

## **Midi-conférence / Lunch-Time Conference**

Lundi 7 avril, de 12 h à 13 h 30  
(un buffet sera servi juste avant la conférence)

Monday, April 7, 2014, from 12:00 to 1:30 pm  
(A dinner will be served before the conference)

CIRANO  
1130, Sherbrooke Ouest, bureau 1400,  
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## **Cooperation among heterogeneous agents**

par/by

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### Thème/Topic:

I shall survey a series of experiments conducted with Andreas Markstädter, Martin Schmidt and Cornelius Schnitzler at the University of Göttingen. Investigating, whether and how unequal endowment distributions may affect cooperation in repeated linear public-good experiments, we find three important results. First, in keeping with Hofmeyer, Burns and Visser (*HBV: South African Journal of Economics*, 2007), we observe similar group contribution under symmetry and moderate asymmetry. Behavior can be explained by conditional cooperation. Under weak asymmetry it appears largely driven by what *HBV* call the “fair-share rule”: players tend to provide the same fraction of their respective endowment. Our second result is that asymmetry may as well cause a decline in the group contribution relative to the symmetric situation. Given a strong asymmetry, important enough to render the social optimum unattractive to the super rich, we observe a significantly lower group contribution than under no or weak asymmetry. The rich do not play according to the fair-share rule in this case, but make contributions at the same absolute level as the poor. They appear to seek a “lidded” social optimum, in which everybody makes the same contribution. Thirdly, I shall demonstrate how, in a situation with moderate asymmetry, we can make use of minimum-contribution requirements to change the cooperation norm and achieve an even higher group contribution than under symmetry.

**IMPORTANT : Le nombre de places étant limité, l'inscription est gratuite mais obligatoire via le lien suivant : <http://www.cirano.qc.ca/inscription/inscrire.php?lang=fr&id=601>**

**IMPORTANT: There are no fees, but registration is mandatory, please click on the following link: <http://www.cirano.qc.ca/inscription/inscrire.php?lang=en&id=601>**