

International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making

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Letter from the President

After the memorable conference in Hammamet, Tunisia, I began my term as president of the Society. I am honored to assume this role and feel a profound responsibility to lead our Society for the next four years. I would like to thank the past President, Matthias Ehrgott, for the significant work he did during his term. I also extend my gratitude to the past Secretary, Kerstin Dächert, the former Newsletter Editor, Johannes Siebert, and his editorial team. Of course, I also thank all the other members of the Executive Committee (EC): Fouad Ben Abdelaziz, Carlos Coello Coello, Michael Doumpos, Salvatore Greco, Alessio Ishizaka, Kathrin Klamroth, Birsen Karpak, Caroline Mota, Danielle Morais, Francisco Ruiz, and Ralph Steuer.



I would like to express my appreciation to Salvatore Corrente, who has accepted the role of Secretary of the Society during my term, Gulsah Karakaya, who has accepted the position of Newsletter Editor, and Giovanni Misitano, who has accepted the role of Webmaster for the Society's website. As you know, the new Secretary, Salvatore, and the new Newsletter Editor, Gulsah, will inherently be part of the EC. Additionally, I would like to welcome Jafar Rezaei to the EC as the Editor of JMCDA and El-Ghazali Talbi, who will organize the next conference in 2026 in Marrakesh, Morocco.

We will have elections for officers of the EC in September. This occurs every two years, when four members complete their terms. I would like to thank Carlos Coello Coello, Michael Doumpos, Caroline Mota, and Francisco Ruiz for their service to the Society as EC members. Elections will be conducted electronically from September 23rd to September 27th. On September 23rd, you will receive an email from the EU Survey (<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/home/welcome>) containing the link to vote for these positions, and on September 30th (at most), you will receive an email with the election results. All MCDM Society members are eligible to participate in the elections. To be added to the member list or to update your information, please email secretary@mcdmsociety.org or salvatore.corrente@unict.it.

Our 27th International Conference was held in Tunisia, the first in North Africa and the second in Africa, the first having been organized by the late Theo Stewart in South Africa in 1997. I would like to thank Fouad Ben Abdelaziz and his colleagues for their excellent organization, which resulted in success both scientifically and socially. One of the great traditions of the Society is the presentation of medals to members who have distinguished themselves in the field of MCDM. This took place at the Gala Dinner, just before the spectacular "Shéhérazade" show, and was presented by Murat Koksalan, Chairman of the Awards Committee. Congratulations to Serpil Sayin, Carlos Coello Coello, and Francisco Ruiz who received the Gold Medal, the Pareto Edgeworth Medal, and the Georg Cantor Medal, respectively. Matthias Ehrgott received the President's Award in recognition of his contributions as President of the Society over the past five years and Fouad Ben Abdelaziz received the Conference Chairperson Award in recognition of his leadership in organizing the Hammamet conference. Congratulations to Matthias and Fouad!

The Doctoral Dissertation Award was also presented at the Gala Dinner by Caroline Mota, the Chair of the Jury. The recipient of the award was Bhupinder Singh Saini, with a thesis entitled “Pioneering Techniques to Tackle Challenges of Interactive Multiobjective Optimization.” Congratulations to Singh for the exceptional work! The other finalists were Julia Sudhoff-Santos and Emin Ercan Cihan, and I would like to congratulate them for the significant contributions they have made to the field of MCDM.

At the Hammamet conference, several Special Issues (SIs) were launched in *Engineering Management Journal*, *International Transactions in Operational Research*, *Energy Economics, Optimization*, and *Multiple Criteria Decision Making (MCDM)*. The first four are all Q1 journals in Scopus. These SIs are not only for authors of papers presented at the Hammamet conference, but also for all those who wish to submit their work, as long as it fits within the scope of the SIs. For more information, please see the link (<https://mcdm2024.org/special-issues/>) or the announcement in this Newsletter.

I would like to call your attention for the next two most important events of our Society. The upcoming 15th Summer School, organized by the MCDM Society and the EWG-MCDA group with the support of EURO, will take place in Catania from late July to early August, with specific dates to be announced soon. This event gathers approximately 50 PhD students from around the globe along with leading scholars in MCDA/MCDM. For two weeks, participants live, work, and socialize together. Since its inception in 1983, the summer school has successfully educated generations of MCDA/MCDM scholars and facilitated networking among attendees. The 28th International Conference of our Society will be organized in Marrakech, Morocco, in May 2026. The MCDM 2026 is an opportunity to raise local and regional interest in MCDM models and techniques. It is a unique opportunity to get together with researchers and practitioners working in MCDM. A promising social program is also proposed by the organizers.

Further details regarding the conference topics, call for abstracts, registration, venue, accommodation, etc., will be shared soon. In the meantime, please mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information. You can also follow us on LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8471476/>).

Thank you once again to everyone involved to advance the field of multiple criteria decision making.

Best regards,

José Rui Figueira

President of the MCDM Society

1 Society News

1.1 The 27th International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making

The 27th International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making (MCDM 2024) was held in Hammamet, Tunisia, from June 2-7, 2024. The conference served as a premier interdisciplinary platform for showcasing recent advancements and applications within decision aid sciences. This conference was designed to facilitate the exchange of cutting-edge models and techniques pertaining to multiple criteria decision making among a diverse array of global researchers and practitioners. Following a rigorous evaluation process by both national and international reviewers, MCDM 2024 curated a program featuring 102 accepted manuscripts out of the 185 submissions received. The conference boasted a rich international presence, with participants hailing from 31 countries, including Algeria, Bahrain, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the Netherlands, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, and USA.



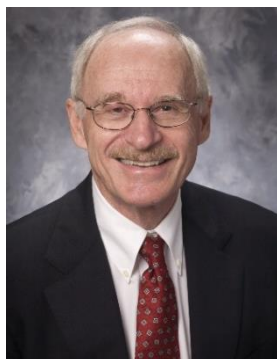
Opening Ceremony



Group Photo

Plenary Speeches

During MCMD 2024 conference, the four plenary speakers delivered insightful talks on diverse topics related to advanced areas in multiple criteria decision making.



Professor Ralph Steuer from the University of Georgia, USA, presented an inspiring speech reflecting on the historical development of the field. He discussed the challenges faced in the early days of MCDM research, highlighting the formation of the Society of the conference as a pivotal moment that fostered international collaboration. Despite the evolution and wide application of multiple criteria models, the quest to identify the most preferred solution remains a challenging task, especially in larger problem sets. Professor Steuer illustrated this using an example from tri-criterion portfolio selection, emphasizing the need for cognitive assistance in decision-making processes.



Professor José Rui Figueira from the University of Lisboa, Portugal, introduced a multiple criteria approach for constructing composite indicators to assess the impact of pandemics. His talk showcased the applicability of an additive multi-attribute value theory aggregation model in real-world scenarios, using Portugal as a case study. The interactive socio-technical process employed in eliciting preference parameters and determining criteria weights, including the deck of cards method, provided valuable insights for practitioners and researchers.



Professor Fouad Ben Abdelaziz from NEOMA Business School, France, delivered a comprehensive overview of metaheuristics for multi-objective optimization (MO). He discussed the significance of specialized optimization techniques in managing conflicting objectives and presented various categories of metaheuristic algorithms, such as genetic algorithms, particle swarm optimization, and ant colony optimization. The efficacy of these algorithms was evaluated through benchmark problems and real-world applications across different domains.



