

*Newsletter of the Mathematical Sociology Section of
the American Sociological Association*

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Greetings from the Chair ... Ron Breiger

It's not too soon to be thinking about coming to Atlanta for the 2010 ASA meeting! We can look forward to an unusually large set of opportunities for presenting exciting work in mathematical sociology. I am referring to three (3) open-submission sessions on mathematical sociology, plus a fourth session to take place during the first hour of our annual business meeting.

Our most recent past section chair, Barbara Meeker, has as one aspect of her leadership secured from the ASA program committee an open-submission paper session in mathematical sociology for 2010. In addition, there will be two section-sponsored open-submission paper sessions. So please don't feel shy! There has never been a better time or place than Atlanta 2010 to submit your paper, to showcase your research to colleagues throughout the discipline, and to celebrate the depth and breadth of research in mathematical sociology. Please spread the word, to graduate students and colleagues, and ask them to join the section if they are not already members. (It costs a graduate student a mere five dollars to add the section to an existing ASA membership, and many of us have been known to reimburse that amount to our students.

To add the section to an existing ASA membership, from the main ASA web page click on Join or Renew / Join / Update.)

One of the Section's open-submission sessions, to be chaired by David Schaefer of Arizona State University, will be on new developments in mathematical sociology. The other open-submission session, to be chaired by Matt Brashears of Cornell University, is intended to have a particular focus. The session is titled "Mathematical Sociology at Key Intersections of the Discipline." Many developments within mathematical sociology connect well with core questions at the intersection of sociological concerns in the study of economy, polity, social psychology, gender, and culture, among others. Such outward-looking connections will be featured in the papers submitted to and selected for this session. Mathematical Sociology Day at the ASA will be Tuesday, August 17, 2010 in Atlanta; save the date!

I would like to express appreciation to some especially active and crucial members of our section: to colleagues who served on award committees during the past year (their work is the subject of a separate article in this issue), to Pamela Emanuelson



for superb work on the section's Newsletter, and to Matt Brashears, who is working on organizing an innovative math-soc blog as a new section activity, about which more information will be forthcoming.

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Outstanding Article Publication Award

Damon Centola and Michael Macy

“Complex Contagions and Weakness of Long Ties.”

American Journal of Sociology, 3:802-34, 2007

Committee Members:

Dawn Robinson, Chair
Tim F. Liao and David Gibson

Honorable Mention:

Vincent Buskens and Arnout van de Rijt

"Dynamics of Networks if Everyone Strives for Structural Holes"

American Journal of Sociology, 2008, 4:371-407.

Outstanding Graduate Student Paper

Neha Gondal

"Knowledge Space as a Partially Self-Organizing System"

Committee Members:

Kazuo Yamaguchi, Chair
Ron Breiger and Jane Sell

Outstanding Dissertation-in-Progress Award**Tucker S. McGrimmon**

"Social Diversity and the Efficacy of Majority Rule Voting"

Committee Members:

Barbara F. Meeker, Chair;
Robert Shelley and Murray Webster

"The committee is happy to support this excellent example of the use of mathematics to advance sociological research and theory." *Award Committee*

ABSTRACT

The use of majority rule voting in group decision making is pervasive within democratic societies. Groups, often acting on behalf of a population, must choose between competing alternatives and use majority rule to decide which alternative to support. Classic social choice theory is predicated upon and motivated by the democratic tenant that group choice, social policy, or collective action should be based on the diverse preferences and information of its constituents and the most prevalent decision making rule for doing so is majority rule voting (Miller 1983). However, the earliest and most notable model showing the superiority of group over individual decision making using majority rule, the Condorcet Jury Theorem, assumes group members vote independently. CJT and its primary assumption stands in sharp contrast to social psychological accounts of real groups that tend to display correlated behavior that depends on members' characteristics relative to others. These observations raise serious questions regarding the applicability of CJT to real world collective decision settings. This research uses a two stage voting game to mathematically model how correlated behavior can arise in groups based on the social structures that emerge within them. In particular, the research shows how the probability of choosing the superior of two alternatives is affected the social hierarchical and the diversity within it. In addition, how the level of correlated behavior is affected by the social hierarchy and the diversity within it is also derived. Newly designed laboratory experiments will test the conclusions of these mathematical models and provide evidence as to whether and how social diversity impacts the efficacy of group decision making when groups employ majority rule.

