International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making

MCDM

E-News ● 2017 ● Issue 1 (February)

Contents

Front: Engadin, Switzerland © Lutz Horn, Frankfurt, Germany

Letter from the President

Dear Members of the International Society on MCDM,

2016 has been an interesting year for the whole world. There have been surprises in the outcomes of people's collective decisions. Many questions come to mind. Is it getting less safe everywhere, and are people getting more and more conservative? Are we making any progress in critical global issues such as climate change, poverty, immigration, and human rights? Are these issues all related? I am not sure there is progress being made in people's abilities to access and process information, evaluate multiple criteria, and make decisions. Are we, as MCDM researchers, using our skills to address these major issues? If any of you are doing research on such global issues, we will be delighted to hear from you. Let us use this Newsletter, our discussion list, and our LinkedIn group to share our work and ideas on these matters.

I hope 2016 has been a good year for you personally in achieving your goals. I hope 2017 will be better in making progress in your multiple objectives and finding "satisficing" solutions. I wish you all a Happy New Year!

We have an extra good reason to welcome 2017. It is a year bearing the MCDM conference! Sarah Ben Amour and her colleagues are busy preparing for it. The deadline for abstract submission has been extended until February 15, 2015. Those who have been to our conferences know the high quality of the technical program and how much fun the social program is. Those who have not been to our conferences can ask those who have. The first thing to do is to make sure to submit your abstract –before the deadline– either to an invited session or directly to a regular session. You can find the details about the conference in the Call for Papers that appears in Section 1 of this Newsletter. I hope to see many of you in Ottawa, Canada in July.

Along with the conference, there are many exciting activities. I would like to especially mention three awards. You will find calls for nominations or applications for these awards in Section 1 of this Newsletter. The deadline for nominations for the prestigious MCDM Society awards is March 15th. New awardees will join the scholars who have been recognized with these awards since 1992 for their outstanding contributions to MCDM.

The MCDM Doctoral Dissertation Competition has been established in 2011 and awards have been presented to three young researchers who have done impressive work. We had the privilege of learning about the excellent work of all finalists during the last three conferences. The deadline for applying to this year's competition is March 1st.

Applying MCDM in practice perhaps gives many of us the ultimate satisfaction. The Wiley prize recognizes the best paper applied to a practical problem among the applicants who wish to be considered for the prize. In addition to submitting an abstract to the conference, applicants should submit a full paper by March 7th. All the awards will be presented at the conference, July 10-14, 2017.

Having observed its role in recruiting bright young researchers to our field over the years, I have been a great fan of the MCDA/M Summer Schools. I have noticed that this view is shared by

many of our members and our Executive Committee. We recently agreed unanimously in the coordinating committee of the summer schools to organize these events once every two years, rather than three years. The idea is to alternate the timings of the summer schools with that of our conferences. Along with this decision, I am delighted to tell you that Constantin Zopounidis has volunteered to organize the next summer school in beautiful Chania, Greece in 2018. You can find the first announcement in Section 1 of this Newsletter. I urge the advisors to motivate and support their students to attend and the recent students of the summer school to convey their experiences to their fellow students.

The Executive Committee of our Society makes all the important decisions. Four members of the Committee are up for election every two years. Nominations will be made by an elections committee as well as by members of the Society. The elections will be conducted electronically after the conference. Serving in the Executive Committee is one of many ways of contributing to our field. If you intend to nominate members who you think will make a difference, please watch for the call for nominations that will be made through our discussion list and other means. I would like to invite all members to be actively involved in our Society by any means they think are suitable. The more involved our members are, the more successful the field of MCDM will be.

There are many events that have strong MCDM presences. We list some of these in Section 2 of our Newsletter. I would like to particularly mention the meetings of two organizations. We collaborate closely with the INFORMS Section on MCDM and the Euro Working Group (EWG) on MCDA. The INFORMS Section on MCDM organizes a rich MCDM stream in annual INFORMS meetings, having an MCDM session in every slot of the conference. EWG on MCDA has had two meetings per year for many years. There is information about the activities of these organizations in Sections 2 and 3 of this Newsletter and I recommend that you attend some of them. There is also other information including calls for papers for special issues of journals and lists of MCDM publications in this Newsletter.

