Section Annual Report for Rationality and Society

This annual report covers the period of section activity from September 2017 to August 2018 and a fiscal year from January 2018 to December 2018. The report is typically completed by the immediate past chair of each section as it covers the period this person served as chair. However, it is often completed in consultation with other officers and it may be submitted by anyone on the section council.

Sections that do not file an Annual Report will have their budget allocation withheld until a complete report is received. Please submit the report by November 15.

Section Governance
Provide details of your section’s governance activity during the period between September 2017 and August 2018.

Business Meeting
Copy and paste below (or attach separately) the agenda and approved meeting minutes from the section business meeting which include a count of members present and summary of decisions made at this meeting.

Saturday, August 11, 2018
Agenda for Business Meeting:

There were 24 members of the section present at the Business Meeting.

Thanks to the council from this year: Vincent W. Buskens (past chair), Jun Kobayashi (Chair-elect), Neha Gondal, (Secretary/Treasurer), and Council members, Katrin Auspurg and Katie E. Cocoran.

Thanks also to our newsletter editors: Jun Kobayashi and Masayuki Kanai; Starting this year, Masayuki Kanai will be the primary newsletter editor.

As a review of our meetings here in Philadelphia, we had a successful session from 10:30 to 12:10 Empirical Advances in Rationality and Society (organized by Katie Cocoran. This session featured:

Agents beyond Control? Organizational Design, Distributed Digital Systems and the Problem of Corruption - Howard T. Welser, Ohio University; Edgar Kiser, University of Washington

None of Your Business: The Principal Agent Problem, or How Teens and Parents Negotiate Sex - Maria Grigoryeva, University of Washington

Sharing Compromising Information as a Cooperative Strategy - Wojtek Przepiorka, Utrecht University; Diego Gambetta, European University Institute

Our invited session, from 2:30 to 3:30, featured a discussion of the general perspectives of Rationality and Society.
The speakers featured include Jonathan Turner. While Peter Hedström was originally scheduled for his knee surgery, so Jun Kobayashi and Jane Sell helped coordinate discussion.

II. The coming year

After this business meeting, the new officers will take over the session. We welcome:

Chair-Elect: Pamela Emanuelson
Secretary/Treasurer: Masayuki Kanai
Council Member: Emily Erikson.

Rotating off the council will be Vincent Buskens, Neha Gondel, and Katrin Auspurg; we are very appreciative of their service.

We discussed adding a student member to our council. We realize that this would be a change in our bylaws but that such a change could add an important element in both outreach and mentorship.

We also discussed and reviewed our efforts to retain and further vitalize the section. Our new Chair, Jun Kobayashi, will be hosting a “pre-conference” next year in New York. Additionally, we will make sure to maintain our strong alliance with the International Sociological Association, especially with the Rational Choice Research Group.

Copy and paste below (or attach separately) the agenda and approved meeting minutes of all Council Meetings conducted between August 2017 and September 2018. Minutes must include a list of council members present and a summary of decisions made. Minutes are not a transcript of proceedings but a listing of what discussions took place and official actions taken.

List of meetings/discussions with the Council from 8/17 to 8/18. With the exception of the last meeting, these were discussions over email, so all council members, unless otherwise noted, were part of the discussion.

1. (Some initial problems associated with getting access to the listserv via ASA. This had to do with new staff coming in and older staff moving out, I believe)
2. Some initial discussions occurred between the past chair of Rationality and Society as well as the past chair of the Altruism, Morality and Society Solidarity (AMSS) about sharing sections. There was a prior trial in which the two sections shared; however, in the end, AMSS was not interested in further developing this alliance. However, they did work with us on membership (see below).
3. In August at our Montreal meeting, we suggested at our business meeting that make an offer to the AMSS section: we would join their section and hope that they would engage in reciprocity and join our section. I then sent them the name of the Rationality and Society people who newly joined their section and asked that they match them. This they did (after all, how could they refuse, given the name of their section?). This amounted to 7 new members.
4. Sent an inquiry to Mathematical Sociology and Evolution, Biology and Society about potentially sharing a reception. Both sections were interested and we continued our discussions and made agreements about sharing expenses.