Mathematical Sociology Annual Report, 2008-2009

Barbara Meeker, Past Chair
October 2009

The Business and Council Meetings

Following is the agenda as discussed at the 2009 business meeting of the Mathematical Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association. Approximately 40 members attended.

- 1) Minutes of last years meeting.
- 2) Award Committee Reports for 2009. (For more information see pages 2-3).
- 3) Election and Change of Section Officers.

Outgoing Officers (Term ends 2009)

- Secretary Treasurer: James Moody
- Council: Guilermina Jasso, Kazuo Yamaguchi
- Student Council: Cyprian Wejnert

Continuing Officers (Term ends 2010)

- Council: Jane Sell, Brent Simpson

Continuing Officers (Term ends 2011)

- Council: James Kitts, Dawn Robinson

Incoming Officers (Term ends 2010)

- Chair Elect: Robert Hanneman
- Student Council: Daniel B. Shank

Incoming Officers (Terms end 2012)

- Secretary Treasurer: David Wagner
- Council: Katherine Faust, Robb Willer

After 2009 ASA Meetings

- Past Chair: Barbara Meeker
- Chair: Ron Breiger
- Chair Elect: Robert Hanneman
- Diane Felmlee ends her term

Will Continue 2009—2010

- Newsletter Editor: Pamela Emanuelson
- Webmaster: Matt Brashears

4) Chair Barbara Meeker reported that four section members presented papers on Mathematical Sociology in a panel at the Joint Meetings of the American Mathematical Society and

the Mathematical Association of America in January 2009. There was good attendance and the talks were well received by the mathematical audience.

5) Membership Information

Membership Numbers from the ASA that Compare this Year (July) to Last Year (June)

	July 15, 2009	June 30, 2008	Difference
Low Income	2	0	+2
Student	53	42	+11
Regular	157	159	-2
Total	212	201	+11

6) Matt Brashears, webmaster, reported that the section Web page is up and running, and now has recent issues of the Newsletter and various archival materials posted (including a history of the section, the by-laws, and lists of past officers and award winners). He hopes to establish a Blog (see announcements for blog address), if enough section members agree to participate.

7) Phil Bonacich, editor of the Journal of Mathematical Sociology, reported that the Journal is in good shape and encouraged submission of good quality articles.

8) Gene Johnson sought advice from the section about disposition of the extra funds remaining from the last joint Japan-North American Mathematical Sociology Conference.

9) Financial Accounts: Dissertation Support Fund. – Geoff Tootell The American Sociological Association restricted fund balance Math Soc. Dissertation Award Fund - Fund 73, as of June 30, 2009 has \$97,086.69. The goal is to collect \$100,000 so that the dissertation award can be increased from \$1,000 to \$2,000. This prior year, the fund increased \$15,043.19. Thank you for your generous contributions.

Mathematical Sociology Annual Report, 2008-2009

10) Financial Accounts: Section Operating Budget: Dave Wagner

June 30, 2009	Quarter				Year-to-Date
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	
Income	\$1,422	0	0	0	\$1,422
Budget Allocation	1,422	0	0	0	1,422
Total Income	1,422	0	0	0	1,422
Expenses	0	0	0	0	0
Change in Net Assets	1,422	0	0	0	1,422
Net Assets Beginning	3,917	5,339	5,339	5,339	5,339
Net Assets Ending	5,339	5,339	5,339	5,339	5,339

11) Incoming Chair Ron Breiger discussed his plans for next year.

- A report of the section council meeting.