Our Newsletter Editor Johannes Siebert and his Editorial Team have once again produced a rich Newsletter for us. I appreciate not only the content of the Newsletter but also their perseverance to publish it just in time twice a year.

Murat Köksalan

President of the International Society on MCDM
president (at)mcdmsociety.org
February 2, 2017
Ankara

Note: Please remember that you can reach the officers of the Society at the following addresses:

president (at) mcdmsociety.org
president-elect (at)mcdmsociety.org
secretary (at) mcdmsociety.org
mcdm-award (at) mcdmsociety.org
phdaward (at) mcdmsociety.org
newsletter (at) mcdmsociety.org

1   Society News

1.1   24th International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making, Ottawa, Canada, July 10–14, 2017

The 24th International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making, July 10-14, 2017, will be held at the Telfer School of Management, University of Ottawa. The conference theme is "Canada 150: Creating a sustainable society" which should be of broad interest to scholars as well as industry partners. This topic reflects that many of the latest MCDM innovations bring into focus diverse sustainable management scenarios for businesses and public-sector organizations, provide essential tools to clarify and evaluate the associated trade-offs, and explore decision-making challenges around social, environmental, health, safety, and performance objectives.

The abstracts submission for MCDM 2017 is open. Abstracts with at most 6000 characters can be submitted here. If you are submitting an abstract as part of an invited session, please find and select the title of your invited session under "Topics". Otherwise, please only select one topic for your abstract. We welcome contributions from all areas of MCDM, in particular those addressing the conference theme.

Note that the deadline for submitting abstracts has been extended to **February 15, 2017**. A set of special journal issues (with the submission deadlines after the conference) will allow you to submit your work.

I am also happy to announce that four experts have kindly accepted our invitations to deliver plenary talks. They are:

- Blair Feltmate, Head of the Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation (ICCA), University of Waterloo, Canada
- Jack Kitts, CEO of the Ottawa Hospital, Canada
- Jyrki Wallenius, Professor, Aalto University School of Business, Finland
- Tuure Tuunanen, Professor, University of Jyväskylä, Finland

I wish to thank them for having accepted our invitation and therefore greatly contributing to the scientific success of the conference.

We will be delighted to welcome you in Ottawa in July 2017 while the country will be in the midst of celebrating its 150th birthday. Following the traditions of our Society, we are aiming to offer a rich social program. The conference banquet will be held inside the prestigious Canada Parliament; a boat cruise on the Ottawa River is planned for the mid-conference outing; and a welcome reception prior to the first day of the conference will allow for an informal get-together.

The conference will be hosted by the Telfer School of Management at the Desmarais Building at the University of Ottawa. The Desmarais building is centrally located downtown in the city of Ottawa. Room blocks have been reserved in nearby hotels, all within walking distance. We have

provided our delegates with several forms of accommodation. From suites that include full kitchens for delegates who wish to bring their families along to University residences. July is the height of tourist season in Ottawa and 2017 is Canada's 150th Anniversary so please book AS SOON AS POSSIBLE and note the "special rate" cut off dates. It's better to book and have to cancel than to not be able to find accommodations.

If you have any further questions regarding the hotels, please do not hesitate to contact them directly by phone or contact the MCDM2017 Conference Manager Susan Redmond at 613-562-5800 ext. 4746 or by email at redmond@telfer.uOttawa.ca.

Please visit the conference website for dates, registration, accommodation and other information.

You are also welcome to contact me at your convenience at MDCM2017@Telfer.uOttawa.Ca.

Thank you,

Sarah Ben Amor

MCDM 2017 Conference Chair

1.2   13th MCDA/M Summer School, Chania, Greece, 2018

The 13th International MCDA/M Summer School is going to take place in Chania/Greece, tentatively, during July 23rd and August 3rd, 2018. Details are available at http://www.mcda-school18.tuc.gr.

The aim of this school is to give to doctoral students/young researchers a state-of-the-art presentation of multiple criteria methods, applications and software. Moreover, the school seeks to stimulate a network of young researchers in MCDA/M. The scientific program of the summer school consists of invited lectures and working groups for discussion of case studies.

The host institutions will be the Technical University of Crete and the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (MAICH) and the venue will be the Conference Center of MAICH.

