

International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making

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Letter from the Editor

Dear Members of the International Society on MCDM,

First of all, let me wish all of you a happy new year 2024! Focusing on what is happening in the MCDM arena, I am happy to report the call for papers for the next conference can be found in this issue. The conference venue for MCDM 2024 is the picturesque Medina Yasmine Hammamet in Tunisia. General Chair Fouad Ben Abdelaziz expressed, "MCDM 2024 will be an exceptional opportunity for researchers and practitioners to come together, exchange ideas, and contribute to the advancement of the field. We are excited to host an interdisciplinary conference that promotes knowledge exchange and lays the foundation for future developments in Multiple Criteria Decision Making." The MCDM conference is crucial for the International Society on MCDM, and I hope to see many members at this event. Of course, we are happy to see new faces, too.



Even though MCDM 2024 is still ahead of us, we now need to think about when and where the next MCDM conference should take place. A Call for Proposals for hosting the next conference can be found in Section 1.2.

The newsletter also contains various calls for applications or nominations for several awards. Information on the Society Awards and the MCDM Doctoral Dissertation Award can be found in Sections 1.3 and 1.4. In addition, you will find information on the "Bernard Roy Award" of the EURO Working Group on Multiple Criteria Decision Aiding and the INFORMS Junior Researcher Best Paper Award in Section 2. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find the report on new publications, which is attractive as always. Let's hope that we all meet soon at conferences relevant to MCDM.

There are also very sad news. Our highly respected members and MCDM pioneers Theo and Pekka have passed away. In the third section, you will find obituaries for Theo and Pekka written by Murat Köksalan and Jyrki Wallenius.

Johannes Siebert

Newsletter Editor of the International Society on MCDM

29 January 2024

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 *27th International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making: A Platform for Advancements in Decision Aid Sciences*

Introduction

The 27th International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making (MCDM 2024) is set to take place from **2nd to 7th June 2024** in Hammamet Tunisia. Under the leadership of General Chair Fouad Ben Abdelaziz from NEOMA Business School in France, and Organizing Committee Chair Salah Ben Abdallah from Tunis Business School in Tunisia, this conference promises to be a milestone event in the field of Decision Aid Sciences. With the Local Arrangements Chair Rimeh El Fayedh from the University of Carthage in Tunisia overseeing the logistics, MCDM 2024 guarantees a seamless and enriching experience for all participants.

MCDM 2024 follows in the footsteps of a long-standing series of successful conferences that have contributed to the growth and development of Multiple Criteria Decision Making. Each conference in the series has built upon the achievements of its predecessors, pushing the boundaries of knowledge and fostering collaborations among researchers and practitioners. MCDM 2024 aims to continue this tradition by providing a platform for the exchange of ideas, the presentation of cutting-edge research, and the exploration of new directions in Decision Aid Sciences.

Conference Objectives

MCDM 2024 is dedicated to providing a platform for researchers and practitioners to share their latest findings and advancements in the field of Decision Aid Sciences. Guided by the expertise of the scientific committee, the conference aims to stimulate discussions, foster collaborations, and explore innovative approaches to decision-making processes. General Chair Fouad Ben Abdelaziz expressed, "MCDM 2024 will be an exceptional opportunity for researchers and practitioners to come together, exchange ideas, and contribute to the advancement of the field. We are excited to host an interdisciplinary conference that promotes knowledge exchange and lays the foundation for future developments in Multiple Criteria Decision Making."



Call for Papers

The conference invites researchers and practitioners to submit their original contributions in the form of research paper abstracts through the EDAS submission system <https://edas.info/N30542>. MCDM 2024 encourages submissions that address various aspects of Multiple Criteria Decision Making, including but not limited to multi-objective optimization, decision support systems,

uncertainty modeling, risk analysis, data analytics and visualization, sustainable development, game theory applications, and artificial intelligence and machine learning in decision-making.

The rigorous review process, led by the expert panel of the scientific committee, ensures that the accepted papers meet the highest standards of quality and relevance. Accepted abstracts will be included in the conference proceedings, providing researchers with an opportunity to showcase their research to a global audience.

Conference Co-Chair Hatem Masri emphasized, "We encourage researchers and practitioners from all over the world to submit their work to MCDM 2024. This conference will serve as a platform to share cutting-edge research, exchange ideas, and foster collaborations that have the potential to shape the future of decision-making processes."



Conference Program

MCDM 2024 offers a diverse and engaging program designed to cater to the interests of all participants. Renowned experts in the field of Decision Aid Sciences will deliver rigorous plenary talks, providing insights into the latest trends, emerging challenges, and future directions. These talks will serve as a source of inspiration for researchers and practitioners, encouraging them to explore new avenues in their work.



Contributed talks, an integral part of the conference program, provide researchers and practitioners with the opportunity to present their work and receive valuable feedback from the conference attendees. This interactive platform allows for fruitful discussions, knowledge sharing, and the establishment of professional connections within the MCDM community.

Recognizing the importance of nurturing young talent, MCDM 2024 includes a dedicated session for doctoral students at the early stage of their dissertation research. Organized with the aim of providing support and guidance to young researchers, these sessions offer them a platform to present their ideas, receive mentorship from experienced scholars, and create networks that will shape their future careers.

