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Mathematical Sociologist

Comments from the Chair...Noah Friedkin

The Section Chair is given the opportunity to make introductory comments. I did this once before in our Spring 2003 Newsletter. I find that a particular concern expressed then remains a concern. I wrote, after noting the influx of natural scientists into research on social networks, "Never before has there been a more pressing demand for sociologists who combine strong mathematical skills with deep substantive grounding in particular fields. Mathematical models of sociological phenomena are unlikely to make an enduring contribution if they are not informed by the refined substantive sensibility that usually comes from systematic reading in sociology and intense involvement with data."

The field of opinion dynamics, with which I'm associated, is rapidly growing. An increasingly prominent line of work in this field deals with opinion dynamics under bounded confidence; e.g., Hegselmann & Krause (2002). The bounded confidence assumption is that an interpersonal influence relation "v influences u" will exist if and only if the time t opinion difference of u and v does not exceed a fixed threshold value for u. Hence, the influence network may change as its members' opinions change. An individual's time

t+1 opinion is taken as an average of the individual's own opinion and those other individuals' time t opinions, which are within the individual's confidence bound.

There is a substantial empirical literature on the relationship of opinion differences and interpersonal influences. Social psychologists have been examining the relationship since the 1950s. Eugene Johnsen and I took a close look at this literature (Friedkin & Johnsen 2011). Obviously, the development of models of opinion dynamics is greatly simplified if the information in a group's time t opinion vector suffices to specify the group's time t influence network. It is not surprising that modelers have been attracted to such a specification for over half a century. The empirical evidence does not support the threshold assumption of bounded confidence models. The evidence supports a weighted averaging assumption in which the weights accorded to particular persons are independent of opinion differences. The line of work on opinion dynamics under bounded confidence is based on a false premise.

There is no lack of imagination in the field in constructing models. However, there is a severe lack of discipline on investigators'

imaginations. My experience with models is captured by a lithograph which shows a logger, ax in hand, looking at a tree that he has just cut through: the tree, instead of toppling over, has floated upwards and the logger is standing dumbstruck at the result. An interaction of theory and experiment is useful in disciplining mathematical imagination.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

James S. Coleman Distinguished Career Award

John Skvoretz

University of South Florida

Committee Members:

Jane Sell (chair), Arnout van de Rijt, Bob Hanneman

Outstanding Article Award

Andreas Wimmer and Kevin Lewis

"Beyond and Below Racial Homophily: ERG Models of Friendship Networks Documented in Facebook" *American Journal of Sociology*

Committee Members:

Noah Friedkin (chair), Matthew Salganik, Damon Centola, Emma Spiro

Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award

David Melamed and Scott Savage

"Predicting Social Influence: A Model at the Intersection of Sociology and Psychology"

Committee Members:

Alison Bianchi (chair) Will Kalkhoff, Omar Lizardo

HIGHLIGHTS:
OUTSTANDING ARTICLE AWARD WINNERS

Andreas Wimmer and Kevin Lewis accept the outstanding article award, Denver, CO 2012

Andreas Wimmer

Most of my work over the past 20 years deals with processes of ethnic group formation and nation building. While much of the ethnicity literature has been preoccupied with ontological/definitional issues (is it a matter of identity or interest, is it stable or contextually fluid, etc.), I try to develop a systematic comparative account that focuses on variation in the properties of ethnic categories (see my new book "Ethnic Boundary Making", forthcoming at Oxford University Press). In order to do this properly, we need to disentangle ethnic group formation processes (the consequences of in-group preferences and the discrimination against others) from other social processes. This is also the gist of the paper co-authored with Kevin Lewis. We try to show that the racial homogeneity of social networks shouldn't automatically and uncritically be associated with same-race preference (or racial homophily). Rather, there are a host of processes that can lead to homogenous networks that are analytically and empirically distinct from racial homophily. Once you bring these other network formation processes into the picture, you realize that racial homophily is not the main force of network formation—contrary to what much of the literature on homophily assumes.