5. Discussion with Council on October 11th about ASA plans. Earlier (at the Montreal meetings) we had discussed having the time for our one session as an open session. Council member Katie Corcoran had agreed to be an organizer. As in the past, we decided to have our council meeting off-site and save the designated time for a meeting. I volunteered to organize this session and have a discussion with award winners about Rationality and Society.

6. On November 7 and 8th we had an internet discussion about committees. We already had a nominations committee chaired by Jun Kobayashi (chair elect) which included Andreas Diekmann and Emily Erikson. Damon Centola (our winner for the best article of the year for 2017) agreed to chair the Outstanding Book award. Vincent Buskens volunteered to chair the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award.

7. On January 13th we received a notice that our section would be considered for Probation. I informed the council and then had a phone conference with Mark Fernando and Kristine Ajrouch about materials necessary for the report. I submitted the report on January 31, 2018.

8. On March 26th, We heard that the section was not to be put on probation. I shared this news with the council. (And, of course, I shared all the materials submitted and the comments received.)

9. On June 3rd, Vincent Buskens, the chair of the Graduate Student Paper Award asked me to comment on the Graduate Student Committee. Although the received two papers, and although the papers both had strong points, the committee thought that neither were strong enough to receive the honor. We discussed the issue of decided that the most important point was promoting papers that were outstanding. So, we decided not to award the Graduate Student Paper Award this year.

10. We tried to arranged a time prior to the ASA for us all to talk together on a conference call. This basically turned out to be an unsolvable problem because we had so many people throughout the world, no time was good for everyone. (This was accompanied by the happy news that two of our council members, Katie Corcoran and Neha Gondal had just had babies.). I shared via email the general issues to be discussed.

11. We arranged to have our council meeting on August 10th at 6pm. At this meeting, we discussed future plans and our progress. We further discussed the report we had to send to ASA concerning probation and what this meant for the future. We discussed issues related to promoting more members. In particular, we planned to target our ISA members as well as those in other sections. We also discussed the idea of adding a student member. Attending this meeting were: Jane Sell, Jun Kobayashi, Masayuki Kanai (newsletter editor), and Katrin Auspurg attended (other council members were not at ASA this year).

The Previous Year
Describe section activities during the period between September 2017 and August 2018.

- **Membership recruitment and retention – What efforts did the section make to retain members and reach out to new members? What were the results of the efforts?**

  We sent out messages and pleas to all members. We engaged in an agreement detailed above with the Altruism, Morality and Social Solidarity section. We included a special call to our newsletter, Agora. (specifically targeting the ISA members).
• **Communications** – *How does the section communicate with its members? Did it begin using any new technologies or strategies? If so, were they effective? Include links to the section website, newsletters, and any other electronic media used.*

We have used the listserv and the links to our website. These include ASA and ISA: https://sites.google.com/site/rationalityandsocietysection/newsletter  

• **Mentoring** – *What, if any, mentoring opportunities does the section offer to students, early career faculty, nonfaculty, etc.?*

We are adding a student to our membership and we hope to start a mentoring program. We feature students on the job market in our newsletter, Agora.

• **Programming** – *Provide an overview of the section’s programming at the annual meeting, scholarly/professional development activities outside of the annual meeting, development of substantive resources, partnerships with other sections or groups, etc.*

We have covered this issue in our report about activities above. Our new Chair, Jun Kobayashi is planning a pre-conference for 2019. This pre-conference will be in conjunction with

**Plans for the Coming Year**

Describe section plans for the period between September 2018 and August 2019. These plans should align with the 2018 budget and proposed 2019 budget below.

• **Membership recruitment and retention** – *What efforts will the section make to retain members and reach out to new members? What are the goals of the efforts?*

As we mentioned, we have increased our efforts to target our international members, we have targeted members if AMSS. We will continue our recruitment efforts. We hope to increase our number of stable, continuing members

• **Communications** – *How does the section plan to communicate with its members? Does the section plan on using any new technologies or strategies? If so, how?*

We discussed this briefly. The listserv and newsletter are still important mechanisms. When we asked members, they indicated that these were important for them.

