

**OUTLINE Lecture 12. Sociology 621 October 10, 2013**  
**RATIONALITY, SOLIDARITY AND CLASS STRUGGLE**

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**I. What is Solidarity?**

Definition: *Class solidarity refers to the willingness of individual members of a class to support the collective struggles of the class by bearing various kinds of individual costs or sacrifices.*

**II. Solidarity and the free-rider problem**

1. The formal structure of the free-rider problem

		EVERYONE ELSE	
		Cooperates	Defects
"ME"	Cooperates	A	C
	Defects	B	D

2. Three quantities defined by this table are particularly important in Elster's analysis:

A-D: *the gain from cooperation*  
B-A: *the gain from free-riding*  
D-C: *the loss from unilateralism* ("sucker penalty")

3. The PD preference ordering: BADC.
4. A false solution

**III. Solutions to the free rider problem in collective actions**

1. *Collective Action with Rational, Selfish Actors.*
2. *Collective Action with Rational, Nonselfish Agents:* conditional altruism & assurance game
3. *Collective Action with Irrational Agents.*

**IV. Social Conditions for Solidarity**

1. *Concentration and Interdependence of Workers.*
2. *Community*
3. *Leadership, activists and organization.*