Lastly, Professor Hatem Masri from Applied Science University in Bahrain shared findings from a controversial scientometric study comparing global and African research trends in MCDM and MO. The analysis spanning from 1999 to 2024 revealed similar growth patterns in publications and citations globally and in Africa, highlighting the significant impact of African research despite its smaller volume. The study emphasized the interdisciplinary nature of MCDM/MO research globally and the importance of collaboration in addressing scientific challenges and fostering innovation within the field.

Tutorials

During the MCMD 2024 conference, two tutorials were presented, offering valuable insights into innovative methodologies and applications in the field.

- **Tutorial on MCDM Based Methodology to Big Data Analysis and Applications:** Conducted by Yong Shi from the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, China, this tutorial provided insights into the methodologies of Multiple Criteria Linear Programming and Multiple Objective Support Vector Machine in the context of Big Data Analysis. Over the past 15 years, the author and his colleagues have contributed significantly to this field. The tutorial covered various aspects, including multi-criteria linear programming for supervised learning, incorporating expert and rule-based knowledge, and leveraging multi-criteria decision-making in data analytics. It also explored research findings in Twin Support Vector Machine in Classification, Nonparallel Support Vector Machine Classifiers, Laplacian Support Vector Machine Classifiers, and Loss Functions of Support Vector Machine Classification. Additionally, the tutorial highlighted applications in designing China's National Credit Scoring System and supporting large-scale engineering projects that enhance computing resources across regions, playing a crucial role in advancing the Chinese digital economy.
- **Tutorial on Multi-Objective Retail Store Layout:** Presented by Bacel Maddah from the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, this tutorial delved into the realm of modern "store-wide" retail space planning. The session highlighted the potential benefits of integrating customer interests through demand-side objectives, fostering mutually beneficial solutions for both shoppers and retailers. Beyond immediate business applications, the tutorial underscored the significant modeling and computational challenges inherent in this area, with implications that extend to other domains. The tutorial motivated further research into spatial demand models and the streamlining of computational processes such as quadratic assignment and bin packing. It emphasized the importance of identifying and modeling objectives crucial to retailers, including considerations of customer welfare and health. Despite the highly multi-objective nature of retail space planning, the tutorial noted the relative lack of exploration of MCDM in this domain within the existing literature.

Doctoral Dissertation Session

During the MCMD 2024 conference, three Doctoral Dissertations were presented, offering innovative approaches and methodologies in the fields of project portfolio management, combinatorial optimization with ordinal costs, and interactive multiobjective optimization. The MCDM Doctoral Dissertation Award was given to Bhupinder Singh Saini.

Conference Parallel Sessions

During the conference, 102 papers were presented and discussed in the following special sessions:

- Advances in MCDM Theory
- AHP and ANP

- Artificial Intelligence
- Climate Change and Sustainable Development
- Computing and Software for MCDM
- Data Envelopment Analysis
- Decision Support Systems
- Evolutionary Multi-objective Optimization
- Multi-objective Optimization
- Multiple Criteria Decision Aiding
- Multiple Criteria Ranking or Sorting
- Practical Applications of MCDM
- Registered Participants Only
- Risk, Fuzziness and Uncertainty
- The Creative Decisions Foundation
- Transportation and Traffic
- Healthcare Management
- Industry Applications and Logistics
- Multi-Criteria Decision Models
- Multi-objective Combinatorial Optimization
- Group Decision Making and Best Worst Method
- Finance and Investment



Lunches and Conference Dinner

The lunches and conference dinner provided a wonderful chance for attendees to sample local cuisine and engage in socializing and idea exchange with both familiar faces and new acquaintances. Additionally, the conference Coffee Breaks were dedicated to networking with fellow researchers and exploring common research interests and methodologies utilized in their projects.



Conference Dinner

Sightseeing tour to Carthage and Sidi Bou Said

The excursion to Carthage and Sidi Bou Said offered conference attendees a captivating glimpse into these historically rich and visually stunning locations situated near the capital. The Coasts of Carthage, named after the illustrious ancient city, provided participants with picturesque views and a touch of prestige. Carthage, founded by the Phoenicians and later reconstructed by the Romans after its destruction, stands today as a vibrant and fashionable city. Adjacent to

Carthage, Sidi Bou Said enchants visitors with its elegant village charm, characterized by the harmonious interplay of blue and white houses perched on the hillside overlooking the sea. The tour also included visits to the nearby beaches of Gammarth and La Marsa, adding a touch of coastal beauty to the experience.

This tour not only provided a cultural and historical immersion into the legacy of Carthage and Sidi Bou Said but also offered attendees a moment of relaxation and inspiration amidst these iconic settings.



Sidi Bou Said



Carthage - Anthonine Baths

Kairouan and Roman Coliseum of El Jem Full Day Tour

Embarking on a full-day private guided tour, conference attendees were whisked away on a journey through time and culture to explore the ancient city of Kairouan and the formidable Roman coliseum of El Jem.

The day began with a departure from the hotel, leading the group to Kairouan, a city steeped in history and revered as the first Holy City in North Africa. Known for its fortified Medina and unique architectural charm, Kairouan welcomed visitors with open arms, promising a day filled with discovery and wonder.

Upon arrival, participants were greeted by the grandeur of the Great Mosque, a masterpiece of Islamic architecture. The tomb of Sidi Sahab stood as a testament to the city's spiritual heritage, while the Aghlabid Basins, with their intricate design, showcased the ingenuity of ancient water management practices.

Wandering through the labyrinthine streets of the medina, attendees were immersed in a world of centuries-old tradition, where the bustling marketplace offered glimpses of Kairouan's artisanal expertise in carpet weaving and culinary delights.

After a leisurely lunch, the journey continued to El Jem, where the group was met with the breathtaking sight of the colossal Roman amphitheater, a marvel of ancient engineering. Exploring the amphitheater and its surroundings, visitors marveled at the sheer scale and preservation of this historical gem.

The tour culminated in a visit to the intimate setting of the archaeological museum in El Jem, where a captivating collection of mosaics told stories of a bygone era, painting a vivid picture of life in ancient North Africa.

As the day drew to a close, the group made their way back to the hotel, carrying with them memories of a day filled with architectural splendor, cultural richness, and the timeless allure of Tunisia's historical treasures.



El Jem



Kairouan

MCDM Awards Ceremony 2024

The MCDM Gold Medal, the MCDM Edgeworth-Pareto Award, the Georg Cantor Award, the MCDM Presidential Service Award, and the MCDM Conference Chairmanship Award were presented to Serpil Sayin, Carlos Coello Coello, Francisco Ruiz, Matthias Ehrgott, and Fouad Ben Abdelaziz, respectively.

Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony of MCDM 2024 was a resounding success, made possible by the dedicated efforts of all involved. Gratitude was extended to the individuals who played pivotal roles in ensuring the conference's triumph. Led by General Chair Fouad Ben Abdelaziz from NEOMA Business School, France, the event saw collaboration from esteemed Conference Co-Chairs Ralph Steuer, Hatem Masri, and José Rui Figueira, along with Organizing Committee Chair Salah Ben Abdallah and Local Arrangements Chair Rimeh El Fayedh from the University of Carthage. The Organizing Committee, comprising members from across the globe, including Thailand, Tunisia, Bahrain, and France, contributed their expertise to the event's success. Noteworthy mention was given to Sponsorship Committee Chair Karim Ben Abdelaziz from INSTEAD, Tunisia, for their crucial support. The ceremony marked the culmination of a collaborative and enriching conference experience, announcing that the next edition will be held in Marrakech, Morocco, chaired by Talbi El-Ghazali from the University of Lille 1, France.