The city of Chania lies on the northwest coastline of the island of Crete. Being the largest of Greek islands, Crete has a significant contribution to the Greek economy and it is a major tourism and business center in the east Mediterranean region. Chania is the second largest city in Crete with a population of more than 100,000 inhabitants. Due

to its natural beauty and variety of sights, Chania is among the leading tourist destinations not only in Greece but also in the whole Mediterranean area. International conferences are often held in Chania, usually in areas related to engineering, management, and economics. Chania also hosts several educational and research facilities, including the Technical University of Crete (one of the leading Greek universities in terms of research output) and MAICh (an intergovernmental research organization, member of the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies).

The International Airport of Chania has direct charter and scheduled flights to many European cities. Multiple daily domestic flights also connect Chania with Athens, which is directly connected to all major international hubs.

We will provide further information and invite applications in future. For now, make a note of the dates and wait for further announcements. We are looking forward to seeing you in MCDA/M Summer School in Chania, July 2018.

1.3   Call for the International MCDM Doctoral Dissertation Competition

At the 24th International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making, the International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making will bestow the MCDM Doctoral Dissertation Award upon a scholar who has recently obtained a doctoral degree and demonstrated excellence in her or his doctoral dissertation research in Multiple Criteria Decision Making (MCDM) or a related field. The MCDM Doctoral Dissertation Competition identifies and recognizes outstanding doctoral dissertation research, completed since the beginning of 2015, in the development of theory, methodology, and/or the application of theory or methodology to MCDM.

The MCDM Doctoral Dissertation Award Committee will evaluate the applications, identify finalists and provide recommendations to the MCDM Executive Committee for the final decision. The award will be announced at the 24th International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making, Ottawa, Canada, July 10th to July 14th, 2017. The finalists are expected to give a talk at the conference. The finalists will be exempt from paying the conference fee.

Deadline for applications: Please email the zip file of the application packet to the awards committee at phdaward@mcdmsociety.org by **March 1st, 2017**. The finalists will be informed by May 1st, 2017.

Eligibility: Those whose dissertation is in MCDM or a related field and who graduated with a doctoral degree after January 1st, 2015. Only dissertations which have been written in English are eligible.

The application packet should include the following documents (all of which must be in English, except possibly the diploma):

- Cover letter
- Applicant's 2-3 page resume
- Scanned copy of the original diploma of the Doctoral Degree
- Electronic copy of the Doctoral Dissertation
- Extended Abstract of the Doctoral Dissertation in English, limit of four single-spaced pages
- Copies of publications/patents based on the Doctoral Dissertation, if any. In this case, we need a statement from the supervisor saying that the publication(s) derive from the dissertation. Also include publications accepted for a journal, accompanied with the Editor's acceptance letter.
- An endorsement letter from the supervisor(s), highlighting the significance of the dissertation
- (Optional) Additional supporting letters that the applicant wishes to attach

Jyrki Wallenius

Chair of the International MCDM Doctoral Dissertation Committee

Email: Jyrki.Wallenius@aalto.fi

1.4   Call for Nominations: MCDM Society Awards 2017

The international Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making presents, at each of its international conferences, up to three awards to individuals in honor of their outstanding, long-lasting, and influential contributions to the field of MCDM. These awards are:

The MCDM Gold Medal: This is the highest honor that the International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making bestows upon a scholar who, over a distinguished career, has markedly contributed to the theory, methodology, practice and professional development of MCDM.

The MCDM Edgeworth-Pareto Award: This is the highest distinction that the International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making bestows upon a researcher or practitioner of MCDM who has demonstrated a high level of creativity in developing novel areas of application of MCDM and associated methodology, markedly influencing the form of MCDM practice.

The Georg Cantor Award: This is the highest form of recognition that the International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making bestows upon a researcher who has personified the spirit of independent inquiry in developing innovative ideas in the theory and methodology of MCDM, significantly expanding the tools available to MCDM practice.

The 24th International Conference takes place in Ottawa, Canada during 10-14 July 2017. Nominations are now sought for awards to be made at this conference. Nominations should be emailed not later than 15 March 2017 to Theodor Stewart, Theodor.stewart@uct.ac.za (alternative email tjstew@iafrica.com).

Please note the following in respect of making nominations:

- No self-nominations will be accepted.
- The nomination must clearly state for which award the nomination is being made.
- Provide a short statement as to why the nominee is worthy of the award, indicating his/her contributions to the MCDM field.
- Provide a CV for the nominee or a link to it.

