

The language of cooperation: Reputation and honest signaling

2 - 6 September 2019 Lorentz Center @ Oort

The goal of the workshop was to offer scholars working in the social and natural sciences an occasion to meet, discuss and compare different views on the way in which reputation-based mechanisms can explain cooperation, and on the role of honesty in this process. Various disciplines had previously established that indirect reciprocity supported by reputation plays a crucial role in the evolution of cooperation. Several aspects of reputation had yet to receive theoretical and empirical scrutiny, and in order to make progress in the understanding of reputation and honest signaling for cooperation we developed workgroups to address 5 main issues:

- the context dependency of reputation;
- the structure of reputation-relevant communication;
- the relation between the reliability of communication and the coordination of cooperation;
- the confusion around ultimate and proximate mechanisms of indirect reciprocity and reputation and its methodological consequences;
- the sustainability of reputations over time and under changing circumstances: We organized 5 different work groups during the week to discuss these issues, develop new insights, and design future studies and collaborations.

We planned for two major immediate outcomes from the workshop. First, the organizers of the workshop have collected 24 contributions that were organized and submitted for a proposal for a Special Issue in *Philosophical Transactions for the Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*. We have already received a favorable review of an initial pre-submission inquiry. Since the workshop, we have organized 24 contributions to the proposed Special Issue, composing work from Biology, Sociology, Economics, Psychology, and Anthropology. The proposal is currently under review. We had a second goal of writing a review paper for *Nature Human Behavior*. Prior to the workshop we submitted a pre-submission inquiry at *Nature Human Behavior*, and they have invited us to write a perspectives paper. We are in the process of writing that paper and intend to submit the paper in late November. Therefore, we are making excellent progress on achieving our two major goals of the workshop.

The format of the workshop was truly fantastic and we received much positive feedback from the participants. There was good synergy between people from the different disciplines and there came to be some clear understanding about different interpretations across disciplines about indirect reciprocity, its assumptions and differences with competing reputation-based partner choice models of cooperation.

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