

ASA Section on Rationality and Society

Name Changed from “Rational Choice” to “Rationality and Society” in 2001
Amended 2013

The Purpose of the Section is to encourage and enhance research, teaching and other professional concerns relating to the scope and limits of rational choice approaches to sociological issues. The Section seeks to promote communication, collaboration, and consultation among scholars interested in sociological rational choice.

I. Officers of the Section: The Officers of the Section shall consist of a Council that includes a Chair, a Chair-elect, a Past-Chair, a Secretary-Treasurer, two other members and a Newsletter Editor serving ex officio. All Officers shall serve a two-year term except the Chair, who will be on Council for three years. The Chair-elect will in the first year determine the program for the ASA meeting the following year. The Chair will serve as Chair for one year, and will act as Chair of the Council and shall preside at the annual business meeting. The Secretary-Treasurer shall take and circulate minutes of meetings, and keep and present the documents and financial records of the Section. The Chair will select one member of Council to serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee. The other two members of the Nominating Committee shall be elected during the annual business meeting.

In the first year of the Section’s existence, special procedures will be used to establish a rotation of Council membership. In the first election of the Council following approval of these By-laws by the Council of the American Sociological Association, one Council seat shall be allocated to a two-year term, and the other shall be allocated to a one year term. The Newsletter editor shall be appointed by the chair with the concurrence of Council for a term that will commence immediately and expire at the end of the next business meeting, at which time the Editor may be reappointed or a new Editor appointed to a two year term. This paragraph shall be removed from the Section’s By-laws following the first election held under it.

Officers cannot succeed themselves. No member can hold two elective offices simultaneously. No member may be a member of Council for more than a continuous five-year period, nor may any member hold Council positions for more than seven years of any ten-year period. All voting members of the Section are eligible for election as Officers. If an elected office is vacated before the end of its term, it will be filled for the unexpired term by appointment of the Chair with the concurrence of Council. If the Chair’s office is vacated, the chair-elect shall fill the functions of Chair. If a Past-Chair cannot serve on Council, no replacement shall be appointed.

II. Powers of the Officers: The Council is vested with the power to carry out all necessary operations of the Section, acting as the representative of the membership of the Section. The Council shall make decisions at its scheduled meetings by a majority vote

of its attending members and between meetings by mail, e-mail, conference phone call or any similar method designed to allow all Council members a chance to register their votes. Any action to be made on behalf of the Section will be brought to the next Section business meeting for a vote if requested by three or more Council members. In addition, an action to be made on behalf of the Section may be brought to the next Section business meeting for a vote by a petition signed by 10 percent of the members of the Section or by 25 members, whichever is less. Unless otherwise provided in these by-laws, all appointments to Committees shall be made by the Chair with the concurrence of the Council.

III. Elections and Voting: The elections of the Section shall be carried out in cooperation with the American Sociological Association and coordinated with its schedule. Newly elected Officers and Council members shall assume office on the day following the annual Business Meeting of the Section at the American Sociological Association's annual meeting.

IV. Committees: There shall be a Nominations Committee composed of at least two members appointed for one year terms and a Chair who shall be a member of council elected to serve in that position.

V. Prizes: The section will establish two prizes for outstanding scholarly work. Faculty alone will be eligible for the first prize; graduate students alone for the second. For faculty, the prize will be for works published over the previous two years and is for a book one year and an article the next. The graduate student prize will be for a work or publication of the previous two years. There will be a separate committee for each prize of at least three members each. The membership of each committee will consist of the winner of previous year's prize plus others chosen by the section officers. The Chair of the section will select the chair of each committee from its membership.

VI. Membership: The membership of the Section is open to any member of the American Sociological Association without regard to the classification of the membership. Members who do not pay their Section dues shall be suspended, and dropped from the rolls after two years.

VII. Dues: Dues shall be set by the Council to cover the operation of the Section in accordance with the requirements of the American Sociological Association.

VIII. By-Law Changes: proposed changes in these by-laws must first be discussed at an annual meeting of the section. Next, the changes must be approved by a majority of the entire Council. Finally, the changes must be submitted to vote of the section Members through a mailed ballot and approved by a majority of those submitting ballots.