Members of the Organizing Team

The MCDM 2024 conference provided an exceptional platform for scholarly exchange and research immersion for all attendees. Anticipation builds for the forthcoming conference in Morocco in 2026, promising another enlightening and enriching experience for participants.

Fouad Ben Abdelaziz
Conference Chair

Hatem Masri
Conference Co-Chair

This conference is sponsored by



and endorsed by



1.2 Report on the MCDM Awards 2024

The International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making has three different lifetime achievement awards for individuals who make major contributions to MCDM. These prestigious awards are the Gold Medal, the Edgeworth-Pareto Award, and the Georg Cantor Award. They have been presented at the international conferences of the Society since 1992.

The MCDM Gold Medal: 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: 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: 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 Awards Committee received many nominations and chose the winners after studying all nominees carefully and deliberating extensively. The President of the Society, Matthias Ehrgott, and I presented the awards at the banquet of the 27th International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making in Hammamet, Tunisia, in June 2024.

The **MCDM Gold Medal** was awarded to **Serpil Sayın**. Serpil is a professor at Koç University, Turkey. She has contributed extensively to the theory, methodology, and applications of MCDM. Her contributions to multiobjective optimization opened up new areas to researchers. Serpil has worked on the practice of MCDM and served the community professionally. She has been the President of the INFORMS MCDM Section (2018-2019) and the program chair of the 25th Conference of the International Society on MCDM held in İstanbul, Türkiye in 2019.



Carlos Artemio Coello Coello received the **Edgeworth-Pareto Award**. Carlos is a Professor with Distinction at The Center for Research and Advanced Studies of the National Polytechnic Institute (CINVESTAV), Mexico. He has done pioneering work and published extensively in evolutionary multiobjective optimization. He has made major algorithmic contributions, some of which have been implemented in applications worldwide.

Edgeworth-Pareto Award Winner 2024



Carlos Coello Coello

Francisco Ruiz received the **George Cantor Award**. Francisco is a professor at the University of Malaga, Spain. He has made important contributions to the methodology and practice of MCDM. His contributions to goal programming and reference point-based interactive methods are especially noteworthy. Francisco was the chair of the organizing committee of the 22nd Conference of the International Society on MCDM held in Malaga, Spain, in 2013.

Georg Cantor Award Winner 2024



Francisco Ruiz

In addition to the lifetime achievement awards, the Society presented two service awards. **Matthias Ehrgott** received the MCDM Presidential Service Award for his leadership, inspiration, and resourcefulness as President of the International Society on MCDM from 2019 to 2024, for his commitment to public service to the MCDM professional community, and for his relentless effort in advancing the knowledge and understanding of the art and science of decision making. **Fouad Ben Abdelaziz** received the MCDM Conference Chairmanship Award for his most gracious hospitality and for his outstanding leadership and resourcefulness in organizing, managing, and chairing the 27th International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making, Hammamet, Tunisia, June 2-7, 2024. He and his colleagues have demonstrated the highest standards of performance and quality.

MCDM Presidential Service Award and MCDM Conference Chairmanship Award



Matthias Ehrgott and Fouad Ben Abdelaziz

Congratulations to Serpil, Carlos, Francisco, Matthias, and Fouad!

I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to the Awards Committee members for their diligent work throughout this difficult decision process. The Committee was composed of Fouad Ben Abdelaziz, Adiel Teixeira de Almeida, Matthias Ehrgott, Kathrin Klamroth, Murat Köksalan (Chair), Kaisa Miettinen, Roman Slowinski, and Jyrki Wallenius.

Murat Köksalan

Chair of the Awards Committee, 2024

1.3 Report about the 2024 MCDM Doctoral Dissertation Competition in Hammamet, Tunisia

Our Society organized the 2024 MCDM Dissertation Competition in cooperation with the Organizing Committee of the 27th International Conference organized at Hammamet, Tunisia. The competition was advertised, among other channels, in the MCDM Newsletter. The jury for the evaluation of the submissions consisted of five members: Banu Lokman, Johannes Siebert, Matthias Ehrgott, Serpil Sayın, and Caroline Mota as chair. The three finalists who were invited to the Tunisian Conference to give talks about their dissertations were (in alphabetical order of last name):

1. **Emin Ercan Cihan:** A Novel Approach to Hyper Project Portfolio Management for Sustainable Project Selection and Balance
2. **Bhupinder Singh Saini:** Pioneering Techniques to Tackle Challenges of Interactive Multiobjective Optimization
3. **Julia Sudhoff:** Ordinal Costs in Multi-objective Combinatorial Optimization



Emin Ercan's work added new insights into the application of project management. Bhupinder Singh Saini made innovative theoretical contributions to MCDM/A. His work also has practical implications for various application areas. Julia Sudhoff made outstanding theoretical contributions to the field of multiple objective optimization. All dissertations were of high quality and the candidates have some excellent publications from their PhD research. After careful consideration of the PhD dissertations, the publication records of the candidates, and their presentations at the Tunisian Conference, the jury decided to select **Bhupinder Singh**

Saini as the winner of the MCDM Doctoral Dissertation Award. Congratulations to all three candidates for their excellent works, with special congratulations to this year's winner, Bhupinder.

One of the candidates could not present in person. The Organizers of the Conference arranged a Zoom meeting so that the candidate and the remote members of the jury could join the presentation talks. I wish to thank all the jury members for their valuable and time-consuming task in reviewing the dissertations.

Caroline Mota

Chair of the Dissertation Competition Jury, 2024

1.4 A First Announcement: 28th International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making (MCDM 2026) in Marrakech, Morocco, May 2026

It's with great pleasure to inform you that the MCDM 2026 will be organized in Marrakech, Morocco at the beginning of May 2026.

The MCDM 2026 is an opportunity to raise local and regional interest in MCDM models and techniques. We are expecting to receive abstracts on all aspects of MCDM including theoretical developments and practical applications.

We promise those who will join us in MCDM 2026, an interesting program with several social activities, i.e., tours and sightseeing visits. Participants from developing countries will receive support to join us as we hope to make it a very exciting research experience for all participants.

On behalf of MCDM 2026, I wish to welcome you in Marrakech very soon.

Venue of the conference

The conference will be held in Marrakech, Morocco. Marrakech is amongst the top 5 world tourist cities, a destination that simply cannot be ignored! Located in the south of Morocco, this imperial city, called “the pearl of the south,” is particularly appreciated for its unique architecture, steeped in history, as well as its unique atmosphere!

Even more surprising than ever, the ochre city continues to arouse the curiosity of travellers from all over the world. It is no longer a surprise to see the city establish itself as one of the best destinations in the world.



At once historical, modern, and fascinating, Marrakech is like no other city in the world. It is a safe city that receives more than four million tourists per year and 100,000 foreigners residents. Marrakech has a well connected airport and can be reached by many direct flights from most important European, American, and Asian cities.

| | Name | Affiliation | Email |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Conference chair | El-Ghazali Talbi | University of Lille | el-ghazali.talbi@univ-lille.fr |
| Program chair | José Rui Figueira | University of Lisboa, Portugal | figueira@tecnico.ulisboa.pt |
| Organizing Committee Chair | Prof. Amir Nakib | University of Paris Est, France | Amir.nakib@u-pec.fr |

Best Regards,

El-Ghazali Talbi

1.5 Society Elections 2024

- **Candidate as Next MCDM President (2028-2032)**

Serpil Sayin

Koç University, Turkey

Serpil Sayin is a professor at Koç University, Istanbul, in the College of Administrative Sciences and Economics. She completed her Ph.D studies in Decision and Information Sciences at the University of Florida in 1992 and has been an active researcher in the multiobjective optimization area since then. Her research has been mostly on conceptual and methodological aspects of multiobjective optimization. She has worked extensively on the notion of representations and advocated finding representative subsets of the nondominated set with quality guarantees. She has developed exact algorithms for both continuous and discrete optimization problems. She is currently running a project that studies the consequences of transforming a given multiobjective optimization problem into a simpler one. She also conducted research in the interface of optimization and machine learning and took part in interdisciplinary teams where multiobjective approaches were applied to a number of problems in operations, retail management and healthcare policy.