Note that a condition of the awards is that the awardee attends the conference in person to receive the award and to present a plenary talk. More information concerning the awards and past awardees may be found at the website http://www.mcdmsociety.org/content/awards.

The members of the award committee for 2017 are as follows:

Theodor Stewart (Chair), University of Cape Town
Sarah Ben Amor (2017 Conference Convenor), University of Ottawa
Valerie Belton, University of Strathclyde
Kalyanmoy Deb, Michigan State University
James Dyer, University of Texas
Murat Köksalan (President MCDM Society), Middle East Technical University
Roman Slowinski, Poznan University
Ralph Steuer, University of Georgia
Jyrki Wallenius, Aalto University

The committee reserves the right to make its own nominations and/or not to make particular awards.

1.5   Call for Applications: Wiley Practice Prize 2017

John Wiley & Sons Limited, as publishers of the *Journal of Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis*, are once more sponsoring a prize for the best paper describing a real-life application of multiple criteria decision making presented at the 24th International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making to be held in Ottawa, Canada, 10-14 July 2017. The prize is US $1000, while the winning paper and approved finalist papers will be published in the journal.

To be eligible for the prize, a paper should describe a real-world application, or series of applications, of MCDA in which there is clear interaction between the authors and decision makers or other significant stakeholders. Papers simply proposing alternative approaches to problems taken from the literature will, for example, not be considered for the prize.

Conference delegates wishing to have their papers considered for the prize should upload the abstract to the conference submission system (http://sites.telfer.uottawa.ca/mcdm2017/call-for-abstracts/) by the conference deadline, and to send a copy of the full paper not later than 7 March 2017 to Theodor Stewart (Editor in Chief of the journal) at theodor.stewart@uct.ac.za (alternative email tjstew@iafrica.com).   A brief letter should accompany the full paper, explaining the background of the application and the practical impacts of the study.

This submission implies that the paper has not been submitted for publication to any journal.

The adjudication process will then be as follows.

- A committee will perform a preliminary screening of submissions to select up to four finalists. The finalists will be informed by 30 April, 2017.
- The finalists will at this point be required within two weeks to upload their papers formally on to the JMCDA on-line submission system. (Instructions will be given at that time). The papers will then be subject to a full review according to the standard procedures of the journal.
- Finalist papers which have been submitted to the journal will be assembled into a special practice prize session at the conference, where their status as finalists will be advertised.
- The final decision of the practice prize jury (taking into account reviews of the written papers as well as the oral presentation) will be announced at the conference banquet, on 13 July 2017.

The prize winning paper is ensured publication in the journal, although minor revisions may still be requested. Decisions on the others will be subject to reviewers' comments, and may require revisions as a condition for publication. The intention is to group all of these papers into a single issue of the journal if at all possible.

2 Upcoming Events and Call for Papers

2.1 IFORS

Dear colleagues,

It is our pleasure to invite you to IFORS 2017 (the 21st Conference of the International Federation of Operational Research Societies) that will take place in beautiful Québec City July 17-21, 2017. http://ifors2017.ca/

The Convention Centre that will host IFORS 2017 is conveniently located in the heart of Québec City, at walking distance from its UNESCO World Heritage historic center. Outstanding plenary speakers and keynote speakers will deliver tutorials on a variety of topics and will contribute to making the conference a memorable scientific event.

All researchers, academics, practitioners, industrialists, and students interested in all branches of operational research are invited to participate to IFORS 2017 by submitting an abstract, organizing a session, or a stream of sessions.

We look forward to meeting you in Québec City in 2017. **Please feel free to share this announcement with your colleagues.**

Deadline for abstract submission: **February 10, 2017**

Irène Abi-Zeid, Ph.D.

Chair of Organizing committee IFORS 2017
Professeure titulaire
Département opérations et systèmes de décision
Faculté des sciences de l'administration

2.2 *Advances in Decision Analysis 2017 Conference, Austin, Texas, June 26-27, 2017*

We are pleased to announce **Advances in Decision Analysis 2017**, a conference organized by the Decision Analysis Society. This conference—the second of its kind—will be held June 26-27, 2017 at The University of Texas at Austin in Austin, Texas.

