

The Mathematical Sociologist

Newsletter of the Mathematical Sociology

* Section of The American Sociological Association *

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Vol. 4, No 2 Spring 2000

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FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Barbara Meeker

[<bmeeker@socy.umd.edu>](mailto:bmeeker@socy.umd.edu)

At the last Section business meeting, we decided to begin distributing the newsletter electronically with this issue. ASA has also provided the Section with a distribution list that can be used for announcements between newsletters. All section members are on the list. Kathleen Carley kcarley@ece.cmu.edu is the list manager; send items to be distributed to her. Let me or one or more of the Section officers know how this system works for you (or, perhaps, doesn't work?). In this issue is information about elections, nominations for awards, some results from last year's ASA, several conferences of possible interest to Section members, and some information about next year's ASA program. The next newsletter will come out in July, so please send items to me before July 3, especially anything that we need to know before ASA.

ELECTIONS ARE COMING

Section members will receive a ballot for Section officers and for a proposed amendment to the by-laws, in a packet along with the general ASA elections. Please vote—we are a small section, and your participation is very important.

**MATHEMATICAL SOCIOLOGY
SECTION CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE**

Prepared by the Nominations Committee:
Thomas J. Fararo, chair; Phil Bonacich, Peter
Burke, Satoshi Kanazawa, Mark Mizruchi,
John Skvoretz

Office: Chair-elect

Candidates:

Lin Freeman
Pat Doreian

Office: Council Member

Candidates:

Lisa Keister
Ken Land
James Montgomery
Jane Sell

**Office: Graduate student member of the
Council**

Candidates:

Brent Simpson
Carter Butts

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO
CHANGE SECTION III.B OF THE
BYLAWS**

This was discussed last year at the Business
Meeting at ASA.

Rationale for the amendment (paraphrased
from statement provided by Gene Johnsen
last year).

**The amendment shifts the rule for
winning an election to a section office from
a majority in the current version to a
plurality in the proposed version.** For
instance, often three candidates are listed for
the office of Chair and it is possible that no
one of the three receives a majority,
presenting the section with either an
expensive re-election process or a violation
of the rule.

Current version of III.B:

B. Newly elected officers of the Section
shall assume office immediately upon
adjournment of the next Annual Meeting
of the ASA. Unless otherwise provided

in these Bylaws, a simple **majority** of
the members voting on a position to be
filled in an election shall determine the
outcome, as it shall for all issues and
referenda which are submitted for a vote.

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 a Council seat, the tie shall be
broken by a random process conducted
by the Committee on Nominations.

Proposed Version of III.B:

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
adjournment of the next Annual Meeting of
the ASA.

SECTION AWARDS

The Past Chair, Tom Fararo, has
reminded us that the Section made some
changes in the Section awards policy last

year. As a reminder of the current policy, it is reprinted here. A call for award nominations appears below; two of these deadlines have just passed, and one is imminent. Please contact the committee chairs for information.

AWARDS POLICY OF THE MATHEMATICAL SOCIOLOGY SECTION

Revised, August, 1999

The types of awards

- **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.

- **Outstanding Article Publication Award.** Each year, the section will form a Committee for Outstanding Article Publication in Mathematical Sociology.

A call for nominations will be placed in the section's newsletter and in the ASA Footnotes. Eligible articles must have been published over the past three years.

- **Alternating Outstanding Book Publication Award and Distinguished Career Award.** In alternating years, the Section will form a committee that,

depending upon the year, will decide upon an award for outstanding book publication or a distinguished career in mathematical sociology.

A call for nominations will be placed in the section's newsletter and in the ASA Footnotes.

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.

Additional considerations

- (a) At Council meetings in the next few years, the awards situation will be assessed with a view to affirming this policy or further revising it.
- (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 designation "Honorable Mention" may be used in the case of a stronger contender who is not given the award. At most one such mention may be made in a given category of award, except for the Distinguished Career Award, where it may not be used. The names of any such honorably mentioned individuals will be printed in the section's newsletter when awards are announced therein.
- (d) 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 nominations in sufficient number to enable an award on merit to be given each year for each category of award.

- (e) Since in 1999 an award was given for an outstanding book, the first Distinguished Career Award will be made in 2000.