Kevin and I were part of a team of researchers at Harvard (where I was teaching as a visiting professor) that developed a new dataset on the Facebook pages of a cohort of college students. Kevin, at that time a graduate student in the department, did the heavy lifting in creating the dataset. I teamed up with him to do a study on ethnic and racial homophily, and we had research assistants code the ethnic and racial background of all students in the dataset. Both Kevin and I were novices when it comes to network methods. Kevin delved deeply into the matter and found the Exponential Random Graph approach and statnet as the corresponding program. We then learned how to produce and interpret results. It was a fantastic discovery, since so many of the things we wanted to do could be done with this approach: disentangling homophily on various, segmentally nested levels of categorization from each other (ethnic groups nested into racial categories), disentangling homophily from other network formation processes (sorting and self-selection into opportunities to meet, triadic closure and reciprocity) that influence levels of homogeneity, and so on. We worked on this for five years and were extremely pleased and proud when we were noticed that we won the best paper award from the Mathematical Sociology Section. All along the way, we received a lot of support, advise, and technical help from many, many section members, including the producers of statnet. Since we were newcomers to the field and did not have any friends to rely upon or favors waiting to be returned, we were amazed by the generosity and openness with which mathematical sociologists reacted to our many requests and demands—thanks indeed!

Kevin Lewis

My path to mathematical sociology has been a circuitous one. Inspired by math teachers in high school, I declared a double major in math and sociology my freshman year at UC San Diego and hoped to become a high school teacher myself. Unfortunately, it turns out math is a lot more fun when you understand it: I breezed through lower-division calculus courses, but the upper-division stuff was completely over my head. Meanwhile, I became more and more interested in sociology and in teaching at the college level. So, at age 19, I switched to a sociology/philosophy double major; downgraded my math ambitions to a minor; and, tired of numbers, decided I would go to grad school to become a qualitative sociologist (my undergraduate thesis, for instance, was an interview-based study of cosmetic surgery in California).

Now, 10 years later, Andreas and I are winning this award. What happened??! I met Andreas shortly after arriving at Harvard, where he was visiting and taught my cohort contemporary theory. Meanwhile, Jason Kaufman and Marco Gonzalez invited me to join a nascent project on taste subcultures among college students, drawing on data from Facebook (which was then only a couple years old). Andreas was independently interested in working with Facebook, but instead to look at ethno-racial homophily. Our teams joined forces to create the dataset—and, several years later, each strand of research finally bore fruit: the paper with Andreas on racial homogeneity (*AJS* 2010) and a paper with Jason and Marco on selection and influence (*PNAS* 2012).

My return to numbers, then, was motivated more by necessity than interest; if we were going to look at friendship formation we would need to use network tools. I continue to be grateful to Ann McCranie for introducing me to ERGMs during an ICPSR summer session, which appeared to be the sole method capable of adequately disentangling the issue Andreas and I were interested in (how is racial homogeneity generated?). So I returned to Cambridge; read and reread the special issue of *Social Networks* on ERGMs that had just been published; downloaded this strange program called R; and Andreas and I became network analysts.

The networks approach made mathematics exciting and fun for me again, because the ideas and formulas could be easily translated into tangible social processes I could visualize. Andreas was an extraordinary collaborator and mentor. Meanwhile, I share his gratitude to the community of mathematical and network sociologists, who welcomed two newcomers with patience and enthusiasm. While they may no longer remember these exchanges themselves, Steve Goodreau, Dave Hunter, Bob Hanneman, and Carter Butts (to this day, only one of whom I have actually met!) were particularly kind and provided invaluable guidance via e-mail; public exchanges with the statnet and Siena communities on their respective listservs have been equally helpful over the years.

In many ways, my current work takes in new directions the foundation I built with Andreas: moving to longitudinal analysis as well as cross-sectional (using stochastic actor-based models), looking at homogeneity based on cultural as well as demographic attributes (using taste data from Facebook), and extending focus to romantic relationships instead of friendship (in my dissertation on online dating). Through a remarkably fortunate array of circumstances, I am now back at UC San Diego teaching quantitative methods to graduate students and working next door to many of the faculty who inspired me to become a sociologist in the first place. While I still hope to get back into qualitative research someday (and to help bridge the gap that too often exists between the two), I entered the field of social networks at an exciting time and quickly learned that quantitative tools are also a lot more fun when you have a concrete problem to attack with them and are supported by patient and intelligent people helping you to use them correctly along the way.