The conference aims to develop and promote work fit for the Decision Analysis areas in *Management Science* and *Operations Research* and the *Decision Analysis* journal. The conference will provide a platform for interdisciplinary discussions, including researchers in statistics, economics, psychology, and other decision-making related disciplines with a prescriptive focus.

We are also pleased to announce that **Professor Jim Dyer** of the McCombs School of Business at The University of Texas at Austin will offer the opening plenary. A second plenary talk will be given by **Bill Klimack** of Chevron.

We hope you will join us at the Advances in Decision Analysis 2017 Conference to enjoy the research talks and take in the sights of Austin TX!

For questions: please contact Casey Lichtendahl (lichtendahlc@darden.virginia.edu) or John Butler (John.Butler2@mccombs.utexas.edu).

2.3   AAMAS 2017 Workshop on Multi-Objective Decision Making (MODeM 2017)

São Paulo, Brazil, 8 or 9 May 2017

http://rbr.cs.umass.edu/modem/

Paper Submission Deadline: **7.2.2017**

The **Multi-Objective Decision Making (MODeM) workshop** aims to bring together people from across the agents community and beyond, leading to cross-pollination, and hopefully interesting new collaborations. We invite novel papers on multi-objective decision making, its applications, and synergies with other topics.

Scope and Submission

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Multi-objective planning and scheduling
- Multi-objective multi-agent coordination
- Multi-objective constraint optimization and graphical models
- Multi-objective reinforcement learning
- Multiple objectives in game theory and mechanism design
- Multi-objective evolutionary methods for autonomous agents and multi-agent systems
- Applications of multi-objective decision making
- Multi-objectification in autonomous agents and multi-agent systems
- Preference elicitation and computational social choice for multi-objective decision making

Submissions should follow standard AAMAS 2017 full-paper submission guidelines (max. 8 pages of content excluding references, using the AAMAS 2017 style): http://www.aamas2017.org/submission-instructions_aamas2017.php

Submit papers to MODeM via EasyChair: https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=modem2017

Proceedings

The most "visionary paper" will be published by Springer in a book under the Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence (LNAI) Hot Topics series. The book will be a compilation of the most visionary papers of the AAMAS2017 Workshops, where one paper will be selected from each AAMAS2017 workshop. Additionally, the "best paper" will be published by Springer in a book under the Communications in Computer and Information Science (CCIS) series. The book will be a compilation of the best papers of the AAMAS2017 Workshops, where one paper will be selected from each AAMAS2017 workshop. Authors of the selected most visionary paper and the best paper are expected to provide their latex files promptly upon request.

For more information, please see our website: http://rbr.cs.umass.edu/modem/ or contact us via modem.aamas@gmail.com.

2.4   International Conference on OR for Development (ICORD), July 13 and 14, 2017

Theme OR: Impacting Development

The International Conference on OR for Development (ICORD) aims to bring together researchers from around the world to present and discuss models and methods to overcome issues existing in developing countries. Eleven ICORDs have taken place since 1992 in countries across Asia, South America, Africa and Europe and was held in México City in 2016. In 2017, the ICORD will be held in Quebec, immediately prior to the IFORS triennial conference.

In the past seven years as in this year, the EURO Working Group on OR for Development (EWG ORD) has been a co-organizer of the ICORD.

ICORD has a workshop format that allows participants to present their projects and receive formal feedback from assigned reviewers and comments from the general audience. The reviewers are identified from amongst the pool of participants and their objective is to provide a constructive evaluation of the paper.

ICORD is suitable for presenting papers that are close to submission to a peer-reviewed journal and demonstrate a thorough OR analysis in a problem area important to developing countries. The feedback received at ICORD is an opportunity for authors to improve the quality of the paper in a short time. The problems covered in submitted papers may include, but not be limited to, sustainability, healthcare, energy, mobility, education, natural resource management, public policy and infrastructure. Purely technical papers, or those that have no relevance in the developmental context, will not be accepted, and papers should clearly describe the relevance of the research to development.