Serpil Sayin was an executive board member of the MCDM Section of INFORMS between 2016-2021, serving as the President of the Section during 2018-2019. She was a member of the organizing team of the 25th International Conference of the MCDM Society that took place in Istanbul in 2019 and served as the program chair. In 2024, she was awarded the MCDM Gold Medal during the 27th meeting of the Society in Tunisia.

Statement by Serpil Sayin for the MCDM presidency

My membership in MCDM Society dates back to 1990s. The first International MCDM conference I attended was the twelfth one that took place in Hagen, Germany. Since then, the Society has been my research home. I've always been deeply impressed by the geographic diversity of the Society's membership base as an indication of its collegial atmosphere and its openness. I am excited by the prospect of taking an active role in the Society's journey into the future in this rapidly changing world.

Today, the complexity of decision problems at the personal, institutional and policy-making levels is increasing. With the rise of data-driven approaches and Artificial Intelligence, incorporating multiple perspectives, multiple stakeholders, and multiple criteria into decision processes is becoming ever more important. Although it has been stated several years ago, the mission of the MCDM Society (which can be found on our website) is still fresh. The current President of the Society has an excellent action plan to work towards this mission. I plan to continue to work on a number of the current action items that have a long time span. For instance, I believe that maintaining strong working relationships with other relevant societies and organizations, including the INFORMS MCDM Section, is of utmost importance. Working

on strengthening the position of the Journal of Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis is a worthwhile goal. Continuing the tradition of strong international conferences and PhD summer schools will be on my agenda. I will work with the executive committee to make these events even more remarkable for the participants by designing activities that enhance communication and future collaboration. I will also focus on using all online communication channels, including the social media accounts, effectively. This is important not only to facilitate communication among the Society members but also to strengthen the institutional identity of the MCDM Society in its interactions with other communities. As long as there are difficult decisions to make, there will be significant work and exciting research to do. I envision the MCDM Society as the organization that keeps leading the effort to help make these decisions better.

- **Candidate as Vice-President for Finance**

Birsen Karpak

Distinguished Professor Emeritus. Youngstown State University, USA

Dr. Karpak has secured grants from the US National Science Foundation and NATO and directed an International Advanced Study Institute on Multiple Criteria Decision Making and Risk Analysis with Dr. Stanley Zionts in 1987, in Istanbul and published a NATO ASI series with Zionts in 1989. All leading scholars of Multiple Criteria Decision Analysis were there, including Jyrki Wallenius, Pekka Korhonen, Tversky, Ralph Steuer, P.L.Yu, Murat Köksalan and Jean-Pierre Brans. Karpak also organized the IIASA conference with Pekka Korhonen in Istanbul in 1998, inviting



leading scholars of MCDA again, including Thomas Saaty, as well this time. Dr. Karpak received numerous awards in research, teaching and service, including the distinguished professorship award in scholarship from Youngstown State University. Her recent publications are mainly in applications of multiple criteria decision making methodologies which appeared in refereed journals such as Transportation, Journal of Multicriteria Decision Analysis, the European Journal of Purchasing and Supply Management and the International Journal of Production Economics. Karpak's recent research interests are in enterprise resource planning systems, applications of AHP/ANP in supply chain management, blockchain, and sustainability. She has been vice president of finance of the MCDM Society since 2015. She is a Senior Associate Editor of the International Journal of the Analytic Hierarchy Process; Guest Editor, AHP/ANP in Supply Chain Resilience in the Era of Digital Enterprise, Special Issue, Journal of Enterprise Information Management; Vice-President of Finance & Executive Committee Member of the International Society of Multiple Criteria Decision Making.

- **Candidates for the Executive Committee**

Carlos Coello Coello

CINVESTAV-IPN, Department of Computer Science, Mexico

I am a Professor with Distinction at the Centro de Investigación y de Estudios Avanzados del Instituto Politécnico Nacional (CINVESTAV-IPN), in Mexico City, México. My main research interests focus on the design of new multi-objective optimization algorithms based on bio-inspired metaheuristics (e.g., evolutionary algorithms), which is an area in which I have made pioneering contributions. My current interests include: indicator-based selection mechanisms and the use of genetic programming to design scalarizing functions and operators for multi-objective evolutionary algorithms. I am a founding member of the Mexican Society of Operations Research and of the Mexican Academy of Computing, and I am a member of the Mexican Academy of Science and of the Mexican Presidential Scientific Advisory Board. I have been a member of the Executive Boards of the ACM Special Interest Group on Evolutionary Computation (SIGEVO) and of the International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making.



I am highly interested in bridging the gap between the computer science (also known as evolutionary multi-objective) community and the Operations Research Community, as well as in strengthening the interest on multi-objective optimization in Latin America.

More information about me is available at: <http://delta.cs.cinvestav.mx/~ccoello>

Kalyanmoy Deb

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Michigan State University, USA



He is currently a University Distinguished Professor and Koenig Endowed Chair Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Michigan State University, USA. Prof. Deb's research focuses on evolutionary optimization and its application in multi-criterion optimization, modeling, and machine learning. He has held visiting professorships at various universities worldwide, including the University of Skövde in Sweden, ETH Zurich in Switzerland, Aalto University in Finland, Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, and several IITs in India. Prof. Deb has received numerous

accolades, such as the IEEE Evolutionary Computation Pioneer Award for his groundbreaking work in EMO, the Infosys Prize, the TWAS Prize in Engineering Sciences, the CajAstur Mamdani Prize, the Distinguished Alumni Award from IIT Kharagpur, the Edgeworth-Pareto Award, the Bhatnagar Prize in Engineering Sciences, and the Bessel Research Award from Germany. He has been awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Jyväskylä, Finland. He is a fellow of ACM, ASME, IEEE, and three Indian science and engineering academies. Prof. Deb has published over 600 research papers.

(From: Carlos A. Coello Coello, E. Goodman, K. Miettinen, D. Saxena, O. Schutze, and L. Thiele. Interview: Kalyanmoy Deb talks about Formation, Development and challenges of the EMO community, important positions in his career, and issues faced getting his works published. Mathematical and Computational Applications, 28(2), 2023.)

Michalis Doumpos

Technical University of Crete, Greece

I am a Professor of Operations Research and Dean of the School of Production Engineering and Management of the Technical University of Crete, Greece. My research focuses on multiple criteria decision aiding methods, mainly on methodologies from the area of preference disaggregation analysis and preference learning. Beyond theoretical developments, I am also interested in business and management applications, covering areas like financial decision making and risk management, sustainability assessment, energy economics and energy efficiency analysis, as well as public administration. I have been actively involved in the MCDA/M community and I have been awarded the Gold Medal Award of the International MCDM Society (2019). Among others, I have co-chaired the 2018 MCDA/M Summer School and the 68th Meeting of the European MCDA Working Group, in Chania, Greece.