We have secured three esteemed speakers who will contribute their expertise to the event:

1. Ralph Steuer from the University of Georgia, USA.
2. José Rui Figueira from the University of Lisboa, Portugal.
3. Constantin Zopounidis from the Technical University of Crete, Greece.

Conference Location and Social Program

The conference venue for MCDM 2024 is the picturesque Medina Yasmine Hammamet in Tunisia. With its rich cultural heritage, stunning landscapes, and warm hospitality, Tunisia offers an ideal backdrop for an intellectually stimulating conference experience. The Local Arrangements Chair, Rimeh El Fayedh, highlighted the significance of the conference location, saying, "Medina Yasmine Hammamet provides an inspiring atmosphere that perfectly complements the objectives of MCDM 2024. Participants will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the local culture, explore historical sites, and enjoy the beauty of Tunisia while engaging in fruitful discussions with fellow conference attendees."

To ensure the convenience and comfort of participants, affordable accommodation options are available in Medina Yasmine Hammamet. A range of hotels and lodging facilities provide easy access to the conference venue, allowing participants to make the most of their time at MCDM 2024.

Regarding the venue, the conference will take place at the Diar Lemdina Hotel, situated in the heart of the Medina Mediterranea, which is the pearl of the new tourist resort of Yasmine Hammamet. The hotel offers a unique experience, allowing participants to discover the intimacy of the Medina while enjoying the comfort of the 21st century. It is located just 300 meters from the sea and offers three blocks for accommodation: "EL BOUSTEN," "ERRIADH," and "SIDI BOU SAID." Each block features its own gardens and private swimming pools. The Diar Lemdina Hotel boasts a total of 190 suites and 40 double rooms, including 12 junior suites, 59 senior suites, 112 Ambassador suites, and 7 Royal suites.

Registration and Sponsorship

Registration for MCDM 2024 will open closer to the conference date. Interested individuals are encouraged to visit the conference website for updates on registration fees and deadlines. General Chair Fouad Ben Abdelaziz expressed, "We look forward to welcoming participants from all corners of the globe to MCDM 2024. The conference promises to be an enriching experience, and we encourage early registration to secure your spot."

MCDM 2024 also extends a special invitation to organizations interested in sponsoring students from Africa to attend the conference. Conference Co-Chair Hatem Masri emphasized, "As a past President of the African Federation of Operational Research Societies, I believe in the importance of promoting inclusivity and diversity within the MCDM community, and supporting students from Africa to participate in MCDM 2024 will contribute to the enrichment of discussions and the exchange of ideas".

By sponsoring students, organizations can help foster a global network of talented individuals, opening doors to new perspectives, collaborations, and opportunities. We encourage organizations to seize this chance to invest in the future of decision-making processes by empowering students from Africa and enabling them to be part of this transformative conference experience. Interested

sponsors are encouraged to reach out to the conference organizing committee for further details on sponsorship opportunities. Together, let's shape the future of Decision Aid Sciences by nurturing the next generation of talent from Africa.

Conclusion

The 27th International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making (MCDM 2024) is a pivotal event for researchers and practitioners in the field of Decision Aid Sciences. MCDM 2024 promises to be a memorable conference that brings together experts from diverse disciplines to shape the future of decision-making processes.



Researchers and practitioners are encouraged to actively participate in MCDM 2024, seizing the opportunity to present their work, engage in fruitful discussions, and establish collaborations within the MCDM community. The conference's interdisciplinary nature, comprehensive program, and picturesque conference venue in Medina Yasmine Hammamet, Tunisia, provide the perfect backdrop for a rewarding and immersive conference experience.

For more information about MCDM 2024, including submission guidelines, conference updates, and registration details, please visit the official conference website at (<https://mcdm2024.org/>.) Join us at MCDM 2024 and contribute to the advancement of Multiple Criteria Decision Making while enjoying the vibrant culture and beauty of Tunisia.

Hatem Masri

Acting President and VP for Academic Affairs and Development
Presidency of the University
Office No: (+973) 16036252 | Email: hatem.masri@asu.edu.bh

Applied Science University
Kingdom of Bahrain

Come And Join Us For

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MULTIPLE CRITERIA DECISION MAKING (MCDM 2024)

📅 DATE: 2ND - 7TH JUNE 2024

📍 LOCATION: MEDINA YASMINE HAMMAMET, TUNISIA

Be part of the 27th International Conference on MCDM 2024 and shape the future of decision-making processes!

☀️ Explore cutting-edge research, engage in stimulating discussions, and forge valuable connections with experts from around the world. ☀️

🎓 Students from Africa: Exciting sponsorship opportunities available! Join us and unlock your potential in Decision Aid Sciences.

🌐 Visit our website for more details: <https://mcdm2024.org/>

📣 Don't miss this transformative conference experience! Register now and make your mark at MCDM 2024. 📣



1.2 Call for Proposals to Organize the MCDM 2026 Conference International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making

The International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making (MCDM), organized every two years, is one of the main events of the International Society on MCDM (<http://www.mcdmsociety.org>). We are now welcoming proposals to organize the 28th International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making in 2026.