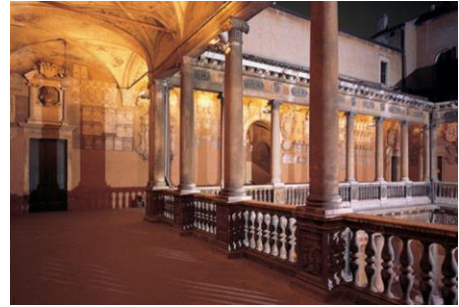Deadline for paper submissions: **March 30, 2017**

Submit your full papers or extended abstracts not less than 1,500 words to: icord@ifors.org

2.5 85th Meeting of European Working Group on Multicriteria Decision Aiding (EWG-MCDA)

The Department of Civil Architectural and Environmental Engineering is pleased to welcome the international meeting of the 85th European Working Group on Multicriteria Decision Aiding (EWG-MCDA). The meeting will be held between 20-22 April 2017 at the University of Padova, Palazzo Bo', and Department of Civil Architectural and Environmental Engineering.

Under the theme of "Sustainability Energy and the Environment", the meeting will cover research issues in the area of multicriteria decision aiding, involving new theoretical research and applications. In accordance with this topic, we invite you to contribute papers that discuss new theoretical and methodological developments and their possible applications, as well as papers on practical applications of new methods, application of MCDA in new and innovative areas and case studies.

The abstract submission deadline is **February 12th 2017** and the registration deadline is March 26th 2017.

You can find additional information at http://www.dicea.unipd.it/en/85mcda.

Padova is a medieval city-state, home to a striking cycle of Giotto frescoes and to Italy's second-oldest University (established in 1222). In the 16th and 17th centuries, Padova became a workshop of ideas and the home to figures who changed the cultural and scientific history of humanity. They included Andrea Vesalio, Copernicus, Galileo, and Harvey. In 1678 Elena Lucrezia Cornaro Piscopia became the first woman in the world to be awarded a university degree.

We are looking forward to see you in Padova!

Chiara D'Alpaos

2.6 *Special Issue Advances and Applications of Multicriteria and Multiobjective Models*

Journal: Advances in Operations Research http://www.hindawi.com/journals/aor/

Advances in Operations Research is published using an open access publication model. The journal has recently been accepted for coverage in the Emerging Sources Citation Index, which is a new edition of the Web of Science that was launched in November 2015. This means that any articles published in the journal will be indexed in the Web of Science at the time of publication.

Guest Editors

Caroline Mota, Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, Recife, Brazil; mota.cmm@gmail.com

Juan C. Leyva, University of Occident, Culiacán, Mexico; juan.leyva@udo.mx

Jun Liu, Ulster University at Jordanstown, UK; j.liu@ulster.ac.uk

Submission Guidelines and Other considerations

Authors are welcome to submit papers that consider mathematical models for and applications of multi-criteria methods and multi-objective methods. This special issue is open to all types of rigorously developed applications of MCDM/A models and their implementation for analyzing multicriteria or multiobjective decision problems.

All submitted papers will go through a rigorous peer-review process that will include both topic relevance as well as scientific quality. Authors can submit their manuscripts through the Manuscript Tracking System at http://mts.hindawi.com/submit/journals/aor/aammm/.

Manuscript Due: **February 24, 2017**

First Round of Reviews: **May 19, 2017**

Publication Date: **July 14, 2017**

Potential topics of interest include, but are not limited to Methodological developments and/or applications in the following themes:

Advanced applications of AHP and ANP, Advanced applications of MCDM/A, Behavioral issues in decision making, Data Envelopment Analysis and MCDM, Decision rules and MCDM/A, Emerging developments of MCDM/A models, Evolutionary algorithms and MCDM/A, Fuzzy Theory and MCDM/A, Goal Programming,	Group Decision Making and MCDM/A, Interactive MCDM/A methods. Metaheuristic techniques and MCDM/A, Multiattribute utility or value theory approaches Outranking methods Practical applications of MCDM/A Preference modeling risk and uncertainty.

3   Past Conferences, Workshops, and other News

3.1   *A Report on the Activities of the INFORMS MCDM Section at the INFORMS Annual Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee (USA), November 12-16, 2016*

The MCDM Section was established in 2010, having had its roots in the International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making dating from 1979. At the 2016 INFORMS Annual Meeting in Nashville, the MCDM Section activities featured a cluster of sessions, business meeting, and participation in the Data Mining & Decision Analytics Workshop preceding the conference.

Serving as the Section President, I organized the MCDM cluster having strong visibility at the conference. The MCDM Section had a *Sponsored Cluster* including 16 sessions and 58 talks (starting Sunday morning and ending Wednesday afternoon) that covered a wide spectrum of MCDM topics.

