

# Social Interaction and the Society

## Perspectives of Modern Sociological Science

ETH Zurich, May 26 – 28, 2016

Organizer: Chair of Sociology at ETH Zurich (Prof. A. Diekmann) in collaboration with the section of Model Building and Simulation of DGS

Social and strategic interaction is the basic element in explanations of how society works. People imitate habits, fashions, customs and norms and learn from other people's behavior. Opinions spread throughout society by characteristic patterns and the „law of imitation“



(Tarde) drives the social diffusion of innovations like norms, attitudes or the adoption of new technologies. Strategic behavior considers other actors' goals and opportunities and often leads to far reaching consequences that were not intended by rational or boundedly rational actors. Competing models from game theory, behavioral game theory, rational choice theory, bounded rationality theory with evolutionary models based on principles of learning and imitation were developed to account for explanations of social interactions and its consequences on the macro level of the society. The aim of the conference is to bring together the diverse perspectives on modeling social interaction, on deriving hypotheses from theories of interaction and on empirical tests of hypotheses in various fields of applications.

**Keynotes:** Karen Cook (Stanford), Ernst Fehr (Zurich), Michael Hechter (Copenhagen), Peter Hedström (Linköping), Michael Macy (New York), Ramzi Suleiman (Haifa)

We welcome contributions on (but not restricted to) the following topics:

**How actors make decisions.** Theoretical models and empirical research from experimental studies, field experiments and surveys

**Models of social interaction.** New models from game theory, evolutionary models, bounded rationality etc. to explain actors' behavior and social processes

**Impact on society.** Consequences of individual actions and interactions

**Methods.** Methodological problems, problems of experimental studies, problems of assessing causality in survey studies, the use and misuse of ‚big data‘, simulation studies

**Applications** of models and theories of social interaction in various fields like social norms, law and crime, social stratification, environmental problems, population studies and other fields

Contributions (title, abstract, manuscript if available) should be submitted no later than **January 31st, 2016** to the conference office, indicating the kind of contribution you are applying for: a conference presentation or a poster session. Conference office:

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