Report on the Fifth Joint Japan-North America Mathematical Sociology Conference

Yoshimichi Sato

Our section cosponsored the Fifth Joint Japan-North America Mathematical Sociology Conference at the Colorado Convention Center on August 16 with the Section on Rationality and Society and the Japanese Association for Mathematical Sociology. Sun-Ki Chai and I co-organized it, and Katherine Faust, Pamela Emanuelson, and David Willer helped me in many aspects.
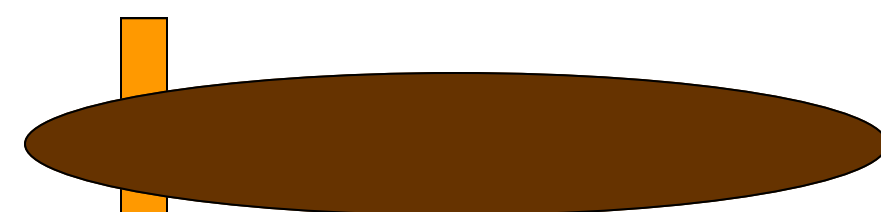
The conference was quite successful. Sixty-three people pre-registered. Thirty-nine papers were presented in ten sessions. (Please see the list of presented papers below.) The sessions were on social networks (three sessions), social status/inequality, public goods, segregation/deprivation, social capital, social dynamics, foundations of mathematical sociology, and conflict resolutions/ cooperation/compliance.

The conference was held as a pre-conference of the ASA annual meeting in Denver. There should be pros and cons about holding another joint conference as an ASA pre-conference. Thus I would like participants and attendees to give me their thoughts on this.

Last but not least, I thank Katie, Pam, and Dave for their kind supports, Hiroshi Ishida for his backup as the president of the JAMS, Akemi Mikami, my secretary, for her excellent supporting work, the moderators for efficiently chairing the sessions, and the participants for presenting wonderful papers. Personally, I really enjoyed the conference. So I would say, "Let's do it again."

- Ryan M. Acton *Modeling Heider's Theory of Balance in a Large Social Network: The Case of Tie Censoring and Actor Perception*

- Hiroki Takikawa *A Relational Theory of Status Hierarchy: An Extension of Gould Model to Incorporate the Multidimensional Choices*

- Carter T. Butts *Power Indices for Agonistic Relations*

- Nobuo Suzuki *The Formation Conditions of New Social Networks: An Empirical Study with Disaster Victim of Earthquake at North-East Japan*

- Guillermina Jasso and Bernd Wegener *Establishing the Exact Relation between Inequality and Tax Progressivity*

- Namie Nagamatsu *Increasing Inter-Industry Wage Differentials in Japan: Focus on Differences Between Occupations*

- Jeffrey Smith *Measuring Social Change as Categorical Change*

- Masayuki Kanai *Are Hotels in Destination Competitive or Cooperative?: An Empirical Application of Social Network Analysis*

- Christopher Steven Marcum and Raffaele Vardavas *Network Selection for Inductive Reasoning Models of Influenza Vaccination Decisions*

- Yusuke Inagaki *The Power of* Kizuna*: Social Capital and Recovery in the Great East Japan Earthquake*

- Emma S. Spiro, Britta Johnson, Jeannette Sutton, and Carter T. Butts *Diffusion of Innovation Among Government Organizations: Asymmetric Effects of Organizational Lineage on Social Media Adoption*

- ynke van Miltenburg, Davide Barrera, Vincent Buskens, Werner Raub *Implementing Sanctions in the Public Good Game: The Effect of Individual and Collective Decision Rules*

- Yusuke Kanazawa *Does Prisoner's Dilemma Game Reflect the Reality of Commons?: A Quantitative Analysis of Japanese Commons (*Iriai*) in 1972*

- Danielle Lewis, Michael Hahn, Sheldon Sumpter, and David Willer *How Actors with Differing Social Values Exchange: Predictions and Results for the 4-Line Networks*