Council met for breakfast on Monday, August 10. New officers were introduced and the agenda for the business meeting was discussed (see above). Barbara Meeker noted that there had been no nomination for the book award; Council recommended that the next time a book award is due the time window for publication should be expanded. Meeker also reported some difficulty recruiting people to serve on award committees and Past Chair Diane Felmlee reported some difficulty getting people to run for Secretary/Treasurer. The nominations procedures to be used by the section for the election of officers, a slate of candidates was developed by Past Chair Diane Felmlee, as required by the section By-laws with the members of Council as the Nominating Committee. A general e-mail to section members requested nominations, including self-nominations. Barbara Meeker will chair the Nominations Committee in 2010 with the members of Council as members of the Committee.

- An operating budget for the coming year was approved by the section council. Council approved expenses in the same categories as this year including a breakfast meeting of Council at ASA, framed certificates or plaques for section award winners, and a reception.
- A review of the current year's activities:

At ASA, the section had one session of open submission papers, and an invited panel consisting of two sociologists and one mathematician on the subject of collaboration between mathematicians and sociologists. The section had a joint reception with the Rationality and Society section and the Evolution, Biology and Society section. Awards were presented during the reception. During the year: awardees were selected for outstanding article, outstanding graduate student paper, and outstanding dissertation in progress; nominations and elections produced a new chair-elect, secretary/treasurer, two council members and a student representative. Four section members presented papers at mathematics meetings in January. A number of section members made new contributions to the dissertation research fund. Two issues of the section newsletter came out, and the section webpage was revived.
- Plans for the coming year.

For ASA, several sessions on either mathematical sociology (general, open submission), or relationship between mathematical sociology and various fields within sociology.

**The International Conference on Social Computing,
Behavioral Modeling, & Prediction**

When:

March 29—April 1

Where:

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Campus in Bethesda, MD
Near Washington D.C

The International Conference on Social Computing, Behavioral Modeling & Prediction is the largest conference devoted to social science-related research in computer science. As in past years, there will be opportunities to hear presentations from and talk to representatives of the largest federal funding agencies for scholarly research, including the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, Office of Naval Research, and Air Force Office of Scientific Research. Conference proceedings will be published as a book in the Lecture Notes in Computer Science Series by Springer/Verlag.

Sun-Ki Chai, 2010 co-program chair of the International Conference on Social Computing, Behavioral Modeling, & Prediction (SBP10), is particularly interested in gaining the participation of sociologists in order to make a fully interdisciplinary conference. As such, section members are invited to contribute and attend. Information including instructions for the submission of a (short) paper and/or poster, the call for papers, and the previous years' programs, can be found at the conference website.

Submission Deadline:

November 15, 2009

Conference Website:

<http://sbp.asu.edu/>

This year the conference will feature events designed to promote interchange. The first day will be devoted to tutorial sessions, including those on computer science methods for social scientists and vice versa. Tutorials tentatively scheduled include introductions to principles of agent-based simulation; comparisons of network models in sociology, physics, and economics; and application of computational behavioral models to public health. If you have a proposal for a tutorial, particularly one introducing methods from mathematical sociology to outsiders, please send them directly to me at sunki@hawaii.edu by November 15.

The last half-day will be devoted to informal round tables to bring together social and computer scientists for intellectual cross-fertilization, as well as for forming interdisciplinary, interuniversity teams that could work together on grant applications. I welcome suggestions for topics to be covered at these roundtables.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sun-ki Chai:

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Fax 808 956-3707
Cell 808 741-4843

**Regional Conferences
Title and Abstract Submission Deadlines:
NOVEMBER 15!!**

**Pacific Sociological
Association (PSA2010) Meetings**

When:
April 8-11, 2010

Where:
Marriot Oakland City Center

John Angle, the organizer of the mathematical sociology session, currently has enough strong papers for about 1 ½ sessions. With a few more good papers, there is a possibility that the association will grant mathematical sociology one more session. Submissions must include papers (or titles and abstracts), the author's/presenter's identity, affiliation, and address. Information should be emailed directly to John Angle.