The society values its traditions highly and makes sure to maintain them through its activities, especially the conferences. It is important that the proposals to organize the next conference include plans to follow the traditions of the society. These traditions are explained at:

<http://www.mcdmsociety.org/content/traditions-international-society-mcdm-related-its-conferences>

According to the bylaws of the society, the international conference chairperson shall be responsible for all the conference arrangements and for information dissemination as directed by the executive committee. He/she shall be an *ex officio* member of the executive committee.

The proposal should contain at least the following information:

1. Name of conference chairperson with address, e-mail, telephone number, and names of other main organizers, if already known (e.g., chair of program committee).
2. Venue and host institution of the conference.
3. Support from the host institution and other organizations (if available, financial or other, please specify details).
4. Possible available assistance (estimate of the number of staff members and students to be involved in the local organization).
5. Registration fee (including lunches, coffee breaks, outings, the banquet, abstract book, etc.) - regular and student fees (as reliable an estimate as possible). Also indicate the maximum registration fee which will not be exceeded.
6. Program outline.
7. Tentative possible dates and the theme of the conference.
8. Information about transportation to the conference venue (e.g., from main airports).
9. Accommodation alternatives (including low-cost alternatives for students), their approximate prices, and proximities to the conference venue.
10. Capacities of the main auditorium and other rooms for parallel sessions (including the number of such rooms available).
11. Information regarding whether the organizers intend to organize special sessions (e.g., to build bridges between fields related to MCDM).
12. Information on if and why there are potential difficulties in following some of the traditions of the society.
13. Attractions of the location/venue.

14. Any past experience in organizing international conferences and finding sponsors (in the proposed venue or elsewhere). Provide information on events, sponsors, dates, etc.

The executive committee of the society will decide on the venue at its meeting in Hammamet (Tunisia) during the 27th International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making (MCDM 2024) in June 2024. The organizer or a representative is expected to present the proposal at the meeting of the executive committee and answer questions raised by the committee. In case there is more than one promising proposal to organize MCDM 2026, it is possible to determine the hosts of the next two conferences in the same meeting. Please mention in your proposal whether you are interested in organizing MCDM 2028 if you are not selected to organize MCDM 2026.

Please send your proposals to the president of the society, Prof. Matthias Ehrgott at m.ehrgott@lancaster.ac.uk and to the president elected of the society, Prof. José Rui Figueira at figueira@tecnico.ulisboa.pt no later than May 15, 2024. Please direct any questions you may have by email as well.

Best regards,

Matthias Ehrgott (President of International Society on MCDM)

José Rui Figueira (President Elected of International Society on MCDM)

1.3 Call for Nominations: Awards of the International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making

At each of its conferences, the International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making presents up to three awards to recognize 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 27th International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making will take place in Hammamet, Tunisia, June 2 – 7, 2024. We would like to invite nominations for the awards to be presented at this conference. Please observe the rules below in making nominations.

- Self-nominations will not be considered.
- The nomination must clearly state for which award the nomination is being made. It is also possible to request the nominee to be considered for one of two or all three awards in case the contributions warrant. In this case, the Committee will decide which of the suggested awards, if any, is the most suitable for the nominee.
- 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 of the nominee or a link to it.

The awardee is expected to attend in person and deliver a plenary talk at the conference as a condition of receiving the award. More information concerning the awards and past awardees is available at <http://www.mcdmsociety.org/content/awards>.

The members of the Awards Committee for 2024 are:

- Fouad Ben Abdelaziz, NEOMA Business School (Next meeting organizer, ex-officio),
- Adiel Teixeira de Almeida, Universidade Federal de Pernambuco,
- Matthias Ehrgott, Lancaster University (President of the MCDM Society, ex-officio),
- Ralph Keeney, Duke University,

- Kathrin Klamroth, University of Wuppertal,
- Murat Köksalan, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and Middle East Technical University (Chair of the Awards Committee),
- Kaisa Miettinen, University of Jyväskylä,
- Roman Słowiński, Poznań University of Technology,
- Jyrki Wallenius, Aalto University.

We encourage you to nominate worthy researchers for these prestigious awards. You may make nominations individually or together with several colleagues. Committee members may also make nominations.

Please email your nominations to Murat Köksalan (köksalan@umich.edu) no later than **February 15, 2024** and make sure you receive an acknowledgement of your nomination.

Murat Köksalan

1.4 Call for Applications for the International MCDM Doctoral Dissertation Award 2024

At the 27th International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making (MCDM), 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 or a related field. The MCDM Doctoral Dissertation Competition identifies and recognizes outstanding doctoral dissertation research, completed on January 1, 2022 or later, 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 choose the winner. The award will be announced at the 27th International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making, Hammamet, Tunisia 2 to 7th June, 2024. Each finalist is required to give a talk at the conference. The finalists' conference fees will be waived.

Deadline for applications: Please email the zip file of the application packet to the awards committee at phdaward@mcdmsociety.org by **February 28, 2024**. The finalists will be selected and all applicants will be informed about the results of their applications by April 1, 2024.

Eligibility: Those whose dissertations are in MCDM or a related field and who graduated with a doctoral degree on or after January 1, 2022. Only dissertations that are in English are eligible.