- Takahisa Suzuki and Tetsuro Kobayashi *How the Relationship between Tolerance of Reputation-Making Norms and the Selectivity in Social Exchange Affects Global Cooperation Level?*

- Sean Fitzhugh, Carter Butts, Minas Gjoka, Maciej Kurant, and Athina Markopoulou *Methods for Enumerating Members of Subpopulations within a Network*

- Zack W Almquist, Emma S Spiro, and Carter T Butts *Dynamic Network Logistic Regression with Missing Data, with an Application to a Dynamic US Governmental Emergency Management-related Friend/Follower Network on Twitter*

- Katherine Faust *Detecting, Characterizing, and Validating Structural Signatures in Social Networks*

- James F. Hollander *Generating Multimodal Social Network Array from Affiliation and Category Matrices, and Activity Metric for It*

- Yutaka Nakai *Dominance of Exclusion Group with Irrational Collective Attack: Formal Logic Common to Juvenile Delinquency and Bullying*

- Atsushi Ishida *Modernization and Paradoxes of Relative Deprivation*

- Sarker Shahidul *Parents' Class Background and Hypergamy in Marriage Market of Bangladesh: Does Dowry Push Girls out of School?*

- Kazuo Yamaguchi *Japanese Firms are Creating Negative Stereotypes of Female Employees: Self-fulfilling Prophecy and Its Counter Measures*

- Hiroko Osaki *Multi-Level Effects of the Qualitative Aspect of Social Capital on Self-Rated Health*

- Yukari Furusato and Yoshimichi Sato *A Paradoxical Relationship between Bonding Social Capital and Subjective Well-Being*

- Naoki Sudo *Types of Generalized Trust*

- Ryuhei Tsuji *Effects of General Trust and General Tolerance on Voting Behavior and Political Interests*

- Rich Colbaugh and Kristin Glass *Predictability of Human Behavior*

- Michael Restivo and Arnout van de Rijt *Limits to Cumulative Advantage: Experimental Evidence from Wikipedia*

- Yosuke Kira *Why Communication Promotes Cooperation in Social Dilemmas*

- Lorien Jasny *Conversation Dynamics and Belief Change: Adaptive Rangeland Management by Diverse Stakeholder Groups*

- Geoff Tootell *A Change of Mind*

- Marc Idelson *The House that Math Built: A Call for a Grounded Body of Math*

- Scott Feld *An Often Neglected Condition For Demonstrating Cause and Effect: No Selection on Outcomes*

- David L. Sallach *Soft Contention: Toward a Categorical Formulation*

- Robert Mamada *The Institutions of Bargaining and Resolution of Conflicts in Japanese* Manga *(Comic) Magazine: Nash Bargaining Solution and Logit Equilibrium*

- Hideki Fujiyama *Information Structure and Coordination in Organization*

- Charlie Gomez and Paolo Parigi *Reweaving the Global Web: Mitigating Tensions between Regionalism and World Polity in the Intergovernmental Organization Network from 1965 to 2005*

- Daisuke Mori *When Do States Obey International Court of Justice?: Using Fuzzy-Set QCA to Study States' Compliance*

MATHEMATICAL SOCIOLOGY SECTION AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT, 2011–2012

Katherine Faust, Past Chair

October 2012

Agenda
ASA Mathematical Sociology Section Business Meeting
11:30am – 12:10pm, Saturday, August 18, 2012

Council Members

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Business

1. Overview of section highlights and council activities (Katie Faust)

a. Mathematical Sociology Databank update (Matt Brashears)

b. Section Newsletter (Pamela Emanuelson and Donna Lancianese)

c. Section Website (Matt Brashears)

d. Acknowledge new and incoming council members and officers

e. Budget update (Dave Wagner)

f. Awards (presented by Jane Sell, Alison Bianchi, and Noah Friedkin; see pg. 2)

g. Other business

Business Meeting, Denver 2012

Membership counts from ASA: July 31, 2012

Current Member Counts 7/31/2012		Section Mathematical Sociology
Current Memberships	Low income	0
	Student	60
	Member	152
	Total	***212***
Historical Comparison	New Member Count	5
	Last Month's Growth %	2.4%
	Total 7/1/2012	207
	2011-2012 difference	-11
	Total 7/27/2011	223
Member Percentages	Low income	0.0%
	Student	28.3%
	Member	71.7%