Janusz Miroforidis

Systems Research Institute, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland

I am an associate professor at the Systems Research Institute, Polish Academy of Sciences. I am also Head of the Department of Decision Support in the Presence of Risk at this institute. I received my M.S. degree in computer science from the University of Wrocław, and my Ph.D. from the Systems Research Institute, Polish Academy of Sciences for my research in soft computing and multi-criteria decision-making methods for management needs. I am an active researcher working in the area of large-scale multi-objective optimization as well as in the area of multi-criteria decision-making and soft computing methods. My major research interests include human-machine interaction in multi-criteria decision-making and approximate methods for solving large-scale multi-objective optimization problems. I have published 35 scientific works, including one monograph. These works are on new methods to assist decision-makers in multi-criteria decision-making, and on applying operational research methods to solve practical problems (e.g., cancer radiation therapy planning, stock portfolio selection). I have over 25 years of experience in the information technology industry, backed by working for large international companies. I am particularly interested in applying operational research and artificial intelligence methods to solve practical problems. I have participated in many R&D projects for various industries. I also advise company boards on developing innovative solutions.



I am proud to participate in the upcoming Executive Committee MCDM elections.

Giovanni Misitano

University of Jyväskylä, Finland

I am a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Jyväskylä. My research focuses on interactive multiobjective optimization methods, which are particularly suitable for providing decision makers with decision-making support. My work involves creating decision support tools that are explainable and transparent to decision makers; and applicable in various domains. I am a primary contributor to DESDEO, an open-source framework for interactive multiobjective optimization. I am passionate about advancing decision-making tools to meet the needs of real decision makers.



I have been an active member of the Finnish Operations Research Society (FORS), having served as its president, and being the society's current treasurer and board member. In 2023, I was the main coordinator in organizing the FORS50 international conference held in honor of the 50-year-anniversary of FORS. I am also the current EURO representative of Finland, and have taken part in the yearly board meetings of EURO.

I am well connected and an outspoken person. I believe to be in a strong position for representing the northern parts of Europe. I am interested in joining the MCDM executive board to make the society more compelling especially for more junior researchers and practitioners with an interest in MCDM. It is high time we start popularizing MCDM and spreading its benefits widely!

For more information, visit my homepage: <https://gialmisi.github.io/>

Francisco Ruiz

University of Málaga, Spain



I am a Full Professor of Quantitative Methods for Economy and Business at the University of Málaga, where I have been a member of the Department of Applied Economics (Mathematics) since 1989. My research activities are focused on multi-objective programming methodologies, mainly in interactive methods. I have participated in the development of different interactive procedures, among which the non-trading-off family NAUTILUS can be pointed out. Presently, I am working on the assessment of interactive methods to find out how they perform with respect to certain desirable properties. I have also worked in the applications of MCDM methods in various fields. Recently, I have participated in the development of the MRP-WSCI methodology to build composite indicators. This methodology has been successfully applied in a wide variety of fields, including sustainability assessment, university performance, quality of life, economic freedom, ease of doing business or childhood wellbeing. I have co-authored nearly 100 publications (including papers in professional journals, proceedings of conferences, and book chapters), and I have stayed as visiting researcher at the

University of Georgia (USA), the University of Manchester (UK) and the University of Jyväskylä (Finland).

I have been the Secretary of the International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making (between 2008 and 2015) and one of the coordinators of the Spanish Group on Multiple Criteria Decision Making (between 2015 and 2018). Spain is the fourth country, in terms of number of members, of the International Society on MCDM. Besides, the Spanish scientific societies have natural links to other Spanish speaking countries around the world.

For further information, please visit my webpage:

<https://webpersonal.uma.es/~rua/english/home.html>

Andrea Raith

University of Auckland, New Zealand

I am a Senior Lecturer at the University of Auckland where I have been a member of the Department of Engineering Science since 2009. My research spans from various applications in transport, health-care and task scheduling, to more theoretical work particularly on algorithms for various multi-objective optimisation problems. My research interests include multi-objective shortest path and network flow problems and algorithms for transport problems such as equilibrium problems arising in traffic assignment. One focus in the past was algorithms for multi-objective robust optimisation problems, and I currently work on the integration of multi-objective optimisation methods and problem decomposition approaches.



Another interest is optimisation problems in the context of transport and transport modelling, especially sustainable transport options, energy efficiency, electric vehicles, public transportation and active transport modes.

Living and working in New Zealand, I am well placed to represent the interests of the MCDM community in the Asia-Pacific region, while having strong connections to other researchers in our community world-wide. I am also long-term council member of the Operations Research Society of New Zealand, and currently Vice President.

Johannes Siebert

Department of Business and Management, Management Center Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria

I am a full professor of Decision Sciences and Behavioral Economics at MCI | THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SCHOOL® in Innsbruck, Austria. Previously, I held a position at the University of Bayreuth. I completed my PhD in MCDM in 2009 and my habilitation in Behavioral Operations Research and Decision Analysis in 2015, under the mentorship of Ralph Keeney, with external evaluation by Roman Slowiński and Detlof von Winterfeldt.



With over 12 years of dedicated service, I recently stepped down as the head of the newsletter editorial team for the International Society on MCDM and from its executive committee. My roles have included serving as secretary and board member for the INFORMS Section on MCDM. I have contributed to the field through publications in leading journals such as Operations Research and the European Journal of Operational Research. Additionally, I have co-edited two special issues on MCDA Practice in the Journal of MCDA with Theo Stewart and have been recognized as a finalist for the Decision Analysis Society (INFORMS) Practice Award three times.

I met my wife, Jana, at the MCDM conference in Hamburg in 2015. Due to our two young daughters, we have missed recent conferences, but we look forward to reconnecting with colleagues soon.

For more information, please visit my website: <https://johannessiebert.com/>

2 Upcoming Events, Call for Papers, and Other News

2.1 *Special Issue: Multiple Criteria Decision-Making*

This is a special issue of the Engineering Management Journal to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Multiple Criteria Decision-Making Society and the 27th International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making (MCDM 2024). This special issue aims to showcase the latest developments and applications of Multiple Criteria Decision Making (MCDM) in the field of Engineering Management.

This special issue will host a selection of the best papers presented at the MCDM 2024 Conference but is also open to submissions from other researchers working in the field.

MCDM has demonstrated to be a successful tool to model complex decision-making problems involving competing and conflicting multiple criteria. It has gained significant attention from both researchers and practitioners across various disciplines including Engineering Management. The MCDM conferences have been instrumental in fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange in this field.

We invite researchers and practitioners from all over the world to contribute original research papers related to MCDM and Engineering Management to this special issue. Submitted articles should have a clear contribution to the theory and practice of Engineering Management. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Developments of MCDM methodologies and techniques
- Applications of MCDM in Engineering Management domains (e.g., Operations Management, Risk Management, Supply Chain Management, Sustainability, etc)
- MCDM and Decision Support Systems
- Decision Analysis and MCDM
- Uncertainty in MCDM
- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in MCDM

The deadline for submissions is **February 28, 2025**. Authors should submit their papers online at <https://rp.tandfonline.com/submission/create>. Authors should select “Yes” when asked if they are submitting their paper for a specific special issue or article collection and select “Multiple Criteria Decision Making in Engineering Management: Theory and Applications (MCDM 2024)” from the drop down menu. For any query, please contact the Guest Editor.