**Midwest Sociological Society and North
Central Sociological Association Joint
Meetings**

When:
March 31—April 3, 2010

Where:
Chicago Marriott Downtown

The call for abstract submissions is currently up at

<http://www.themss.org/>
<http://www.ncsanet.org/>

The website for submitting abstracts is

<http://www.meetingsavvy.com/mssncsa/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fmssncsa%2fdefault.aspx&AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

**The Interdisciplinary Center for Network Science and Applications
University of Notre Dome**

iCeNSA is an interdisciplinary research center organized around network science problems in social, biological, biochemical, physical, environmental, financial, organizational, technical and defense systems.

As a research center, iCeNSA:

- 1) Develops a systems level of understanding of the fundamental processes and mechanisms that underlie the structural, dynamic, and functional properties of complex networks.
- 2) Develops and integrates novel mathematical and computational tools for network science.

iCeNSA's approach is to abstract, generalize, classify and synthesize features of domain specific network phenomena into systems-level descriptions, theories and tools, which can then be applied to other domain specific network problems. iCeNSA's research repertoire originates from both pure academic concerns (fundamental component) and the needs of sponsoring agencies and industrial clients (applied component). As part of an educational institution, iCeNSA provides a hands-on training environment in network science for undergraduates, graduate students and postdoctoral associates. Given the complexities of real-world systems we anticipate a growing need in academia, industry and government for personnel who have a problem solving mentality, an interdisciplinary and global understanding of networked systems and the ability to design practical and sound solutions using rigorous mathematical and computational tools, a need that iCeNSA strives to meet through its educational programs. For more information, go to:

<http://icensa.nd.edu/>

Mathematical Sociology Section Award Nominations

James Coleman Distinguished Career Award

The distinguished career award recognizes a lifetime of contributions to the field of Mathematical Sociology. The last award was given to Scott Boorman in 2008. A letter of recommendation should outline the candidate's activities of lasting significance in mathematical sociology, conducted over the course of his or her career. The nomination also should include a copy of the candidate's curriculum vitae, and an assurance that the candidate has given permission to be nominated for the award. Nominations must come from American Sociological Association members. Please send nomination materials by February 1, 2010 to: Katherine Faust, University of California, 3285 Social Sciences Plaza B, Mail Code 5100, Irvine, CA 92697, kfaust@uci.edu

Mathematical Sociology Outstanding Dissertation-in-Progress Award

This award provides a grant of \$1,000 to meet some of the scholarly expenses of a student whose dissertation is still in progress and employs mathematics in an interesting, imaginative or ingenious way to advance sociological knowledge. The applicant should submit a copy of his or her approved dissertation proposal, with a list of any requirements added by the graduate committee. The packet should also include a letter of support from the student's sponsor, which describes the student's qualifications for the completed task and the potential importance of the project. The requirements include membership in the ASA and the mathematical sociology section during the period to be covered by the grant. Please send a copy of the dissertation proposal by March 1, 2010 to Geoff Tootell, gtootell@juno.com.

Graduate Student Paper Award

This award is presented for the best paper written by a graduate student that makes a significant contribution to mathematical sociology. Papers can be published or unpublished. 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. The graduate student paper award includes \$500 to help defray the costs of attending the ASA meetings or other expenses. Please send a copy of the paper and a nomination letter by February 1, 2010 to: Brent Simpson, University of South Carolina, Department of Sociology, 411 Pickens St., Columbia, SC 29208-0001, bts@sc.edu

Harrison White Outstanding Book Award

This award honors a book that has made an outstanding contribution to mathematical sociology. Eligible books must have been published during the four years prior to the award year. This award is usually given in odd-numbered years, however it was not given in 2009. For that reason, we are calling for 2010 nominations. Nominations must come from American Sociological Association members. Please send a copy of the book and a nomination letter by February 1 2010 to: Robb Willer, 466 Barrows Hall, Department of Sociology, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720, Willer@berkeley.edu.