Mathematical Sociology Council Meeting

August 18, 2012, 7:00am

Attending:

Katherine Faust (Chair)

Noah Friedkin (Chair Elect)

David Wagner (Secretary-Treasurer)

Alison Bianchi

Matthew Brashears

Peter J Burke

Jane Sell

Arnout van de Rijt

Emma Spiro (Student Representative)

Donna Lancianese (Newsletter Editor)

John Skvoretz (Incoming Secretary/Treasurer)

Introductions.

Faust gave an overview of section highlights, including membership, ASA meeting schedule, the Joint-Japan North America Mathematical Sociology Conference, and Awards for 2012. There was discussion of what "in progress" means for the dissertation award and how we might better communicate to graduate students that a dissertation proposal may be submitted as "in progress" work.

Wagner reported on the state of the Section budget, including the main account and the Dissertation in Progress Award account. Both accounts have seen reasonable gains, including substantial donations to the Award Account. In 2011-2012 Section Council voted to increase the Dissertation in Progress Award from $1000 to $1500, and there was some discussion of whether, given the size of the fund and its recent income, it might make sense further increase the award.

Brashears reported on progress establishing a Data Bank archive, in conjunction with the Mathematical Sociology journal and its publisher Taylor & Francis. There were some negotiations with T&F regarding when and how data accompanying an article should be submitted. T&F will put information in the front matter of the journal and will put a link to the data bank website. The website is currently hosted at UCLA, but eventually this will have to move. Other data, not from the journal, could also be included in the Data Bank. There will be a standard reference format, but we want to keep requirements low so authors are not discouraged from making data available. We discussed other data repositories and emphasized that this is not a competition. The Data Bank needs to be set up so that it is not a burden on the section, because we want the effort to be sustainable. There might be external funding available to help support the Data Bank, for example, if we need to purchase more storage space.

Lancianese outlined plans for the Section Newsletter, including blurbs on award winners, spotlights for graduate students, articles relevant to Math Soc, books, what people are currently reading, or interviews with senior members.

Brashears reported on the Section Website. In addition to the newsletter, information can be submitted to the webmaster for posting. There was some discussion of whether the Section had, or wanted, a Facebook page. Current sentiment seems to favor having one well maintained site. Eventually the website will have to migrate from its current server and we might need more storage.

Other business. Wagner commented that the Social Psych Section had recently completed a survey of their graduate students and got lots of information about how students could be better integrated into the section. Spiro noted that graduate students could use more information about the section. We could have an ad hoc committee consider this.

8:00am adjourned.

Katie Faust, Chair's Report, Denver 2012

Section Account (37)

INCOME AND EXPENSES		NET ASSETS	
Income:			
Section Budget Allocations	$1,117	Beginning Balance	$2,141
Total Income	$1,117	Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets	$1,117
Expenses*	0	Current Balance	$3,258
Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets	$1,117		

*Anticipated 3rd Quarter expenses estimated to be $1,500 include award plaques, council breakfast, and joint reception with Rationality and Society.

Dissertation Award Fund (73)

INCOME AND EXPENSES		NET ASSETS	
Income:			
Interest	$10,119.32	Beginning Balance	$135,205.55
Contributions	$1,000.00	Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets	$11,119.32
Expenses*		Current Balance	$146,324.87
Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets	$11,119.32		

BUDGET 2012-2013

Section Account (37)		NET ASSETS	
Income:			
Projected Section Budget Allocations*	$1,200	Beginning Balance	$3,258
Total Income	0	Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets	($1,800)
Expenses**	$3,000	Projected Balance	$1,458
Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets	($1,800)		
Dissertation Award Fund (73		NET ASSETS	
Income:			
Interest	$11,000	Beginning Balance	$135,205.55
Contributions	0	Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets	$10,000.00
Expenses**	$1,500	Current Balance	$145,205.55
Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets)	$10,000		

*Project allocation in 2013 and interest earned in 2013. **Expenses of $1,500 incurred in 2012 (see above) plus projected meeting expenses for 2013 and projected expenses for dissertation award in 2013.