The Guest Editor of this Special Issue is:

Prof. Davide La Torre (davide.latorre@skema.edu)

Detailed information is available at the following URL:

https://think.taylorandfrancis.com/special_issues/50-years-of-multiple-criteria-decision-making-society/

2.2 Special Issue: Multiple Criteria Decision Making for Sustainable Development Goals

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the list of the 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) was approved by all United Nations Member States in 2015. The main goals include future scenarios with no poverty, zero hunger, good health, quality education, sustainable cities, responsible consumption, and many other crucial targets for peace and prosperity for people and the planet.

Multiple Criteria Decision Making (MCDM) has demonstrated to be a successful tool to model complex decision-making problems involving competing and conflicting multiple criteria. It has gained significant attention from both researchers and practitioners across various disciplines. The MCDM conferences have been instrumental in fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange in this field.

We are pleased to announce a special issue of the *International Transactions in Operational Research (ITOR)* to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Multiple Criteria Decision-Making Society and the 27th International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making (MCDM 2024) dedicated to the latest developments and applications of MCDM to the SDGs.

This special issue will host a selection of the best-refereed papers presented at the MCDM 2024 conference. However, it is also open to submissions from the entire MCDM community working in the field.

Therefore, we invite researchers and practitioners from all over the world to contribute with original research papers to this special issue. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Developments of MCDM methodologies and techniques
- Applications of MCDM to SDGs
- Decision support systems for SDGs
- Uncertainty in MCDM for SDGs
- Artificial intelligence and machine learning in MCDM

The deadline for submissions is **February 28, 2025**.

Each paper will be peer-reviewed according to the editorial policy of *ITOR*, published by the International Federation of Operational Research Societies. Papers should be original, unpublished, and not currently under consideration for publication elsewhere. Contributions should be prepared according to the guidelines and instructions to authors that can be found on the journal homepage. Authors should upload their contributions using the submission site at <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/itor>, indicating in their cover letter that the paper is intended for this special issue. Other inquiries should be sent directly to Davide La Torre (davide.latorre@skema.edu).

Detailed information is available at the following URL:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/itor.13498>

2.3 Special Issue: MCMD in Energy

We are delighted to announce a special issue of Energy Economics commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Multiple Criteria Decision-Making Society and the 27th International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making (MCDM 2024). This special edition aims to highlight the latest advancements and practical applications of Multiple Criteria Decision Making (MCDM) within the energy sector.

The special issue will feature a selection of top-tier papers presented at the MCDM 2024 Conference, while also welcoming submissions from other scholars engaged in related research areas.

MCDM has proven to be a valuable tool for modelling complex decision-making scenarios involving diverse and conflicting criteria. It has garnered significant attention from researchers and practitioners across various fields, including Energy Economics. The MCDM conferences have played a pivotal role in nurturing collaboration and knowledge dissemination within this domain.

We cordially invite researchers and practitioners from around the globe to contribute original research papers focusing on MCDM in the context of energy to this special issue. Submitted articles should offer novel insights into the theory and application of MCDM in the energy sector. Potential topics of interest encompass, but are not limited to:

- Advancements in MCDM methodologies and techniques
- Applications of MCDM in energy economics
- MCDM and energy resource allocation
- MCDM in energy policy and planning
- MCDM and decision support systems
- Decision analysis and MCDM
- Handling uncertainty in MCDM
- Energy efficiency and conservation using MCDM techniques
- MCDM and renewable energy integration
- MCDM and sustainable energy development
- Integration of artificial intelligence and machine learning in MCDM

Authors should submit their paper by **30th June 2025** via the Journal's online submission site: <https://www2.cloud.editorialmanager.com/eneeco/> selecting the article type "VSI: MCMD in Energy". Papers will be subject to a strict review process managed by the Guest Editors, and accepted papers will be published online individually before print publication.

The Guest Editors of this Special Issue are:

Prof. Davide La Torre, SKEMA Business School, Université Côte d'Azur, France

Prof. Francesco Appio, Paris School of Business, France

Prof. Michail Doumpos, Technical University of Crete, Greece

Detailed information is available at the following URL:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/energy-economics/about/call-for-papers#mcmd-in-energy>

2.4 *Special Issue: Algorithms and Methods*

This special issue addresses the growing research interest in the application for algorithms and advanced optimization techniques in the broad area of Decision Aid and Management Sciences. This includes particularly recent models and techniques related to Multiple Criteria Decision Making through modern mathematical tools from variational analysis and combinatorics as well as computer assisted solution strategies and their analysis.

The deadline for submissions is **March 31, 2025**. When submitting their manuscript, authors must answer the question ‘Is the manuscript a candidate for a special issue?’ Please tick ‘yes’ and select ‘MCDM2024’ from the list.

It is also highly recommended to detail your submission's connection to this special issue in the cover letter of your submission.

The Guest Editors of this Special Issue are:

Davide La Torre, *SKEMA Business School, France*, (davide.latorre@skema.edu)

Fouad Ben Abdelaziz, *NEOMA Business School, France*, (fouad.ben.abdelaziz@neoma-bs.fr)

Meryem Masmoudi, *Applied Science University, Bahrain*, (meryem.masmoudi@asu.edu.bh)

Matteo Rocca, *Insubria University, Italy*, (matteo.rocca@uninsubria.it)

Ralph Steuer, *University of Georgia, USA*, (rsteuer@uga.edu)

Christiane Tammer, *Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany*, (Christiane.tammer@uni-halle.de)

Detailed information is available at the following URL:

https://think.taylorandfrancis.com/special_issues/mcdm-2024

2.5 Special Issue: Milestones in MCDM: Reflections on 50 Years of Advancements

This special issue presents an extensive compilation of highly cited techniques that have played a pivotal role in shaping the field of Multiple Criteria Decision Making (MCDM) over the past five decades. In this exclusive edition, we will invite the most influential authors in MCDM to contribute papers that facilitate readers' understanding and comprehension of the concepts presented in each influential work. These expert-written papers will offer a deep dive into the details of each contribution, allowing readers to appreciate their significance within the broader framework of MCDM. Whether you are an experienced researcher, a graduate student, or a practitioner eager to explore the rich history and advancements in MCDM, this special issue provides a valuable resource. By organizing the most cited models into a structured and accessible format, we aim to enhance readers' engagement and comprehension. Furthermore, this compilation is expected to significantly increase the journal's citation impact. We eagerly await your insights and look forward to our collaboration.

We invite original research papers on topics related to the methodology of MCDM and to its theoretical foundations. Real-world applications, case studies and software applications that support MCDM problems are also welcome.

The deadline for submissions is **August 15, 2024**.

Manuscripts must be submitted electronically via e-mail to: mcdm@ue.katowice.pl.

Detailed editorial and content requirements can be found on webpage: <http://mcdm.ue.katowice.pl>.

Submissions for vol. 19 (2024) are free of charge.

The Guest Editor of this Special Issue is:

Prof. Hatem Masri,
President of the Applied Science University, Bahrain

Detailed information is available at the following URL:

<https://mcdm.ue.katowice.pl/index.php?page=cfp>

2.6 Information about the INFORMS Section on MCDM



Dear Members of the International Society on MCDM,

On behalf of the INFORMS Section on MCDM, we cordially invite you to join our MCDM Community at <https://connect.informs.org/multiple-criteria/decision-making/home>. The annual fee for non-members of INFORMS is 10 USD (INFORMS members pay 7 USD, and students/retired pay 2/5 USD).



