

## Daniel J. DellaPosta

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- CONTACT      332 Uris Hall  
INFORMATION   Department of Sociology  
Cornell University  
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Email: [djd264@cornell.edu](mailto:djd264@cornell.edu)  
Phone: 401-714-5601
- RESEARCH      Social networks, economic sociology, computational methods, crime, political  
INTERESTS      sociology
- EDUCATION      **Cornell University**  
  
Ph.D. in progress (ABD), Sociology, *Expected:* May 2017  
*Committee:* Michael Macy (Co-Chair), Victor Nee (Co-Chair),  
Benjamin Cornwell  
*Qualifying Exams:* Social Networks, Economic Sociology
- University of Chicago**  
  
B.A. with Honors, Sociology, 2011
- DISSERTATION      **Closure and Collaboration in the American Mafia**  
  
How do organizations obtain access to valued resources without diluting the loyalties and identities of their members? Network analysts suggest focusing on the boundary-spanning activities of “brokers” who bridge gaps in social structure. In many contexts, however, brokers are viewed with suspicion and distrust rather than rewarded for their diversity of interests. This dissertation examines organizations in which the theoretical deck is seemingly stacked against brokerage and toward parochialism: American-Italian mafia families. Using a historical network data set, I document a division of network labor in which a small number of brokers—often, surprisingly, ethnic outsiders excluded from formal membership—bridged otherwise disconnected islands of criminal activity to gain power within exclusive mafia circles. While social closure in solidary groups ensures a heavy premium on insider status, it can also paradoxically increase the returns to outsider brokerage, albeit only when taken up in a way that does not violate group norms.

JOURNAL  
ARTICLES

**DellaPosta, Daniel.** Forthcoming. “Network Cohesion and Integration in the Mid-20th Century American Mafia.” *Social Networks*.

**DellaPosta, Daniel,** Victor Nee, and Sonja Opper. 2017. “Endogenous Dynamics of Institutional Change.” *Rationality and Society* 29: 5-48.

**DellaPosta, Daniel,** Yongren Shi, and Michael Macy. 2015. “Why Do Liberals Drink Lattes?” *American Journal of Sociology* 120: 1473-1511.

*Outstanding Article Publication Award, ASA Mathematical Sociology Section*

*Press coverage: BBC News, Boston Globe, National Affairs, USAPP (London School of Economics)*

**DellaPosta, Daniel.** 2013. “The Heterogeneous Economic Returns to Military Service: Evidence from the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study.” *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility* 34: 73-95.

**DellaPosta, Daniel.** 2013. “Competitive Threat, Intergroup Contact, or Both? Immigration and the Dynamics of *Front National* Voting in France.” *Social Forces* 92: 249-273.

*Robin M. Williams, Jr. Best Graduate Student Paper Award, Department of Sociology, Cornell University*

BOOK  
CHAPTERS AND  
OTHER  
PUBLICATIONS

**DellaPosta, Daniel** and Michael Macy. 2015. “The Center Cannot Hold: Networks, Echo Chambers, and Polarization.” Edward J. Lawler, Shane R. Thye, and Jeongkoo Yoon (Eds.), *Order on the Edge of Chaos*. Cambridge University Press. 86-104.

**DellaPosta, Daniel,** Yongren Shi, and Michael Macy. 2015. “Why Do Liberals Drink Lattes? How Lifestyles Tied to Political Views Can Be Self-Reinforcing among Partisan Groups.” *USAPP: The LSE’s Daily Blog on American Politics and Policy*. July 14, 2015.

**DellaPosta, Daniel,** Terry Nichols Clark, Stephen Sawyer, and Arkaida Dini. 2014. “Civic and Arts Activities Can Energize Politics, France, and Europe.” Terry Nichols Clark (Ed.), *Can Tocqueville Karaoke? (Research in Urban Policy, Volume 11)*. Emerald. 91-113.

WORKING  
PAPERS

**DellaPosta, Daniel.** “Bridging the Parochial Divide: Closure and Brokerage in Mafia Families.”

*Ronald Burt Outstanding Student Paper Award, ASA Economic Sociology Section*

*Best Graduate Student Paper Award, ASA Rationality and Society Section*

Kim, Minjae and **Daniel DellaPosta.** “The Hipster Effect: Selective Differentiation in Cultural Markets.”