2012 ASA

Overview: The Mathematical Sociology Section had two paper sessions at ASA. One session was devoted to Models and Model Adequacy and the other to Empirical Applications of Mathematical Models (see below). Both sessions were open submissions and were organized by Carter Butts (UCI). Section awards were presented at the business meeting (see below). We held a joint reception with Rationality and Society and Evolution, Biology, and Society. The Council meeting was held during breakfast on the day of the Math Soc section sessions. The Section Business meeting was held following the shorter paper session. The day before ASA, the Mathematical Sociology Section co-sponsored the 5th Joint Japan-North America Mathematical Sociology Conference (see below).

Paper Session (one-hour). Models and Model Adequacy   Sat, Aug 18—10:30am—11:30am

Abstract: Papers in this session focus on the selection, calibration, and/or assessment of formal models for social phenomena. Approaches ranging from mathematical and computational analysis to empirical assessment are represented.

Session Participants:

Session Organizer: Carter T. Butts (University of California-Irvine)

Models of Interacting Particle Systems for Social Processes

   Joseph M. Whitmeyer (University of North Carolina-Charlotte)

Using Luminosity as a Proxy for Economic Statistics: New Results and Estimates of Precision

   Xi Chen (Quinnipiac University)

Paper Session. Empirical Applications of Mathematical Models   Sat, Aug 18 - 2:30pm - 4:10pm

Abstract: Papers in this session focus on applications of mathematical models to empirical data. Applications from a wide range of sociological domains are represented.

Session Participants:

Session Organizer: Carter T. Butts (University of California-Irvine)

Justice and the Linear Tax System

   Guillermina Jasso (New York University), Bernd Wegener (Humboldt University-Berlin)

Modeling Relational Events: A Case Study in an Open Source Software Development Project

   Guido Conaldi (University of Greenwich), Eric Quintane (University of Lugano), Alessandro Lomi (Universita della Svizzera Italiana), Marco Tonellato (University of Lugano)

Stability and Conformity in Scientists' Research Strategies

   Jacob Gates Foster (University of Chicago), Andrey Rzhetsky (University of Chicago), James A. Evans (University of Chicago)

Waves of Coverage: Positive Feedback, Path Dependence and Inequality in Media Attention to Social Movement Organizations

   Charles F. Seguin (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill)

Weighted Reciprocity in Human Communication Networks

   David S. Hachen (University of Notre Dame), Omar A. Lizardo (University of Notre Dame), Zoltan Toroczkai (University of Notre Dame), Cheng Wang (University of Notre Dame), Anthony Strathman (University of Notre Dame), Nitesh Chawla (University of Notre Dame)

We also had a joint reception with Rationality and Society and Evolution, Biology, and Society. The reception was well attended by all three sections.

Awards Presented at ASA

The Section presented three awards this year. All award winners were present to accept their award, which were presented by the chairs of the award committees.

Joint Japan-North America Mathematical Sociology Conference

The Mathematical Sociology Section, along with the Rationality and Society Section of ASA and the Japanese Association for Mathematical Sociology co-sponsored the Fifth Joint Japan-North America Mathematical Sociology Conference on August 16, 2012, the day before ASA. This year's conference was the largest to date, with around 70 attendees and two simultaneous paper sessions. There was great enthusiasm for the conference and for continuing the tradition.

Encouragements to join the section and to recruit new members (especially students) were included in both section newsletters and in the Chair's statements in those publications. The Chair's general welcome and update announcements on the section listserv also included encouragements to join. The Joint Japan-North America Mathematical Sociology Conference was held the day before ASA, facilitating ASA attendance by Japanese scholars.

Communication Strategy

Most communications are done through the section listserv, newsletter, and website.