• **Mentoring** – *What efforts will the section make to mentor students, early career faculty, nonfaculty, etc.?*

We are adding a student member and hope to emphasize student involvement. We also have a “students on the market” section of our newsletter and we intend to increase our newsletter targeting of new scholars.
Programming – Provide an overview of the section’s upcoming plans for programming at the annual meeting, scholarly/professional development activities outside of the annual meeting, development of substantive resources, partnerships with other sections or groups, etc.

Jun Kobayashi will be hosting a pre-conference that will target potential members and make our section visible. We have a continuing and growing partnership with Mathematical Sociology, Social Psychology, and Altruism, Morality and Social Solidarity

2018 Finances
Provide a narrative on how the 2018 budget matched with actual expenses and income from 2018. Please account for any substantive differences.

We had few expenses this year. Our award plaques were donated for both this year and last year. We also had a donation for our reception. So, basically, we did not spend any money outside of our donated money.

Budget for 2019
Creating a budget will help the section plan its activities for the year. Your 2019 budget should reflect the narrative in the “Plans for the Coming Year” section. The following table will help you organize and calculate a budget.

### Expected 2019 Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense Category</th>
<th>Budgeted Amount</th>
<th>Details (use the cells in this column to provide information on each expense)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Annual Meeting</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reception</td>
<td>$780</td>
<td>Shared with other sections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Meeting Expenses</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>Council meetings require no expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Awards</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Awards</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>contribution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award Plaques</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>contribution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>Use this space to provide details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Communications</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>Use this space to provide details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>Use this space to provide details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>Use this space to provide details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Miscellaneous</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>$ Enter amount</td>
<td>Use this space to provide details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$ Enter amount</td>
<td>Use this space to provide details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total 2019 Budgeted Expenditures</strong></td>
<td>$780</td>
<td>Sum estimated expenses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Estimated 2019 Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Category</th>
<th>Estimated Amount</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section Allocation – Base</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>ASA Office will provide figure mid-October. See note 1 on how this figure is calculated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section Allocation – Per Member</td>
<td>$280</td>
<td>ASA Office will provide figure mid-October. See note 2 on how this figure is calculated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premium Dues</td>
<td>$Enter amount</td>
<td>ASA Office will provide an estimated figure. See note 3 on how this figure is calculated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total 2019 Estimated Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Sum estimated income</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Budget Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated Remaining Balance at end of December 2018</th>
<th>$2561</th>
<th>Accounting for all estimated costs for the remainder of the year, estimate the remaining balance.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total 2019 Estimated Income</td>
<td>+$780</td>
<td>Fill in from the Estimated Income table above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 2019 Budgeted Expenditures</td>
<td>-$780</td>
<td>Fill in from the Budgeted Expenditures table above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>= $2561</td>
<td>To calculate net amount, sum Lines 1 and 2, then subtract Line 3.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes
The following explains how income is calculated. By October 20, the ASA Office will provide the following information, so sections do not have to calculate estimates themselves.

1 Section Allocation – Base
Based off of this year’s final membership count as of September 30, sections receive a base allocation as follows:
- Sections with 300 or more members receive a base allocation of $1,000
- Sections with fewer than 300 members and more than 200 members receive: [# of section members - 100] x $5
- Sections with fewer than 199 members receive a base allocation of $500

2 Section Allocation – Per Member
Based off of this year’s final membership count as of September 30, sections receive two dollars for each member.

3 Premium Dues
The base rate is $10 for regular members, $5 for students and $10 for associate, low income, and high school teacher members. Any dues raised by the sections in excess of the base rate go directly to the section throughout the year based on actual membership numbers. Subscription Fees for Section Journals are not added here.

To see current and historical membership counts, please visit www.asanet.org/SectionMembership. Please note that membership year ends on September 30.

Miscellaneous
Is there any additional information about the section or the area of study you would like to share with the Committee on Sections? Is there any feedback you would like to provide to the Committee on Sections?
We know that we are a small section. But our membership is relatively stable and we have a core of dedicated scholars. This is illustrated by our attendance at business meetings and the relative ease of finding people to volunteer.