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REGULAR SESSION

Title of Session: **Computational and Experimental Approaches to Cooperation in Human Societies**

Name of Session Convener(s): **Giangiaco Bravo / Flaminio Squazzoni**

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Comments:

Abstract (up to 250 words): Cooperation is a crucial factor in human societies. Still, according to game theory, cooperation is not an individually rational strategy in social dilemma situations. Similarly, from an evolutionary point of view, selection processes should negatively select any cooperative organism willing to pay a cost in order to offer a benefit to a different organism. Nevertheless, cooperation is widespread and represents probably a crucial factor in the evolutionary history of humankind.

Experimental studies, as well as day-to-day experience, show that levels of cooperation well above the theoretical expectations are common among human beings in social dilemma situations. The most effective results recently came probably from the application of two innovative approaches, i.e. experimental methods and computational models, into an analytical framework able to explain the fundamental mechanisms behind cooperation.

This session strongly encourages the submission of papers mixing computational and experimental methods (e.g. using simulation models to replicate experimental findings). Papers that allow improving standard studies, deal with cross-methodological issues with examples and applications, demonstrate the fruitfulness of trans-disciplinary approaches, as well as multi-disciplinarily co-authored papers are particularly welcomed.

Examples of research questions to be dealt with are as follows:

- How are social norms related with cooperation in experimental and simulation settings?
- Is reputation a factor able to overcome free-ride temptations? How does it work?
- What is the role of imitation?
- Does it reinforce existing cooperation or does it result in the spreading of egoistic behaviors?
- Are cognitive and cultural aspects really relevant for explaining cooperation?