The Mathematical Sociology Section maintains both a newsletter (published in fall and spring) and a website. Both the newsletter and website are at

http://mathematicalsociology.org/

http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/soc/groups/mathsoc/index.php

Matthew Brashears is section webmaster. Pamela Emanuelson and Donna Lancianse co-edit the newsletter. The website includes information about the section, posts current announcements, and hosts a blog on Mathematical Sociology (Permutations). The section is also developing a Data Bank archive (in collaboration with the journal Mathematical Sociology) that will host data sets relevant to mathematical sociology. This year we added a second newsletter editor, since the task of compiling two newsletters each year seemed more than one person could accomplish. We anticipate that having two editors will enhance the newsletter offerings and ensure that we continue to publish it twice each year.

To facilitate communications with the section, the webmaster and the two newsletter editors are included in Section Council communications and are invited to the Council Meeting at ASA. They also have permission to post email messages to the Section listserv.

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Plans for the Coming Year

We anticipate an active presence at ASA in New York, with section sessions, Council and Business meetings, and a joint reception with Rationality and Society and Evolution, Biology, and Society.

The Data Bank archive has received its first data submissions and we anticipate that it will continue to grow and hopefully become a notable Math Soc Section contribution. The newsletter co-editors have an active agenda of possible features and highlights. Adding a second newsletter editor will enhance the extent and range of newsletter offerings. The section website remains a source of current news and also hosts blogs about Mathematical Sociology.

At the Section Council meeting we discussed ways that students might become more involved in the section. One possibility is to conduct a survey of student concerns, followed by a report with suggestions to Council and to the Section.

International Network for Social Network Analysis Conference

Xi'an International Conference Center

The Xi'an 2013 INSNA Conference will be held on

July 12-15 in Xi'an, China.

This is a conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis (INSNA), and it will be organized by the Institute for Empirical Social Science Research of Xi'an Jiaotong University and the Chinese Association for Social Network Analysis. The conference website is

insna2013.xjtu.edu.cn.

This is the venue where to submit your workshop selections, session proposals, paper abstracts, conference and hotel registrations, and tourist plans. The deadline for session proposals and paper abstracts is

December 31, 2012.

The conference secretariat will send each registered international participant an official letter of acceptance, which is to be used for a visa application from your local Chinese consulate.

The organizing committee is pleased to have the following people as international advisors: George Barnett, Katherine Faust, Linton Freeman, Ronald Burt, Bonnie Erickson, Joseph Galaskiewicz, Nan Lin, Peter Marsden, Pip Pattison, Werner Raub, Garry Robins, John Skvoretz, Tom Snijders, Anne Tsui, Stanley Wasserman, and Barry Wellman.

Local organizers: Jieming Chen,Jiade Luo,Yanjie Bian (yjbian@mail.xjtu.edu.cn)

Secretariat Email: insna2013@mail.xjtu.edu.cn

INSNA Sunbelt Conference XXXIII

INSNA is the professional association for researchers interested in social network analysis

Call for Abstracts

Deadline: December 20,2012

The Sunbelt XXXIII program committee is soliciting abstracts for paper presentations at the upcoming 2013 conference in Hamburg, Germany.

Submission begins in early November and closes on December 20 at 5:00 EST. We invite abstract submissions for posters (60 minute poster session) and oral presentations (20 minute talk) on topics relevant to social network analysis, including theory, methods, and applications of social network analysis. Please limit your abstracts to 250 words. If a series of papers are being submitted as a single panel or session, please indicate this in the "special note section" of the abstract submission website (see FAQ's). Paper and poster presentations will begin on Wed May 22 and conclude on Sun May 26. Presenting authors of accepted submissions must be members of INSNA and must register for and present their work at the meeting. This stipulation applies to both oral and poster presentations. Each member may present only one paper at the conference. Further details about the submission process will be available through list serves and member notifications.

Preliminary Information on the 2013 ASA Meetings

Hilton, New York

The 2013 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association will be held in New York, NY on August 10-13. This year's theme is "Interrogating Inequality, Micro and Macro." The 2013 Call for Submissions will launch on October 30, 2012 and online submissions can begin on December 7, 2012.