***CALL FOR YEAR 2000
MATHEMATICAL SOCIOLOGY
SECTION AWARD NOMINATIONS***

Outstanding Article Award

To recognize outstanding contributions to mathematical sociology, each year an award is given for either an article. Articles eligible for a 2000 award must have been published in calendar years 1997-2000; The deadline for preliminary nominations is February 1, 2000. Formal nominations, copies of the nominated article, and additional supporting materials must subsequently be sent to all committee members, reaching them by **March 1, 2000**. Please send or e-mail preliminary nominations to the Committee Chair:

Professor Noah Friedkin
Department of Sociology
University of California-Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, CA 93106
Office: (805) 893-2840
(805)893-3324 (fax)
friedkin@sscf.ucsb.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. 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. 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. 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. The deadline is **April 15, 2000**. Please send or email nominations to the Committee Chair:

Professor Michael W. Macy
Cornell University
Sociology Department
323 Uris Hall
Ithaca, NY 14853
(607)255-4187
(607)255-8473 (fax)
(508)456-3189 (home)
mwm14@cornell.edu
<http://www.people.cornell.edu/pages/mwm14>

Career/Book Award

To recognize outstanding contributions to mathematical sociology, each year the section gives an award for outstanding career or significant book, in alternating years. The career award will given in 2000; this award is to recognize the cumulative achievements and significant impact of a major scholar in mathematical sociology. The deadline for preliminary nominations is February 1, 2000. Formal nominations, and additional supporting materials must subsequently be

sent to all committee members, reaching them by **March 1, 2000**. Please send or e-mail preliminary nominations to the Committee Chair:

Professor Kathleen M. Carley
Department of Social and Decision Sciences
Carnegie Mellon University
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Office: (412) 268-3225 (tel); (412) 268-6938 (fax); email: kcarley@ece.cmu.edu

SOME GOOD NEWS FROM LAST YEAR'S SECTION PROGRAM

SYMPOSIUM ON FORMAL THEORY

This announcement is from the Past Chair, Tom Fararo

It is a pleasure to inform the membership of the section that our efforts of "outreach" to our non-formal colleagues will benefit from a Symposium on Formal Theory to appear in the ASA journal *Sociological Theory*.

The symposium emerges out of the 1999 joint session titled *Formal Models and Research Programs: Reflections from Experience*. There will be seven articles in the symposium. Four of these grow out of the presentations by the panelists (Peter Abell, Joe Berger, Dave Heise and Harrison White), two are by the moderator (Willi Jasso) and the discussant (John Skvoretz), respectively. The seventh paper is by the organizer (myself). Each paper will contain an autobiographical aspect in its presentation of the author's perspective, as well as one or more examples in non-technical form.

We are grateful to the journal editor, Jonathan Turner, for his support of this project and for his guidance in bringing it to fruition.

CONFERENCES OF INTEREST TO MATHEMATICAL SOCIOLOGISTS

HAWAII- LAST CHANCE!

Mathematical Sociology in Japan and America, June 23-25, 2000. Honolulu, Hawaii. Sponsored by The Mathematical Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association and the Japanese Association for Mathematical Sociology. Sessions on Social Networks, Rationality and Society, Group Processes, Meta-Theory, and Computational Sociology. Submissions by students are welcome. The web site, which describes the submission and registration process, is <http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/soc/groups/mathsoc/hawaii/default.htm> Email questions to Phillip Bonacich, bonacich@soc.ucla.edu, or Yoshimichi Sato, ysato@sal.tohoku.ac.jp

Phillip Bonacich
Department of Sociology
University of California
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1557
(310) 825-3017

ANOTHER ASIAN CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITY

This announcement is from the Chair, Kathleen Carley

The Asia Pacific Sociological Association has formed a thematic session on FORMALIZATION OF SOCIOLOGICAL CONCEPTS AND THEORIES for the coming conference to be held on 14-16 of September, 2000 at the Kwansai Gakuin University (near Kobe, Osaka), Japan. The association itself is mainly for sociologists who are active in Asia Pacific region. However it seems that very few sociologists in this region (perhaps except those in Japan) have been engaged in this field of study. It would be a good chance to propagate this type of sociology to sociologists in the region. Whoever interested in participating in the conference or presenting papers is welcome. Contact Kenji Kosaka for details at: kkosaka@kwansai.ac.jp