*Best Student Paper Award, Academy of Management’s Organization and Management Theory Division*

Nee, Victor, **Daniel DellaPosta,** and Lisha Liu. “The Entrepreneur’s Network, Organizational Form, and Firm Performance.”

**DellaPosta, Daniel,** Victor Nee, and Sirui Wang. “Networks of Cooperation and Specialized Knowledge.”

AWARDS,  
GRANTS, AND  
FELLOWSHIPS

Outstanding Article Publication Award, ASA Mathematical Sociology Section. 2016.

Best Student Paper Award, Academy of Management’s Organization and Management Theory Division. 2016.

Best Graduate Student Paper Award, ASA Rationality and Society Section. 2015.

Ronald Burt Outstanding Student Paper Award, ASA Economic Sociology Section. 2015.

Robin M. Williams, Jr. Best Graduate Student Paper Award, Department of Sociology, Cornell University. 2012.

Seed Grant, Center for the Study of Inequality, Cornell University. 2011.

Seed Grant, Center for the Study of Economy and Society, Cornell University. 2011.

Russell Sage Fellowship, Cornell University. 2011.

Harold E. Goettler Political Institutions Prize (Honorable Mention), University of Chicago. 2011.

Panel Study of American Religion and Ethnicity Undergraduate Paper Prize. 2010.

PRESENTATIONS

- “Closure and Collaboration in the American Mafia.” Duke Network Analysis Center. Durham, NC. November 2016.
- “Why Do Liberals Drink Lattes (And Why Should We Care)?” American Sociological Association. Seattle, WA. August 2016.
- “Networks of Cooperation and Specialized Knowledge.” American Sociological Association. Seattle, WA. August 2016.
- “The Fickle Crowd: Selective Differentiation in Cultural Markets.”  
American Sociological Association. Seattle, WA. August 2016.  
Academy of Management. Anaheim, CA. August 2016.
- “Three Major Themes in American LGBTQ+ History.” Invited seminar for Cornell oSTEM (Out in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). Ithaca, NY. April 2016.
- “Bridging the Parochial Divide: Closure and Brokerage in Mafia Families.”  
International Network of Analytical Sociologists. Cambridge, MA. June 2015.  
American Sociological Association. Chicago, IL. August 2015.
- “Ethnic Closure and Brokerage in the Cosa Nostra.” Cornell Sociology Research Symposium. Ithaca, NY. March 2014.
- “Endogenous Institutional Change.” American Sociological Association. New York, NY. August 2013.
- “Does Veteran Status Have a Structural Effect on Earnings?” American Sociological Association. Denver, CO. August 2012.
- “Why Do Liberals Drink Lattes?” International Network of Analytical Sociologists. New York, NY. June 2012.

RESEARCH  
EXPERIENCE

- Department of Sociology, Cornell University  
*Research Assistant to Professor Victor Nee* 2013–2015  
*Research Assistant to Professor Benjamin Cornwell* 2013
- Department of Sociology, University of Chicago  
*Research Assistant to Professor Terry Clark* 2010–2011

TEACHING  
EXPERIENCE

- Department of Sociology, Cornell University  
*Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Sociology,* 2012  
*Professor Benjamin Cornwell*

MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association

*Sections:*

- Economic Sociology
- Mathematical Sociology
- Rationality and Society
- Crime, Law, and Deviance
- Political Sociology

Academy of Management

PROFESSIONAL  
SERVICE AND  
MISCELLANEOUS

Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of Sociology, Cornell University. 2016.

Ronald Burt Outstanding Student Paper Award Committee, ASA Economic Sociology Section. 2016.

Best Graduate Student Paper Award Committee, ASA Rationality and Society Section. 2016.

Co-Chair, Cornell Sociology Graduate Student Association. 2013-2014.

Reviewer: *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *Management Science*, *Social Forces*, *Social Problems*, *Sociological Perspectives*

Software and programming: R, Stata, Python, UCINET, Pajek, HLM

REFERENCES

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Benjamin Cornwell  
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Victor Nee  
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