Submission Deadline:

January 9, 2013

Graduate Student Paper Award

David Mel-amed and Scott Savage accept 2012 Award

This award is presented for the best paper written by a graduate student that makes a significant contribution to mathe-matical sociology. Papers can be published or un-published. The submission can consist of a dissertation chapter, but not the entire dissertation.

The submission must have been written or published during the three years prior to the award year. The author/first author must be a graduate student at the time of submission, and all authors must be graduate students when the paper was written.

Nominations and self-nominations are welcome. Please send a copy of the paper and a nomination letter by February 1, 2013 to :

James Montgomery
8128 William H. Sewell
Social Sciences Building
1180 Observatory Drive
Madison, WI 53706-1393
jmontgom@ssc.wisc.edu

Outstanding Article Publication Award

This award honors an article that has made an outstanding contribution to mathematical sociology. Eligible articles must have been published during the three years prior to the award year. Nomi-nations can only be made by American Sociological Association Members. Self-nominations are welcome. Please send a copy of the article and a nomination letter by February 1, 2013 to :

Matthew Brashears
366 Uris Hall
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York
14853-7601
meb299@cornell.edu

Harrison White Outstanding Book Award

This award honors a book that has made an out-standing contribution to mathematical sociology. Eligible books must have been published during the four years prior to the award year. Nominations must come from Ameri-can Sociological Associa-tion members and self nominations are wel-come. Please send a copy of the book and a nomination letter by Feb-ruary 1, 2013 to:.

Peter Burke
Sociology Department
1206 Watkins Hall
University of California, Riverside
Riverside, CA 92521
peter.burke@ucr.edu

John Skvoretz accepts James S. Coleman Award 2012

$1,500 Award

Dissertation - In - Progress

Award!!

Need $ for Research??

Does your proposal use math??

Once a year, the Mathematical Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association Awards one promising graduate student $1,500 for devising sociological research that uses mathematics in an ingenious or innovative way. The project should be in-process and well-thought out. Interested applicants need only submit a copy of his or her completed and approved dissertation proposal, a letter of support from the student's

Sponsor which describes the student's qualifications for completing the task and the potential importance of the project. There are only a few requirements for receiving this award. The applicant must be a current member of the American Sociological Association and a member of the Mathematical Sociology Section. Please send a copy of the dissertation proposal and the nomination letter by February 1, 2013 to:

Arnout Van de Rijt
Department of Sociology
State University of New York at Stony Brook
Stony Brook, New York 11794-4356
arnout.vanderijt@stonybrook.edu

Nick Berigan

Winner 2011

David Melamed

Winner 2010

Tucker S. McGrimmon

Winner 2010

Pamela Emanuelson

Winner 2008

Thank you for your timely contributions to the Fall/Winter Issue of the *Mathematical Sociologist*. Please continue to send us your announcements, articles, book reviews, conference announcements, etc. The more you are involved with the newsletter, the better it will be.
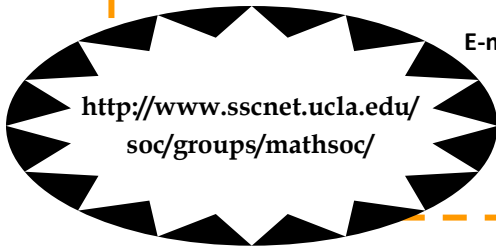
Please feel free to send us your comments, concerns, corrections, or any ideas you have for the newsletter.

Have a great winter and watch your email for future newsletter editor requests.

Newsletter Co-Editors

E-mail: Pamela.emanuelson@ndsu.edu (left)

E-mail: donna-lancianese@uiowa.edu (right)

http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/soc/groups/mathsoc/

Mission Statement of the Mathematical Sociology Section

The purpose of the Mathematical Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association is to encourage, enhance and foster research, teaching and other professional activities in mathematical sociology, for the development of sociology and the benefit of society, through organized meetings, conferences, newsletters, publications, awards and other means deemed appropriate by the Section Council. The Section seeks to promote communication, collaboration and consultation among scholars in sociology in general, mathematical sociology and allied scientific disciplines.

Time Square, New York

Archimedes Quoted in D MacHale

There are things which seem incredible to most men who have not studied mathematics.