the leading contributors to the Stanford tradition in the study of microprocesses and formal theory construction. Some previously published and a number of newly written essays are included.

*The Problem of Solidarity: Theories and Models*, Edited by Patrick Doreian and Thomas Fararo. Gordon and Breach, 1998 (hc)

This book aims to both reflect and to advance the state of the art in formal and mathematical thinking about its subject-matter, one central to the discipline of sociology. The project emerged as part of an effort to forge a closer link between sociological theory and mathematical sociology. Leading theorists of solidarity as well as accomplished formalists develop their ideas about the meaning, production and effects of solidarity. As a special feature, two reflective and critical assessments of the concepts and models of the earlier chapters are presented in the book's conclusion. The contents are as follows:

Preface

Part I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Theory of Solidarity: An Agenda of Problems by T. Fararo and P. Doreian

Part II. RATIONALITY AND SOLIDARITY

2. A Theory of the State and of Social Order

by S. Chai and M. Hechter

3. The Microfoundations of Solidarity: A Framing Approach by S. Lindenberg

4. The Management of Trust Relations via Institutional and Structural Embeddedness by J. Weesie, V. Buskens and W. Raub

5. A Mathematical Model of Group Dynamics Including the Effects of Solidarity by W. Weidlich and D. Helbing

Part III. AFFECT AND SOLIDARITY

6. Conditions for Empathic Solidarity by D. Heise

7. Modelling the Interaction Ritual Theory of Solidarity

by R. Collins and R. Hanneman

Part IV. SOCIAL NETWORKS AND SOLIDARITY

8. Solidarity and Social Networks by R. Breiger and J. Roberts, Jr.

9. Structures and Processes of Solidarity: An Initial Formalization by E. Johnsen

10. Group Formation in Friendship Networks by E. Zeggelink

Part V. ASSESSMENT

11. Social Network Conceptions of Group Solidarity by B. Markovsky

12. Solidarity, Social Structure, and Social Control by J. Skvoretz

About the Contributors

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## Book Review

*Simulating Society: A Mathematica Toolkit for Modeling Socioeconomic Behavior*

By Richard J. Gaylord and Louis J. D'Andria. New York: Springer-Verlag, 1998

Reviewed by Phil Bonacich

This book is ideal for someone who wants to experiment with using cellular automata to model social phenomena. It is particularly useful to those who wish to learn more about Mathematica as an environment for creating mathematical models.

In a cellular automata there is a discrete space of, typically, two dimensions (although there may be one or three). Each position in this space, called a cell, can be in one of a finite number of states. The states of the cells are updated simultaneously in a series of discrete steps. The states of cells are typically influenced by the states of neighboring cells.

Mathematica is a software package useful for modeling cellular automata because it is simple to use, it is easy to manipulate matrices in Mathematica, and one can take advantage of all the built-in graphical, mathematical, and statistical capabilities of Mathematica. A recent article (Rainer Hegselman and Andreas Flash. Understanding Complex Social Dynamics: A Plea for cellular Automata Based Modelling," Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation, vol. 1, no. 3, <http://www.soc.surrey.ac.uk/JASSS/1/3/1.html>) summarizes some of the recent work using cellular automata. Although neither Gaylord nor D'Andria are social scientists (Gaylord is a Professor of Engineering and D'Andria is a mathematician and programmer), the book is full of interesting sociological examples that can be the starting points for one's own simulations (hence the "toolkit" in the title).

The chapters cover various models of ways in which neighboring individuals can influence one another, models assessing the effectiveness of various strategies in the Prisoner's Dilemma in populations in which strategies interact with one another, how attitudes and proximity might interact to form groups, and, elaborating Schelling's work (Thomas C. Schelling, *Micromotives and Macro Behavior*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1978),

how neighborhood tipping can occur if neighbors flee those who are dissimilar to themselves or move to be near those like themselves. For social scientists, cellular automata are useful theoretical tools. They are capable of producing complex and evolving macro-level outcomes from very simple assumptions about the agents inhabiting the cells. Moreover, the resulting "checkerboards" are easy to interpret because of our distinctively human abilities to recognize patterns. The neighborhood influence patterns common in cellular automata are models for social networks, particularly networks of strong ties. The fact that actors do not see the whole pattern, only their part of it, can be a useful way of modeling imperfect information.

Cellular automata can be useful despite the fact that the two dimensional model of neighborhood influence is an exact model of no real social situation. Cellular automata can also be useful in teaching. Students without much mathematical background can easily experiment with variations in formal models. Moreover, they will be surprised and stimulated by the unexpected and evolving outcomes of their models.

## Job Announcement

University of Maryland, College Park. The Department of Sociology invites applications for a tenured level appointment at the rank of Associate or Full Professor. We are searching for an established scholar who can play a leading role in our graduate quantitative methods training program. Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae and the names of four references (no letters, please) to Stanley Presser, Chair, Senior Search Committee, Department of Sociology, University of Maryland, College Park MD 20742. Screening will begin October 31, 1998, though applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The University of Maryland is an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

## Membership

Last, but not least, please remember to **renew** your section membership, and to **encourage** your colleagues and students to join. A membership form for new members is on the last page of this newsletter.

## Reader Survey

As Tom Fararo mentions in his Chair's statement, many universities have eliminated their Journal of Mathematical Sociology subscriptions. We would like to know how many of our section members are directly affected by this, so please send the answers to the following questions to **Tom** at [tjf2+pitt.edu](mailto:tjf2+pitt.edu) or to **Pat Doreian** at [pitpat+pitt.edu](mailto:pitpat+pitt.edu).

**Does your institution's library have a current subscription to the Journal of Mathematical Sociology? If not, did it ever? And when did the subscription cease?**

Also, send them any other comments you have on this issue

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Application for Membership in the ASA Mathematical Sociology Section

Name:

Address:

\_\_\_\_ I am an ASA member and want to join the Mathematical Sociology Section. Enclosed is a check for \$10.00 for section dues (\$5.00 for students). Make checks payable to the American Sociological Association.

\_\_\_\_ I am not an ASA member but am interested in joining the Mathematical Sociology Section.

Please send me information about joining ASA.

Send to:

American Sociological Association  
1722 N Street NW  
Washington, DC 20036-2981