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

1. Cover letter.
2. Applicant's CV, not exceeding 3 pages.
3. Scanned copy of the original diploma of the Doctoral Degree.
4. Electronic copy of the Doctoral Dissertation.
5. Extended Abstract of the Doctoral Dissertation in English, not exceeding four single-spaced pages.
6. Copies of publications/patents based on the Doctoral Dissertation, if any. Manuscripts accepted for publication in journals that are accompanied with the Editors' acceptance letter can also be submitted. These publications should be accompanied by a statement from the supervisor confirming that they are extracted from the dissertation.
7. An endorsement letter from the supervisor(s), highlighting the significance of the dissertation.
8. (Optional) Additional supporting letters that the applicant wishes to attach.

Caroline Mota

Chair of the International MCDM Doctoral Dissertation Committee

Email: carolinemota@insid.org.br

2 Upcoming Events and Call for Papers

2.1 Call for the "Bernard Roy Award 2024" of the EURO Working Group on Multiple Criteria Decision Aiding (Bernard Roy Award 2024 of EWG MCDA)

Policy

-The Bernard Roy Award of EWG MCDA (<http://www.cs.put.poznan.pl/ewgmcda/>) is a recognition conferred to a researcher under 40 years old for an outstanding contribution to the methodology and/or applications of Multiple Criteria Decision Aiding (MCDA).

-The award will be officially bestowed at the opening session of the EWG MCDA Autumn meeting (in 2024 organized in Catania) if there is a suitable candidate. In this case, following a presentation of the competition by the chair of the Jury, the laureate will be invited to give a talk.

Award

The laureate then will receive the financial award (1000 EUR) and the diploma.

Eligibility

-The Bernard Roy Award of EWG MCDA shall be awarded for a body of work in MCDA, preferably published over the last decade. Although recent work will not be excluded, care shall be taken to allow the contribution to stand the test of time.

-The potential award recipient shall have a recognized stature in the MCDA community. Significance, innovation, depth, and scientific excellence shall be emphasized.

Nominations

- Candidates can be nominated by any three members of the EWG MCDA. Becoming a member is free (Please, send an email to [Milosz Kadziński](mailto:Milosz.Kadziński)).

- A candidature for the Bernard Roy Award of EWG MCDA is composed of the nomination letter along with a recent and detailed CV, up to 5 best publications, as well as a self-description of the achievements up to 3 page long in a standard manuscript format. The nominations must be sent to the Jury chair by the due date of **May 20, 2024**.

Selection process

-Only one award may be assigned on each occasion.

-One person may receive the award at most once in her/his lifetime.

-The jury evaluates the nominees essentially on the basis of their scientific activities (papers in top journals, editorials, relevance of methodological proposals and/or applications, ...).

Jury

-The jury for the current edition is composed of Professors Maria Franca Norese (chair), Salvatore Greco, Constantin Zopounidis, Yves De Smet, Luis Martinez.

Timing

-Deadline for nominations: May 20, 2024.

-The Jury chair informs the EWG coordinators who invite the laureate to the meeting: July 31, 2024.

-Preparation of the diploma by the EWG coordinators.

Presentation of the laureate and her/his talk during the EWG MCDA 98th EWG MCDA meeting, September 2024, University of Catania, Department of Economics and Business, Catania, Italy. An electronic copy of the laureate's presentation handed over to the EWG coordinators will be made available on the EWG on MCDA Web Site.

Applications should be sent to Professor Maria Franca Norese at: maria.norese@polito.it.

2.2 MCDM Section of INFORMS Junior Researcher Best Paper Award 2024

The MCDM Section of INFORMS invites nominations for its **2024 MCDM Junior Researcher Best Paper Award**. The goal of the award is to recognize outstanding papers in the field of multi-criteria decision making written by a junior researcher (or a team of junior researchers). All members of the MCDM Section of INFORMS are entitled to nominate young researchers for this prestigious award. If you have read an inspiring paper published during the last three years by a young researcher, please consider nominating them for the award.

The deadline for nominations is March 1, 2024. Full information about the nomination package and the selection processes can be found at

<https://connect.informs.org/multiple-criteria-decision-making/awards/new-item2>

A summary of key information follows:

Nomination: Candidates for the Award shall be nominated by a member of the MCDM Section of INFORMS. Self-nominations or nominations by a coauthor of the paper are not allowed. An individual can nominate more than one paper.

Application process: The nominations for the Award shall be submitted by email to the Chair of the Judging Committee by **March 1, 2024**.

The nomination package (**1 PDF file**) shall include the following documents:

1. A nomination letter (maximum 2 pages) that contains
 - a. information on the nominating individual (name, affiliation, email address, and his/her relationship with the nominee);
 - b. a statement affirming that the nominating individual is a member of the MCDM Section of INFORMS;
 - c. the bibliographic reference of the nominated article;
 - d. an explicit description of how the nominated paper meets the evaluation criteria.

If the nominee is not the single author of the article, the letter shall include a statement affirming that he/she is the leading coauthor with an indication of the source of this information.

2. The nominated article, published electronically in a peer-reviewed journal within the period between the 1st of January 2021 and the 1st of January 2024.
3. Each nominee's cv (maximum 3 pages) with a statement that the nominee is a member of the MCDM Section.

4. Proof of each nominee's PhD degree or equivalent degree with the date of earning the degree that must be within seven years from the 1st of January 2024.