INFORMS is the leading professional association for the decision and data sciences with 12,500+ members across the world. The Section on Multiple Criteria Decision Making (MCDM) has an interdisciplinary and broad focus on various methodologies and applications of MCDM. Our goal is to foster the exchange of ideas, promote cutting-edge research in MCDM, and elevate the visibility of our Section within the academic and professional communities. We also continue to build on the strong connections between the INFORMS MCDM Section, The International Society on MCDM, the EURO Working Group on MCDA, and other societies in the MCDM field. The 2024 INFORMS Annual Meeting will be held in Seattle, Washington, on October 20-23, 2024.



As the President and Vice-president of the INFORMS MCDM Section, we look forward to working and collaborating with you to enable the MCDM Section to fulfill its objectives and flourish in a challenging environment.

We look forward to welcoming you to the MCDM Section of INFORMS!

Best wishes,

Adiel Teixeira de Almeida & Banu Lokman

2.7 *International Conference on Evolutionary Multi-Criterion Optimization*

EMO is a biennial conference series devoted to studying various aspects of multiobjective optimization such as:

- evolutionary and population-based algorithms;
- surrogate-based or Bayesian optimization methods;
- machine learning/artificial intelligence-based hybrid methods;
- theoretical foundations of multiobjective optimization;
- multiple-criteria decision-making;
- benchmarking, performance indicators, and visualization tools;
- Practical/industry applications.

EMO 2025 will be held at the Shine Dome, Canberra, Australia during **March 4-7, 2025** (<https://shinedome.org.au/>).

The submission types are the EMO main track, MCDM special track, and industry special track, requiring full papers, full papers or abstracts, and full papers or abstracts, respectively. All accepted papers will be included in the Springer Lecture Notes in Computer Science (LNCS) proceedings.

Plenary speakers:

Professor Bernhard Sendhoff,

CEO of Global Network Honda Research Institutes, Germany

Professor Qingfu Zhang,

Chair Professor of Computational Intelligence, City University of Hong Kong

Professor Kaisa Miettinen,

Professor of Industrial Optimization, University of Jyväskylä, Finland

Key dates:

Paper submission deadline: 1 October 2024

Notification of outcomes: 15 November 2024

Camera-ready papers due: 30 November 2024

Conference dates: 4-7 March 2025

Detailed information is available at the following URL: <https://emo2025.org/>

Previous EMO conferences: <http://www.emo-online.org/>



2.8 Invitation to Participate in the Behavioral Operation Research Brown Bag Seminar Series (BORB²S²)

This seminar series was created to foster collaboration, strengthen the BOR community, raise interest in BOR topics, increase the visibility of BOR, and fast deliver new ideas.

The seminars are scheduled for **40 min**. The generic timetable suggests a brief introduction (5 min), a contribution (20 min), and a discussion (15 min). However, there is flexibility concerning the length of the contributions. In addition, there is an opportunity for those interested in staying in the room to continue discussions.

The seminar takes place during “Brownbag-time for Europeans”:

12 PM to 12.40 PM (UK GMT)

1 PM to 1.40 PM (CET, Berlin)

It is scheduled bi-monthly every 2nd Thursday every second month under consideration of other workshops, conferences, etc. The next dates are the following:

October 10th 2024, December 12th 2024

February 13th 2025, April 10th 2025, June 12th 2025, October 9th 2025, December 11th 2025

Different types of contributions are possible:

- Conference talks – work in progress,
- Mini-panel discussions with pre-assigned panelists,
- Open discussion with an initial input of one contributor,
- Editors of journals discussing publishing BOR papers,
- Finding collaborators – e.g., Ph.D. students presenting their work and looking for a collaborator they could benefit from.

Please reserve your BORB²S² presentation date! Only an abstract of the talk is needed. Topics can cover any facets of BOR. Self-promotions are highly welcome. You can also suggest other speakers. Send all inquiries to Johannes Siebert (Johannes.Siebert@mci.edu).

- **BORBS XV: Designing and facilitating team discussions**

October 10th, 2024

Alberto L. Franco and Etiënne A. J. A. Rouwette

Abstract

How a team decision support unfolds depends both on the design of the intervention as well as the facilitator’s actions in respond to the ongoing discussion. We describe important design choices that an analyst and client jointly need to make. The scope of the problem to be addressed is one of these. The literature on team decision support offers a range of advice on how a



facilitator should work with a group, ranging from concrete tasks to more generic attitudes that capture the core spirit behind helping teams. We propose a model grounded in empirical studies that organizes central ideas in facilitation and helps novices as well as expert facilitators to decide which action is needed and when.

Why should you join?

Participants will learn about theory and research relevant to designing and facilitating team discussions, offering a basis to develop skills further and conduct empirical research into intervention effectiveness.

- **BORBS XVI: Time preference influences attribute weights and values in multi-attribute decision-making**

December 12th, 2024

Pelin Gulum Tas, Yousef Maknoon, Jafar Rezaei (Faculty of Technology, Policy and Management, Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands)

Abstract

Eliciting attribute weights and values are two crucial steps in many multi-attribute decision-making (MADM) methods. Due to their high reliance on judgmental inputs from decision-makers, these steps can be subject to various behavioral factors, including time preference. Given the frequent application of MADM methods in many strategic real-life problems, examining time-related behavioral vulnerabilities and providing systematic approaches to overcome them become imperative. This talk will discuss the time preference phenomenon in complex, multi-attribute decision-making problems. A special experiment is designed following the Multi-Attribute Value Theory (MAVT) steps, and a health-related intertemporal decision problem is used. In a within-subject design, participants' preferences are used to elicit attribute weights and value functions considering different resolution times of a health-related outcome. Data were collected from six European countries via an online platform. The statistical analyses indicate the significant influence of time preference on elicited importance weights and value functions. Subjects assigned different weights to the same attributes and different values to the same outcomes depending on the time of the realization of outcomes. These findings have significant implications for both practitioners and researchers.



This talk will discuss the time preference phenomenon in complex, multi-attribute decision-making problems. A special experiment is designed following the Multi-Attribute Value Theory (MAVT) steps, and a health-related intertemporal decision problem is used. In a within-subject design, participants' preferences are used to elicit attribute weights and value functions considering different resolution times of a health-related outcome. Data were collected from six European countries via an online platform. The statistical analyses indicate the significant influence of time preference on elicited importance weights and value functions. Subjects assigned different weights to the same attributes and different values to the same outcomes depending on the time of the realization of outcomes. These findings have significant implications for both practitioners and researchers.

Why should you join?

Participants will learn how time preferences affect the multi-attribute decision-making process in a health-related context and discover the complex behavioral mechanisms behind the choices.

2.9 Two \$2,000 Scholarships for Postgraduate Students

1000minds is offering **two \$2,000 scholarships** to postgraduate students, e.g., Masters or PhD, enrolled at any university worldwide. Applications close on 1 December 2024, with winners announced by 25 December.

1. One \$2,000 scholarship is for a research project about or involving the use of MCDM.
2. A second \$2,000 scholarship is for a research project about or involving the use of Conjoint Analysis, Choice Modelling, or a Discrete Choice Experiment (DCE).

Scholarship winners will also receive free access to [1000minds software](#) if they wish to use it for their research. Here are 1200+ examples of research projects using 1000minds: www.1000minds.com/academic/research; and here are the six Scholarship winners from the last three years: www.1000minds.com/academic/scholarships#winner.

More information, including the application process, is available from www.1000minds.com/sectors/academic/scholarships.

Please share this information with anyone who might be interested.