I also presented a session-long tutorial entitled "Robust Multiobjective Optimization for Decision Making under Uncertainty and Conflict." My talk was based on the paper having the same title, co-authored with Garrett Dranichak, and published in the INFORMS Series "Tutorials in Operations Research" that is edited by J. Cole Smith. The 2016 volume is entitled "Optimization Challenges in Complex, Networked, and Risky Systems" and is edited by Aparna Gupta and Agostino Capponi. Please go to http://pubsonline.informs.org/doi/book/10.1287/educ.2016   for more information.

Our Section plans to maintain strong presence at the 2017 INFORMS Annul Meeting in Houston. In 2017, I will continue serving as the Section President and being in charge of organizing the MCDM stream for Houston. If you are interested in organizing a session and would like to help, please contact me.

The business meeting was well attended and its minutes can be found at http://www.informs.org/Community/MCDM clicking the link "Bylaws-and-Meeting-Minutes."

For several recent years the MCDM Section has been enjoying a big number of high quality talks attracting a large audience at the INFORMS annual meetings and the Nashville INFORMS conference was a success in this regard too. However, since 2013 the Section membership has dropped by 20%, which is a concern to the Section officers and myself. We urge the members of the MCDM Society to join our Section, especially that the Section membership does not require the INFORMS membership. We also urge those who already are the Section members to get involved in recruiting new members. The stronger we get, the more powerful we will be in convincing others about our issues. Membership is open to anyone interested in MCDM. To become   a   member   or   to   renew   your   membership   for   2017,   visit http://www.informs.org/Community/MCDM. The dues for 2017 are $5 for INFORMS members and $7 for others.

Wishing all MCDM researchers and supporters a successful and professionally rewarding 2017,

Margaret M. Wiecek

wmalgor@clemson.edu

President

MCDM Section (INFORMS)

3.2 *84th workshop of the EURO Working Group Multicriteria Decision Aiding*

The 84th workshop of the EURO Working Group Multicriteria Decision Aiding took place at the University of Vienna, Austria on September 22-24, 2016, and was organized by Rudolf Vetschera from that university. The location of the workshop was the building of the faculty of Business, Economics and Statistics located at Oskar-Morgenstern Platz 1, which, as most participants in the workshop agreed, is a nice address for holding a workshop on decision making.

The topic of the workshop was "From axioms to applications: Bridging the gap between theory and practice in MCDA". In total, 61 papers were submitted to the workshop, covering a wide range of topics from conceptual foundations to specific applications, and 49 persons actually participated in the workshop. Out of these papers, 16 papers were selected for presentation at the meeting, and 30 were included in the program as discussion papers. Presented papers were organized into five technical sessions. Two sessions dealt with applications, one of them had a specific focus on MCDA applications in environmental problems, the other was mainly devoted to urban planning. Two of the theoretical sessions focused on current developments in decision making methods with a focus on robustness in one session and in handling incomplete and conflicting information in the other session. A session that highlighted the relationships between MCDA and multiobjective programming concluded the workshop.

A scientific highlight of the workshop was the keynote presentation on Friday noon given by Fabio Maccheroni from Bocconi University on the topic "Model Uncertainty, Robustness, and Multicriteria Decision Analysis". The high scientific quality of all papers, and the intense discussion both in the sessions and during the coffee breaks, made the workshop a scientifically very successful event.

In addition to the scientific program, conference participants met for a conference dinner in a cellar dating back to the 13th century in the center of Vienna. On Saturday, many participants of the meeting took part in an excursion to the Wachau region including a visit to the cellars of Langenlois, where participants could not only see how wine is produced, but also taste the final product.

Rudolf Vetschera

4   New Books/Publications

This section presents a list of papers published from 2016 or to appear. This list is by no means exhaustive. If you want your recent publications to appear in the next newsletter, please send an email with the complete citation of your work to lucie.galand@dauphine.fr.

4.1   Books/Books chapters

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5 Imprints

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We are working on publishing the newsletter of the International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making two times a year. Usually the deadline for the January issue is January 10th and the issue is intended to be published "around January 20th". Usually the deadline for the September issue is August 20th and the issue is intended to be published "at the beginning of September". Contributions can be sent at any time to the editor (please see the address provided above).