Judging criteria: The following three judging criteria will be applied to evaluate the nominees' papers. (1) Novelty in theoretical, methodological, or applied research in the area of MCDM; (2) Relevance to real-life applications; (3) Potential impact of the obtained results on society.

With best regards,

Salvatore Greco

Chair of the Judging Committee

Salvatore Greco

Professor

University of Catania

Catania

2.3 *Call for presentations for the INFORMS 2024 Annual Meeting in MCDM stream*

Dear colleagues and dear friends,

It is time to start planning for the INFORMS 2024 Annual Meeting. This time, the event will take place on October 20-23, 2024, Seattle, Washington, USA.

As the President of the MCDM Section of INFORMS, I am in charge of organizing the MCDM cluster of sessions. Therefore, I wish to invite and encourage all MCDM researchers to actively participate in the conference and present their work.

Presenting your work in a cluster provides better visibility and makes the study more accessible to an interested audience. With the support of Section members, as well as all other MCDM experts, we can create an engaging cluster program that will cover the entire meeting duration. By organizing a session you will be able to invite people whose research profile fits your idea of the session focus.

As in previous years, each Session Chair will be tasked with organizing a session comprised of four regular talks.

Please let me know by your earliest convenience about your intention to organize a session and invite people. Please write to almeida@cdsid.org.br

If you are not available for organizing and chairing a session at the INFORMS Meeting, I would appreciate your help forwarding this opportunity to other colleagues who could be willing to organize and chair a session.

If you plan to present your work but are not certain about session organization, feel free to let me know as well. I will be more than happy to help coordinate session organization efforts.

I look forward to your session proposal!

With all good wishes,

Adiel Teixeira de Almeida
President of the MCDM Section
Professor
Universidade Federal de Pernambuco

Recife PE

2.4 Call for Presentations in the MCDA Stream in EURO 2024

EURO 2024: 33rd European Conference on Operational Research Copenhagen, Denmark June 30 - July 3, 2024 <http://www.euro2024cph.dk> Abstract submission deadline: March 3, 2024

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We have the great pleasure of inviting you to take part in the 33rd EURO Conference to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark from June 30 to July 3, 2024.

EURO 2024 will be an in-person event only.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS AND SESSIONS

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Invited and contributed talks will be organized in parallel sessions. The sessions are part of conference streams. The MCDA stream is one of them.

The abstract submission system is available online via the Conference website <http://www.euro2024cph.dk>

Abstracts (max. 1500 characters) should be submitted until March 3, 2024.

Each participant can present at most one paper at the Conference.

When submitting the abstract to a given session, please use the provided code.

IMPORTANT DATES

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Abstract submission closes: Sunday, **March 3, 2024** Early registration closes: Sunday, March 24, 2024 Author registration deadline: Sunday, April 21, 2024

MCDA STREAM

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Currently established sessions:

Title: Pairwise comparisons and preference relations

Chairs: Matteo Brunelli, Konrad Kulakowski

Code: 44

Title: MCDA applications in Engineering and Management

Chairs: Michalis Doumpos, Constantin Zopounidis

Code: 2717b13d

Title: MCDA and urban planning

Chairs: Marta Bottero, Isabella Lami, Francesca Abastante

Code: a2569a93

Title: MCDA and Composite Indicators: Issues, Advances and Applications

Chairs: Menelaos Tasiou

Code: 130f4259

Title: MCDM for project portfolio problems

Chairs: Maria Barbati

Code: 24d937a7

Title: Preference Learning

Chairs: Roman Slowinski, Salvatore Greco

Code: b5e4c50c

Title: How to support complex decisions. Negotiating the trade-off between Social, Environmental and Economic values

Chairs: Alessandra Oppio, Marta DellOvo, Giulia Datola

Code: eae4613a

Title: Best-Worst-Method: Theory and applications

Chairs: Jafar Rezaei

Code: 64750246

Title: Multiple Criteria Decision Analysis (contributed) Submissions to this stream will be separated later into coherent sessions.

Code: fbfd2529

If you want to organize other session that can potentially attract at least three submissions, please contact Milosz Kadzinski

(Milosz.kadzinski@cs.put.poznan.pl) and Salvatore Corrente

(salvatore.corrente@unict.it) to create the session in the EURO system.

REGISTRATION FEES (IN EURO)

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Regular: 400.00 (early); 500.00 (late),

Student/Retired: 200.00 (early); 300.00 (late), Accompanying persons: 120.00.

2.5 Call for Presentations in the BOR Stream in EURO 2024

The upcoming EURO 2024 conference (<https://euro2024cph.dk/>) will take place during 30th June – 3rd July 2024.

The EURO WG on Behavioural OR is organizing a stream of sessions in the conference. We invite contributions that examine behavioural issues in relation to the design, use and evaluation of OR approaches in both laboratory and field settings, and as input to the development of behavioural models. Central to the growing field of Behavioural OR is a concern with unpacking what people actually do when they engage with OR methods, processes and tools, and how their behaviour, cognition and emotions affect, or are affected by, OR-related activity.