Thank you and best wishes,

Prof. Paul Hansen

Department of Economics, University of Otago

Also www.1000minds.com

1000minds

3 Past Conferences, Workshops, and Other News

3.1 *An International Seminar on Decision Analytics at Aalto University School of Business Honoring the Work of Pekka Korhonen*

A seminar on “**Decision Analytics**” was organized jointly by **Jyrki Wallenius**, the Department of Information and Service Management, and the Doctoral Education Network on Systems Analysis, Decision Making, and Risk Management on August 14th, 2024 at Aalto University School of Business. The purpose of the seminar was two-fold: to pay our respects to Professor Pekka Korhonen, who died this past January, and to take stock of our field and look into the future. Pekka was an influential person in our field who did pioneering work in multiple objective optimization and productivity analysis.

We had presentations by the following individuals: Assistant Professor Eeva Vilkkumaa, Associate Professor Juuso Liesiö, Associate Professor Pekka Malo (all from Aalto University School of Business), Professor Ahti Salo (Aalto University School of Science), Professor Murat Köksalan (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor), Professor Wojtek Michalowski (Ottawa University), Professor Banu Lokman (Portsmouth University), Professor Majid Soleimani (University of Tehran), Assistant Professor Akram Dehnokhalaji (Aston Business School), and Emeritus Professor Jyrki Wallenius (with a presentation: Pekka Korhonen’s Contributions to Research, with my Personal Reflections) (Aalto University School of Business). The presentations focused on various aspects of decision analytics, decision analysis, multi-objective optimization, the role of AI, Data Envelopment Analysis, and clinical DSSs, and Pekka Korhonen’s pioneering role in our field. The number of participants varied between 40 and 50. The participants and speakers included five individuals, who have received our Society’s award (in alphabetical order: Raimo Hämäläinen, Murat Köksalan, Wojtek Michalowski, Ahti Salo, and Jyrki Wallenius). Dean Timo Korkeamäki opened the seminar. The seminar was followed by a dinner in downtown Helsinki.

The atmosphere was beautifully summarized by one of the participants, Dr. Bhupinder Saini from University of Jyväskylä: “I really enjoyed the seminar, thank you for organizing it! I enjoyed the technical talks as well. Some of them are extremely relevant to some of my current projects. The seminar may have opened some opportunities for collaboration for me.”

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support from Helsingin kauppakorkeakoulun tukisäätiö (Helsinki School of Economics Support Foundation), Liikesivistysrahasto (Foundation for Economic Education), and the Department of Information and Service Management, Aalto University School of Business, making our seminar possible.

Jyrki Wallenius

4 In Memoriam

4.1 Jared L. Cohon in Memoriam



Jared (Jerry) Cohon was born on October 7, 1947, in Cleveland, Ohio. He passed away on March 16th, 2024, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He received his B.Sc. Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania in 1969. He became interested in environmental problems while taking a course as an undergraduate. Although he was in a Civil Engineering program, his interest was in the application of mathematics to environmental issues. As a PhD student at MIT, he took many courses in Economics and Operations Research and decided to write his dissertation on Multiobjective Programming. He received his PhD degree in Civil Engineering from MIT in 1973. In 1978, Jared published a pioneering book on Multiobjective Programming and Planning based on his dissertation work from Academic Press; the book was selected as a “classic” in operations research and was republished by Dover Press in 2003.

Jared Cohon was a professor of Geography and Environmental Engineering at Johns Hopkins University from 1973 to 1992. During this period, he also served in several administrative roles as assistant and associate dean of Engineering and vice provost for research. He then became the dean of the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University, where he served from 1992 to 1997. Jared served as President of Carnegie Mellon University from 1997 until 2013. After his tenure as President, he continued at Carnegie Mellon as professor and institute director.

Jared was the eighth president of Carnegie Mellon University (CMU). He guided the university’s expansion toward national and international excellence. During his tenure, Carnegie Mellon grew into one of the world’s leading institutions of higher learning. But Jared’s legacy extends beyond the development of CMU and its effect on the Pittsburgh region — he touched the lives of so many people. Quoting CMU President Farnam Jahanian: “His brilliant mind, unyielding energy and unimpeachable integrity have made our institution — and our society — better in innumerable ways.” Another important person in Jerry’s life was Charles J. Queenan Jr., chair of CMU’s Board of Trustees from 1997-2000 who recruited Cohon to the university. He astutely observed, “What set Jerry apart from others was his ability to listen. He would focus his attention on you completely and then ask a few follow-up nonthreatening questions, which demonstrated that he had really heard what you had to say. As a result, the course of conduct became self-evident. This is a quality that is remarked upon time and again by those who interacted with him.” Jerry was also very successful in fundraising for CMU. The largest private donation that he secured for his university was 265 million dollars. Following his successful fundraising, he effectively doubled the size of the CMU faculty during his tenure.

Jared was interested in interdisciplinary research. He worked on large-scale problems having important environmental impact including water resource management and energy facility location problems. He approached problems from a multiobjective and interdisciplinary perspective and published extensively in these areas. He spoke highly of our Society and attended several of our conferences. The last one was in Finland in 2011. At the 1990 conference in Fairfax, Virginia, at George Mason University, he arranged funding for approximately 20 Soviet scientists to attend and participate. He also arranged funding for the conference. He said that the International Society on MCDM was his scholastic reference group and that he learned so much from colleagues affiliated with the Society.

He took a leave from teaching in 1977 and 1978 to serve as the first Legislative Assistant for Energy and Environment to the late Senator from New York, Daniel Patrick Moynihan. Jared was appointed in 1995 by President Bill Clinton as a member of the U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board and in 1997 as its chairman until 2002. President George W. Bush appointed Jared to the Homeland Security Advisory Council in 2002; President Barack Obama reappointed him in 2009. Jared has chaired or served on many committees of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. He also chaired the committee that produced the report, “The Hidden Costs of Energy,” requested by the U.S. Congress in 2009.

Jared received multiple awards, including the Joan Hodges Queneau Medal for outstanding engineering achievement in environmental conservation from the American Association of Engineering Societies and the National Audubon Society in 1996, the Edgeworth-Pareto Award from the International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making in 1998, and the William Metcalf Award from the Engineering Society of Western Pennsylvania in 2006. In 2009, he was named a Distinguished Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. CMU named the University Center in Cohon’s Honor in 2014. The Center houses the university store, meeting rooms, dining, and other facilities.

Each of us has extraordinary memories from visiting CMU during Jared’s tenure as President. Despite his extremely busy schedule, he was very generous to his friends with his time. He personally hosted our visits to CMU. Stan is a graduate of the Carnegie Institute of Technology (1958 B. Sc., 1960 M. Sc., and 1966 PhD), as CMU was known at the time. Jyrki and Murat feel that they also (indirectly) received the Carnegie education via Stan, their thesis advisor, instilling in them the high standards of research CMU is known for. Jared was a great leader. He was very well known in many circles and yet was very modest. Many mainstream news channels covered his passing, mentioning his accomplishments. He was very good with people, and he made everyone feel important.

Jared lived in Pittsburgh with his wife Maureen, a leading family law attorney who was a pioneer in providing legal services to same-sex couples. They have a daughter, Hallie Donner, and two grandsons.

Murat Köksalan, Jyrki Wallenius, and Stanley Zionts

5 New Books/Publications

This section presents a list of books and papers recently published. As part of our ongoing efforts to streamline and enhance the collection of publications from our members, we are excited to announce the development of a new and more robust approach that leverages the Scopus database. To facilitate this process, we kindly request you to provide your **ORCID ID**.

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He Huang: 0000-0003-0291-9988

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6 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.” The deadline for the September issue is usually 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).