Announcement: Member Activities

A research group at the Institute for Research on World Systems at the University of California, Riverside, has been developing formal models of systems of interacting small-scale horticultural/hunting/gathering societies. As part of the activities under an N.S.F. grant to Chris Chase-Dunn (UCR) and Peter Turchin (Ecology, University of Connecticut) Kirk Lawrence, Jesse Fletcher, Hiroko Inoue, Jake Apkarian, and Bob Hanneman have worked with Chris Chase-Dunn to develop models linking resource use, population, migration, internal conflict, and external warfare in systems of small-scale "world-systems." Preliminary results (presented at the American Sociological Association) have identified some complex patterns of relationships among the carrying capacities, populations, and interrelations among connected simple societies in varying ecologies. The next steps in the project will explore formal theories of the evolution of trade, technology, and hierarchy linked to the dynamics within and between populations in small scale "world systems." For more information, feel free to contact Robert Hanneman at

Robert.Hanneman@ucr.edu

A Friendly Reminder: Officer Nominations

Past Chair, Barbara Meeker, will soon be soliciting nominations for new officer positions. In 2011, the section will need two new council members, a new student council and a new chair-elect. If you know of anyone interested in filling any of these positions or are interested in filling any of these positions yourself, please contact Barbara Meeker at Barbara Meeker, Department of Sociology, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742. e-mail:

bmeeker@socy.umd.edu

A New Development

Thanks to the founding vision and leadership of Matt Brashears (Cornell) and a network of colleagues, it is a delight to announce a new resource for our section -- a blog devoted to Mathematical Sociology! Matt writes, "A diverse group of scholars have signed on to contribute to this new resource and will be writing about current events and significant issues for sociology generally and mathematical sociology in particular. Anyone can comment at the blog site, and we hope that both members and non-members will join in the conversation!"

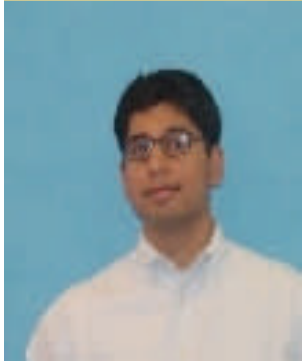
The blog exists *now*, and there are two (equivalent) ways to access it:

- a) Go to the Mathematical Sociology Section website, and then click on the tab "Blog":

blog.mathematicalsociology.org

- b) Click directly on the blog's url:

<http://permut.wordpress.com>



Highlighting New Scholars:

*Sharique Hasan, Carnegie Mellon University
and
Jae-Woo Kim, University of California, Riverside*

Sharique Hasan earned a Bachelor of Science degree with a double major in Computer Science and Philosophy from Rutgers College in 2003. After working for a year, he joined Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In 2006, he completed his Masters degree from CMU and is planning to complete his doctoral dissertation titled "Stratification and Careers in Intraorganizational Social Networks" in the Spring of 2010 under the supervision of David Krackhardt, Shelby Stewman, Denise Rousseau and Daniel Neill.

Sharique is currently interested in understanding how social networks form within organizations and institutions, why certain groups (e.g. women and minorities) are often marginalized in these networks, and what the implications of individual and group-level differences in networks are for intraorganizational mobility. In his research, he has approached these questions from an empirical perspective, by

collecting and analyzing longitudinal network data in organizations, and through more formal analytic approaches by developing and analyzing formal models of network formation.