The BOR Stream has an exciting coverage of topics and we would like to invite you to submit an abstract to any of the BOR-sessions listed below:

Behavioral OR general papers Code 56945534

Chairs: L. Alberto Franco and Raimo P. Hämäläinen (alberto.franco@bristol.ac.uk), (raimo.hamalainen@aalto.fi)

Behavioral decision analysis Code efefc1e6

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Chair: Judit Lienert (judit.lienert@eawag.ch)

Behavioural OR meets Information systems Code fccb6e0e

Chair: Michael Leyer (michael.leyer@wiwi.uni-marburg.de)

Game-based approaches for (B)OR Code 950318f8

Chair: Alice H. Aubert (aube@zhaw.ch)

Behavior in supply chain collaboration Code baa21c60

Chair: Yingshuai Zhao (zhao@wiso.uni-koeln.de)

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On this page, go to the "Abstract in an organized session" and enter the relevant Code (see above) and click on the "Submit invited abstract" button. You will then be taken to an abstract submission form page, where you can enter all the information about your abstract.

Your abstract can be based on conceptual or empirical work that is either complete or still ongoing. If you are in doubt regarding which BOR-related to submit your abstract to, or have problems with your submission, please contact the relevant Chair(s). If you know a colleague who might be interested in submitting an abstract please feel free to forward this invitation.

Please note that the submission deadline for abstracts is MARCH 3, 2024.

Finally, If you would like to organize an invited session in the BOR-stream, please contact us or the relevant Session Chair(s). A session consists of 4 talks with a focus on a particular topic consistent with the theme of a Stream.

We look forward to seeing you in person at EURO 2024!

Best wishes,

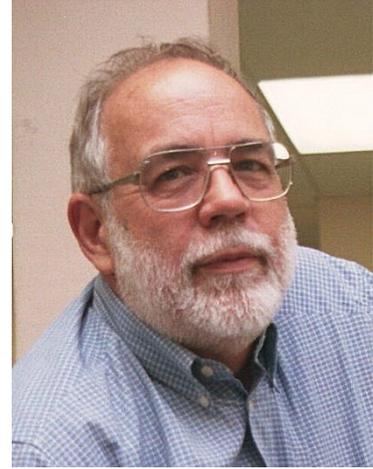
L. Alberto Franco, Raimo Hämmäläinen

Coordinators, European Working Group on Behavioural OR <https://www.euro-online.org/websites/bor/>

3 Obituaries

3.1 *In Remembrance: Theo Stewart*

Theodor (Theo) J. Stewart passed away on November 29th, 2023. He was born in Cape Town, South Africa, on September 16th, 1943, where he lived most of his life. Theo's (first) BSc was in Chemical Engineering at the University of Cape Town. He then worked as a chemical engineer and continued part-time studies in Operations Research and Statistics through a distance education university in South Africa. Theo completed his second BSc degree in 1972, an MSc degree in Operations Research the following year, and a PhD in Mathematical Statistics (with a thesis "Bayes optimal experimental design for determination of a response surface maximum") at the University of Cape Town in 1976.



Theo retired from the University of Cape Town at the end of 2008, South Africa, having been a professor there since 1984, including two terms as Department Head. Theo told us that when he gave his inaugural professorial lecture, he was in good company. The person who was inaugurated at the same time was the surgeon who performed the first heart transplant in the world. In the 1960's the University of Cape Town was brought to world's attention by Christiaan Barnard, who performed the world's first heart transplant. After retiring, Theo served as a part-time Professor at Manchester University for about a decade, to be closer to his two daughters who reside in the UK. Theo was an operational researcher with broad interests but with a particular interest in multi-criteria decision analysis, multi-objective mathematical programming, and Bayesian statistics. Theo was one of the few researchers who conducted extensive research and published on real-life applications in industrial planning and resource management, notably fisheries and water-resource management. Theo collaborated with many researchers worldwide throughout his whole career. He was also very productive on his own and published many single-authored important research works. He touched so many lives. Upon receiving the sad news of Theo's passing away, many researchers flooded the Society list with emails expressing their sorrows, sharing memories and anecdotes, and praising him.

Theo Stewart wrote a highly popular book on *Multiple Criteria Decision Making: An Integrated Approach* (published by Kluwer Academic Publishers in 2002) jointly with Valerie Belton (University of Strathclyde, Glasgow). In total, Theo authored or coauthored more than 90 papers. One of the better known is Theo's paper (coauthored with Dutch colleagues) "Genetic Algorithm Approach to Multiobjective Land Use Planning" published in *Computers and Operations Research* in 2004.

Theo Stewart was generous with his time and agreed to take leadership positions. He served as Vice President of the International Federation of Operational Research Societies (IFORS) from 2004 to 2006, and President of the International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making from 2004 to 2008. He was the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis* for over a decade starting in 2009. Under his term, the journal flourished and was restructured.

During his academic life, Theo received numerous South African recognitions. Among others, he was a Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa and a Fellow of the Statistical Association of South Africa. Yet, we knew Theo as an internationally recognized Operational Researcher. He was awarded the Gold Medal of the International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making in 2008 and the Distinguished Service Medal of the Association of European Operational Research Societies (EURO) in 2013.

Theo organized and hosted the 13th International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making in Cape Town in 1997. This was for many of us the first visit to this beautiful country. This visit sparked in Jyrki and his family an interest in South Africa, and safaris in particular. During this conference, Theo was one of the several people who convinced Murat to organize the 15th International Conference on MCDM and later shared his experiences generously.