AND A CONFERENCE CLOSE TO HOME

The 13th annual Group Processes Conference will be held on Friday, August 11, 2000 (the day before the ASA meetings in Washington, D. C.). It will be in the ASA conference hotel. For information or to request an invitation, contact Murray Webster mwebster@nsf.gov, or Barbara Meeker bmeeker@socy.umd.edu. Information will be posted on the Web at <http://www.bsos.umd.edu/socy/meeker/groupconf.htm> as plans for the conference develop. There is a substantial overlap between Mathematical Sociology Section membership and the list of attenders at this annual conference.

MORE ABOUT ASA MEETINGS IN AUGUST (WASHINGTON DC, AUGUST 12- 16) SECTION PROGRAM

The ASA program will have two sessions sponsored by the Mathematical Sociology Section, and organized by the Chair, Kathleen Carley. There will also be a set of roundtables sponsored by the section and organized by Carter Butts.

REGULAR PROGRAM SESSIONS

In addition to the Section program, there is a regular session on the ASA program on Mathematical Sociology. Enough papers were submitted to the ASA regular session to justify requesting *two* session slots from ASA. It is good news that there is this amount of creative work in mathematical sociology. These sessions are:

Session Category: Regular Session

Session Title: Mathematical Sociology I:
Models of the emergence of social structure

Organizer: *Barbara F. Meeker*

Papers:

Gungor Gundoz: u Teknik Universitesi, Ankara, Turkey

‘The Nonlinear Growth of Ottoman Empire and her Fractal Dimension’

John Bramsen: Chicago, Illinois

‘Opposition Relations: An Algebraic Formulation of Spinoza’s Theory of Human Relationships’

Sun-Ki Chai: University of Arizona

‘Explaining Norms of Cooperation: Nested Hierarchies’

Joseph M. Whitmeyer: UNC Charlotte

‘The Power You Need for A Cost You Can Afford: How to Use Individual and Collective Sanctions’

Session Title: Mathematical Sociology II:
Models of individual beliefs and behaviors
Organizer: *Barbara F. Meeker*

Papers:

Lingxin Hao, Johns Hopkins University; *V. Joseph Hotz*, UCLA and NBER; and *Ginger Zhe Jin*, UCLA

‘Games Daughters and Parents Play: Teenage Childbearing, Parental Reputation and Strategic Transfers’

Geoffrey Tootell, San Jose State Univ; *Alison Bianchi*, Stanford Univ; *Paul T Monroe*, Stanford Univ

‘Status Generalization as a Mathematical Game’
John Levi Martin, Rutgers and *James Wiley*, Public Health Institute, Berkeley, CA

‘Algebraic Representations of Belief and Attitudes II; Microbelief Models for Dichotomous Belief Data’

Mamadi Corra, South Carolina

‘A Theory of Structural Ordering: Ordering in Exchange Networks, A Theoretical Extension’

A JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Vanderbilt University. The Department of Sociology invites applications for an assistant professor of sociology, tenure-track faculty position, commencing August, 2001. The candidate will be expected to teach graduate statistics courses. Preference will be given to candidates with expertise in one or more of the following areas: medical, organizations, education, gender, or stratification. Applicants should submit a letter of interest in the position, curriculum vitae, and any supplemental material (e.g. reprints, pending manuscripts, teaching evaluations) indicating promise or evidence of outstanding scholarship and effective teaching. Application materials, including three letters of recommendation, should be received by October 16, 2000. Vanderbilt is an Equal Opportunity-Affirmative Action Employer and women and minority candidates are encouraged to apply. Send all materials to Search Committee Chair, Department of Sociology, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN 37235. Information on the department, the College of Arts and Science, Vanderbilt University and e-mail addresses can be obtained on the Internet at <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/AnS/sociology>.

It is **very important** to our section that we maintain and increase membership. Please renew your own membership and encourage your colleagues and students to join.

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; however, while funds last, a generous gift from a section member makes membership free for graduate 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
1307 New York Avenue, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005