In one chapter of his dissertation, he attempts to address the tension between structuralist and dispositional perspectives on the disadvantaged position of women in intra-organizational social networks. In this chapter, it is hypothesized that employees entering organizations model their social networks by mimicking the observed relational behaviors of similar others, thereby reproducing existing inequalities. Furthermore, it is hypothesized that deviation from expected network roles (the network positions one would occupy if one were to behave like similar others in the existing organization) affects individuals' satisfaction with their personal networks. He examines these hypotheses using unique cross-sectional and longitudinal sociometric data from a large US professional services firm. The cross-section is a large sample of existing

employees at the firm. The longitudinal sample, which makes this study unique, consists of weekly observations of the networks of the new entrants from their first day at work over a period of twelve consecutive weeks. The empirical analysis provides support for the hypothesis that inequalities in the networks of existing employees are reproduced in new entrants' networks (women again become marginalized). Results also suggest that deviation from the network roles they are expected to play also affects how new entrants feel about their social networks. These findings have implications for the study of social network formation and add insight to the growing body of research on the interaction networks of women and other minorities in organizations.

In another chapter of his dissertation, Sharique studies the relationship between network structure and involuntary employee turnover. Consistent with existing theory on the relationship between social networks and mobility, he finds that greater brokerage or tendency to bridge disconnected sub-networks reduces the probability of

exit. However, drawing from Simmelian tie theory – which argues that membership in multiple disconnected cliques diminishes actors' freedom and independence because they have to contend with conflicting norms and expectations of different groups – he finds that that brokering across disconnected cliques, increases the probability of involuntary turnover.

A third chapter in Sharique's dissertation takes a game-theoretic approach to modeling network structure using insights from organizational demography and social psychology. He develops and analyzes several models to examine cross-group inequality in networks – incorporating homophily, reciprocity, and Heiderian balance into model formulation. What current results suggest is that even slight differences in preference for reciprocity or balance can have major impact on cross-group status differences in social networks.



Jae-Woo Kim is a Ph.D. candidate in sociology at the University of California, Riverside. His current research focuses on the roles of agents who read cues such as ‘tags’ or reputation (popularity) to take discriminating actions against perceived others’ or the ‘bad’ guys. Contemporary computational research in the same vein highlights the importance of discriminating agent’s conditional strategies in the evolution of cooperation in multi-agent Prisoner’s Dilemma games. However, existing work is not well grounded in sociological theories of identity, influence, and small group dynamics.

His research conceptualizes strategies in evolutionary games as culturally transmissible traits rather than genetically inheritable ones. Human agents have tags – the phenotype of ‘memes’ as cultural replicators – to form ‘memetic kin.’ Reading tags enables humans to make distinctions between in-group members and ‘others.’ This tag-based partner identification in the evolutionary game literature is closely related to

‘categorization’ and group membership identities in societies where people interact with, are influenced by, and break and make ties with others.

If human agents cooperate only with similar others, parochial cooperation would stop at group boundaries. Tolerance for diversity and cultural heterogeneity would be eroded in the presence of assimilative influence. And, even moderate levels of homophily may lead to high degrees of segregation. If such in-group preferences are nearly universal human predispositions, how can one explain society-wide cooperation without network disintegration unless societies are highly homogeneous (‘mechanical solidarity’)? Can tag-based cooperative societies be stable in the face of tolerably similar free-riders?

In the dissertation, he models the co-evolution of three dimensions of structure: parochial agents in tag-based societies not only take discriminating actions toward neighbors (institutional), but also they have the option of either learning tags and tolerance from successful neighbors (cultural) or switching partners based on homophily (relational). Experimental studies have stressed that ‘belonging to a group’ positively affects the level of cooperation because human subjects maximize their group-level rewards. However, his research emphasizes how cultural groups ‘emerge’ as cultural markers, albeit meaningless at the beginning, become salient with increasing parochial cooperation among agents

who have a shared belief that in-group members will reciprocate each other.

He continues to ask how emergent cultural groups as cooperative clusters dissolve in the face of culturally indistinguishable defectors (de-institutionalization). Focusing on the interplay of cohesive ties and cross-cutting ties in norm-sustaining networks, his study also seeks to identify the structural conditions under which wide-spread and robust cooperation can evolve along with local convergence and global divergence of culture. He has submitted parts of his dissertation to *Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation*, and *Journal of Mathematical Sociology* (with Robert Hanneman).