Theo enjoyed a glass of good wine and visits to vineyards in the Western Cape region. He knew wines and in those days in South Africa, you did not have to pay more than 8 dollars per bottle (in a restaurant), even for good wine. We had the pleasure to tour with him some of the vineyards.

We met Theo for the last time at the Portsmouth MCDM Conference, in the summer of 2022. The conference participants admired Theo and appreciated it very much that he, despite his deteriorating health, attended the conference and gave a talk in a session chaired by Jyrki. In this session of “old-timers,” three past MCDM Presidents gave presentations.

In conclusion, we would like to quote and echo the University of Cape Town’s obituary on Theo: “Colleagues who worked closely with Professor Stewart will remember him for his commitment to mentorship, with a unique ability to recognise and cultivate the strengths of those he officially and unofficially mentored. He loved an academic discussion and always had the time to impart his wisdom to all. While his passing presents an immeasurable loss to the Department of Statistical Sciences, his legacy lives on through the immensity of the meaning he imparted on the lives of those around him.”

Theo is survived by his wife Sheena; their four children, seven grandchildren; as well as his extended family and circle of friends.

Murat Köksalan and Jyrki Wallenius

3.2 Pekka Korhonen in Memoriam

Pekka Korhonen died on January 24th, 2024, at the age of 79. He was born in Kuopio, Finland, on November 26th, 1944. At the time of Pekka's birth, Finland had just come out of the war and the country was poor – and so was his family. Pekka lived as a child with his mother who was a single parent in Kuopio. He was to the best of our knowledge the only one of his childhood friends who decided to enter high school, let alone university. After graduating from high school, Pekka studied mathematics at the Helsinki University. Pekka completed his BSc and MSc degrees rather quickly in the late 1960s. Then he worked for a decade at the Helsinki University Computing Centre, honing his computer skills. After meeting Jyrki Wallenius in 1974 at a Mathematical Programming Conference in Eger, Hungary, he became interested in graduate studies in computational statistics, which he rapidly finished (in 1977) (with a dissertation “A Stepwise Procedure for Multivariate Clustering”, Computing Centre, University of Helsinki).



Pekka and Jyrki began to collaborate on MCDM and group decision problems in 1978, while they both spent a year at Vaasa School of Economics, in Finland. Their exceptional collaboration lasted for 45 years, although for many years they were in different universities and different countries. Email came to the rescue. Their collaboration soon broadened to include Stanley Zionts, Herbert Moskowitz, Ralph Steuer, Murat Köksalan, and later Kalyanmoy Deb, who all were important collaborators to him. In fact, Murat wrote his PhD thesis in Buffalo on further developing an article dealing with convex preference cones, which Pekka, Jyrki, and Stan were about to publish. Murat has been joking that he had a career built around these convex preference cones.

Pekka Korhonen was a brilliant scholar. *Primus inter pares*. Tom Saaty called him one of the most intelligent, if not the most intelligent individual he ever interacted with. And Tom knew several Nobel laureates. Pekka Korhonen produced a creative stream of research. Probably his most influential work dealt with how one could move around the Pareto-optimal frontier utilizing man-machine interactive procedures. Pekka was also active in developing various decision support tools. Moreover, he saw already in the 1980's the necessity to pay more attention to the behavioral realities of decision-making. One of our early behavioral papers much later led to the “Rocky Road” book with Herbert Moskowitz. Pekka Korhonen has also been a prolific contributor to Data Envelopment Analysis, in particular the interface between MCDM and DEA, and one of the individuals, who contributed to the MCDM/EMO collaboration in the form of Dagstuhl seminars.

Pekka Korhonen joined the Helsinki School of Economics (HSE) faculty in 1979 and was appointed Professor of Statistics in 1988. He retired from this position in 2012 but remained active in research until recently. Pekka Korhonen served as President of the International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making from 1996 to 2000. He was one of the early laureates of the

MCDM Society and received the Cantor Award in 1994. Another recognition was the choice of the 1986 Korhonen-Laakso article as one of the 30 most influential papers published by the *European Journal of Operational Research* over its 30-year history. At every opportunity, Murat has been expressing the opinion that the approach developed in this article was one of the most creative MCDM approaches and he has used it in many applications. Jyrki and Pekka then developed an interactive software based on this approach and called it “Pareto Race.” At the MCDM conference in Manchester, UK in 1988, they organized a competition for the fastest Pareto Race driver. It was a very creative competition and many scholars had the pleasure of experimenting with the software while having a lot of fun. Murat, and probably others, incorporated the Pareto Race software into their teaching and research right away, thanks to the competition.

Pekka served as President of the Finnish Operations Research Society in the 80’s and was later appointed its Honorary President. Pekka also has awards and recognitions related to his early software development.

Pekka spent a year at the University of Georgia, hosted by Ralph E. Steuer. He also served as Project leader of the Decision Analysis and Support (DAS) Project at IIASA in Austria during 1997-1998. The project included Wojtek Michalowski, Gregory Kersten, Kaisa Miettinen, and Margareta Soismaa, among others. Pekka’s international network of foreign scholars and friends was large. We have recently been corresponding with tens of his foreign friends, wanting to pay their respects.