Sociologists have focused primarily on negotiated social exchange on networks where agents are engaged in recurrent transactions with the same set of partners. Anthropological studies have been interested in indirect reciprocal exchange, while game theorists are interested in public goods games. Both are known as (chain- and group-) generalized exchange in the sociology literature. Recent studies show that indirect reciprocity can be institutionalized – without established norms in spite of higher risks of non-reciprocity – through a simple mechanism: ‘help your neighbors with tolerably good image scores to increase your score.’ However, agents following this rule increasingly lose tolerance until

none of them cooperates with neighbors with negative image scores: agents refuse to help whoever loses image scores are less likely to be rewarded by third parties. This may cause the disruption of the whole system; and those who just want to keep their own good scores increase by cultural drift in the presence of mutation. Cooperative societies are eventually vulnerable to immigrant defectors. Jae-Woo’s other computational works inquire how the evolutionary dynamics of indirect reciprocity is affected by how people are connected with and whom they are influenced by – either group members or friends at great distances, with special attention to its robustness in spite of costly punishment and the invasion by free-riders.

He will continue to work on computational modeling of how institutional orders as shared beliefs and behavioral regularities co-evolve with community structures of complex networks from social and economic exchange among adaptively learning or bounded rational agents at the micro level. Through empirically calibrated simulation, he hopes to test theoretical ideas and policy issues to find practical implications that could be applied to a variety of areas. Since his fellowship stay at Utrecht University in the Netherlands, he has been also planning experimental studies on social dilemma games and network dynamics such as computer assisted experiments with small groups and web-based experiments with larger groups. His web site is <http://student.ucr.edu/~jkim081>

**Preliminary Information:
The Mathematical Sociology Section Sessions at ASA**

Don't forget that the paper submission system for the 2010 American Sociological Association's Annual Meeting will open soon, December 1. All papers must be submitted by January 13, 2010. The list of topics for the 2010 Call for papers is already available on the Association's website.

<http://www.asanet.org/>
The 105 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association will be held at the Hilton Atlanta (255 Courtland St., NE, Atlanta, GA 30303, shown below) and the Atlanta Marriott Marquis (265 Peachtree Center Ave., NE, Atlanta, GA 30303) on August 14-17 2010.



At ASA 2010, the Mathematical Sociology Sessions will be held on August 17. The Regular Session will

be organized by Barbara Meeker, University of Maryland—College Park. This year, the section will have two section sessions.



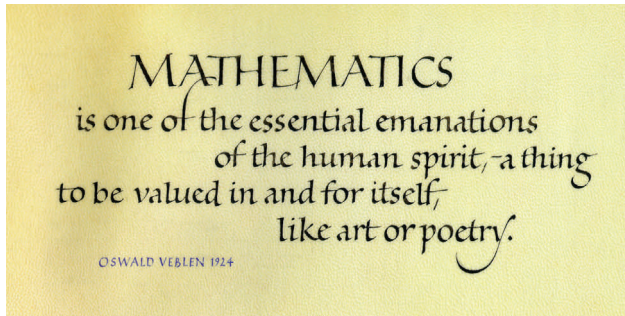
Centennial Park, Atlanta GA

Matt Brashears, Cornell University, has agreed to organize the section session entitled *Mathematical Sociology at Key Intersections of the Discipline*. The session will feature papers that focus on one of the many developments within mathematical sociology that connect well with core questions at the intersection of sociological concerns in the study of economy, polity, social psychology, and culture, among others.

David Schaefer, Arizona State University, has agreed to organize the section session entitled *New Developments in Mathematical Sociology*. This session title has been used previously and invites papers using methods or models that are underrepresented in current journals and other publication outlets.



High Museum of Art, Atlanta GA



**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.

Greetings from the Editor!



Thank you all for your timely contributions to our Fall/Winter 2009/2010 Newsletter!

Please continue to send us your announcements, articles, book reviews, 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 Fall/Winter, and watch your e-mails for future newsletter editor requests!

— *Pamela Emanuelson*