In the words of Kalyanmoy Deb, “Pekka’s passing is a huge loss to the EMO-MCDM community ... We have lost a friend, collaborator, and most importantly an excellent human being. I have been so lucky to work with him closely.” We could not have said it better.

Pekka was a good mentor to numerous graduate students. They all loved to work with him. Several friends have pointed out that Pekka had a brilliant, perhaps we could call it Finnish, sense of humour.

We feel privileged to have known Pekka and to have had the opportunity to collaborate with him for such a long time. We will miss him and remember him with love.

Pekka is survived by his wife Kaiju, seven children, 13 grandchildren, one dog, and a large circle of Finnish and international friends.

Murat Köksalan and Jyrki Wallenius

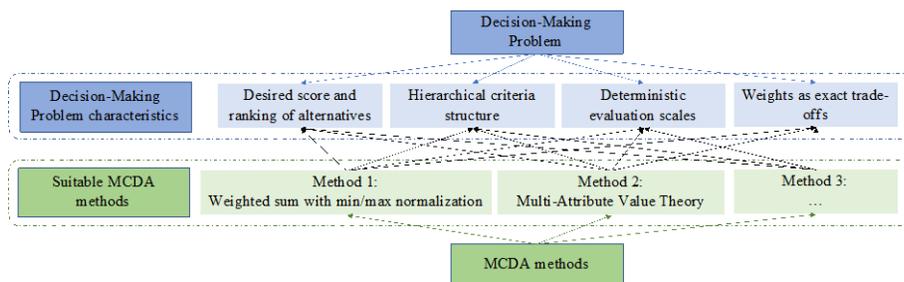
4 Past Conferences, Workshops, and other News

4.1 Summary of the online workshop on the MCDA Methods Selection Software (MCDA-MSS)

Marco Cinelli (m.cinelli@luc.leidenuniv.nl)

The workshop on the **Multiple Criteria Decision Analysis Methods Selection Software (MCDA-MSS)** was held virtually on 6 October 2023, under the auspices of the [INFORMS MCDM Section](#), the EURO working group on MCDA ([EWG-MCDA](#)) and the [International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making \(MCDM\)](#). It was organized and presented by Dr. [Marco Cinelli](#), Assistant Professor at Leiden University College (LUC) in the Hague, the Netherlands.

The MCDA-MSS is nowadays the most comprehensive software for recommending MCDA methods. This software contributes tackling the meta-decision-making problem caused by the very large number of MCDA methods available at this time, being the decision of which MCDA method(s) to use for a certain decision-making problem. This challenge is summarized in the figure below, and the MCDA-MSS provides systematic guidance to an analyst facing it.



"Which is the most suitable MCDA method (or subset of methods) that should be

used for a given decision-making problem?"

The MCDA-MSS includes 205 MCDA methods, each one assessed with 156 objective features. The latter make the complexities of decision-making more transparent and manageable, as well as provide an extensive basis for a long-lasting and traceable development of MCDA methods.

The workshop on the MCDA-MSS was attended by many attendees ($N = 76$), who came from several countries, including the Netherlands, Luxemburg, Italy, Spain, the USA, the UK, Finland, Germany, Sweden, Chile, Mexico, Switzerland and Serbia.

The agenda of the workshop included firstly an introduction to the intelligible and sequential questioning strategy implemented in the software. This was followed by an introduction to the methodological background of the MCDA-MSS with its four sections:

1. *Problem typology*: Defines the type and structure of the decision-making problem;
2. *Preference model*: Defines the type of model that the user would like to apply;
3. *Elicitation of preferences*: Defines the type, modality and frequency of model preferences;
4. *Exploitation of the preference relation induced by the preference model*: Defines the strategy used to derive and enrich the decision recommendation.

Lastly, attendees asked clarification questions about the software and the instructor summarized the next steps for the future of the MCDA-MSS, including:

1. Test of the MCDA-MSS in several application areas;
2. Possibly update the description of the MCDA methods, if relevant input is provided by the researchers that propose the update;
3. Gathering recommendations of MCDA methods to be added to the database of the software.

The MCDA-MSS is available free of charge at the following link: <http://mcdamss.com>.

Those interested in the recording of the online workshop can access it  [here](#).

The MCDA-MSS team

Assist. Prof. Marco Cinelli	Assoc. Prof. Miłosz Kadziński, M.Sc. Grzegorz Miebs, Prof. Roman Słowiński	Dr. Michael Gonzalez	Dr. Peter Burgherr
Leiden University College (NL)	Poznań University of Technology (PL)	U.S. EPA (USA)	Paul Scherrer Institute (CH)

This project has received funding from Leiden University College, the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 743553, the Swiss National Science Foundation under grant agreement No IZSEZO_193662, the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education under the Diamond Grant project (Grant No. DI2018 004348), and the Polish National Science Center under the SONATA BIS project (Grant No. DEC-2019/34/E/HS4/00045).

5 New Books/Publications

This section presents a list of books and papers recently published. It is collected by an automatic script by capturing the works from MCDM society members' Google scholar profiles after filtering with MCDM related keywords. 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 Google Scholar profile links/ complete citation of your works to he.huang@psi.ch.

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6 Imprints

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