

# International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making

E-News • 2021 • Issue 1 (January)



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## Letter from the President

Dear Members of the International Society on MCDM,

one year has now passed since a tiny virus started its conquest of the world, which has changed dramatically in response. We got used to Sports events without spectators, we all teach by talking to our computer screens rather than to students in a lecture room. And finally the virus has also had its effect on the MCDM community. In September, Sophie Parragh and colleagues organised the 2020 RAMOO workshop in Linz, Austria



as a virtual workshop. The good news is that more people than ever attended it, because the trip only involved switching the computer on, but everyone missed the personal interaction.

**Just this Monday, the organizing committee of the 26<sup>th</sup> MCDM conference decided that the risk of having the conference in Portsmouth in August this year is too high and proposed a new date of 26<sup>th</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022.** A wise decision, considering the situation in the UK, where, as I write this, almost 100.000 people have died of Covid. So let's hope that the vaccines will show an effect this year and that travel will be possible again next summer, so that we can enjoy the vigorous exchange and collaborations that we are used to from our conferences.

I need to close this letter on a sad note. This morning I learned that Professor Kim Allan Andersen of Aarhus Business School died suddenly yesterday. Kim was one of the first people I met in the MCDM community and a great friend for more than 25 years. He was one of the most modest people I know, always putting others (in particular his students) first, diligently doing his work and contributing to OR in Denmark and to and multi-objective optimisation. Kim will be missed by the MCDM community.

Matthias Ehrgott

President of the International Society on MCDM

21 January 2021

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 2021 EURO PhD Summer School on MCDA/MCDM



Due to the pandemic, 2020 EURO PhD Summer School on MCDA/MCDM had been postponed to 2021. It is going to take place in Ankara, Turkey, on July 19-30, 2021. PhD students interested in getting an in-depth understanding of the theoretical and applied aspects of MCDA/MCDM, interacting with some of the top scholars in the area, and conducting hands-on exercises/cases are welcome to apply. Although the priority is for PhD students, a limited number of Master's students may also be admitted. A total of approximately 50 students will be admitted to the summer school. Those who had been admitted and opted to apply their registration fees towards the postponed summer school need not apply again. All others, including those admitted and had not paid or had been refunded, will have to apply again. We have room for new applications as well.



There will be lectures on state-of-the-art multiple criteria methods, applications, and software. Teams of students will be formed to work on several case studies and will present their work at the end of the summer school. The new venue is Bilkent University, a neighbor of the original venue. The students will be staying in a dormitory of Bilkent University and will have the opportunity to interact with each other, as well as with the lecturers throughout the summer school. This is a great opportunity for PhD students to network among themselves and with the lecturers, and initiate collaborations and friendships that may continue for many years. Many of the current well-known scholars in the area have attended past summer schools.

In addition to the unique academic program, the summer schools are lots of fun. There are social activities throughout and the students enjoy spending time together. Many long-lasting friendships have been formed in past summer schools.

The lectures will be held at the Bilkent University campus. All meals will be provided and the activities of the social program will also be covered. Thanks to the financial support from the

Association of European Operational Research Societies (EURO) and the International Society on MCDM, we are able to keep the registration costs low. There will also be an opportunity to apply for partial support for the registration cost for those who have limited funds, especially from developing countries.

The original organizers, Gülşah Karakaya of Middle East Technical University, and Banu Lokman of Portsmouth University, could not continue to be involved in the organization, due to other commitments. They worked diligently and documented everything so well. We are in their debt for all their efforts that make our job easier.



Bilkent is located on a beautiful campus in the west side of Ankara (<https://w3.bilkent.edu.tr/>). Ankara, located in central Anatolia, is the capital of Turkey. It connects east and west parts of the country, and is the second largest city of Turkey. The city has great museums including Museum of Anatolian Civilizations, which was elected as The Museum of the Year in Europe in 1997. Please check the following link for more information about Ankara:

<https://www.goturkeytourism.com/destinations-turkey/ankara-city-in-turkey.html>.

Although the pandemic is currently at its peak, multiple vaccines that have very promising efficacy results are being administered in many countries. The projections indicate that widespread vaccination will be done by as early as late spring. We expect the travel conditions to be safe by the time of the summer school. However, in order to allow for extra time to the participants before committing, we postponed the deadlines as follows:

### Important dates

- Deadline for Application: ~~February 1, 2021~~ **March 1, 2021**
- Notification of Acceptance: ~~February 15, 2021~~ **March 15, 2021**
- Early registration deadline: ~~March 15, 2021~~ **April 15, 2021**
- Late registration deadline: ~~April 15, 2021~~ **May 15, 2021**
- Beginning of the summer school: July 19, 2021

We will keep monitoring the situation closely and reflect any changes through the summer school's web site as well as announcements made at relevant discussion lists.

### Tentative List of Lecturers (in alphabetical order)

1. Adiel T. de Almeida, Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil  
Multi-attribute Utility and Value Theory (MAUT/MAVT), Multi-criteria Group Decision Making (MCGDM)
2. Matthias Ehrgott, Lancaster University, UK  
MCDA/M Community, Multiobjective Combinatorial Optimization
3. Jose Rui Figueira, Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal  
Outranking Methods
4. Carlos Fonseca, University of Coimbra, Portugal  
Evolutionary Multiobjective Optimization
5. Salvatore Greco, University of Catania, Italy  
Robust Ordinal Regression
6. Milosz Kadzinski, Poznan University of Technology, Poland  
Decision Deck
7. Özlem Karsu, Bilkent University, Turkey  
Case Work
8. Ralph L. Keeney, Duke University, USA  
Problem Structuring, Value-Focused Thinking
9. Murat Köksalan, Middle East Technical University, Turkey and University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA  
Behavioral Aspects of Decision Making, Interactive Methods of Multiobjective Optimization I
10. Serpil Sayın, Koç University, Turkey  
Multiobjective Optimization Theory
11. Roman Slowinski, Poznan University of Technology, Poland  
Decision Rule Approach, "Meet the editor"
12. Jyrki Wallenius, Aalto University, Finland  
Interactive Methods of Multiobjective Optimization II, History and Traditions of MCDM
13. Constantin Zopounidis, Technical University of Crete, Greece

### MCDM Applications in Finance

The most up-to-date information regarding the application process and all other developments about the summer will be available at <https://www.ie.bilkent.edu.tr/mcdm/>. Please check frequently. The finalized summer school program will be published in February 2021.

We look forward to an exciting summer school in Ankara!

Contact address: [mcdmss21@bilkent.edu.tr](mailto:mcdmss21@bilkent.edu.tr)

#### **Organizers:**

*Özlem Karsu*

Industrial Engineering Department

Bilkent University

*Murat Köksalan*

Ross School of Business

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

## 1.2 Call for Proposals to Organize the MCDM 2023 Conference



### International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making

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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 27<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making in 2023.

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 host institution and from 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, outing, banquet, abstract book, etc.) - regular and student fees (as reliable an estimate as possible). Indicate also 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 in a virtual meeting in summer 2021. 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 are more than one promising proposals to organize MCDM 2023, 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 2025 if you are not selected to organize MCDM 2023.

Send your proposal by e-mail to the president of the society, Prof. Matthias Ehrgott, at [president@mcdmsociety.org](mailto:president@mcdmsociety.org) by May 15, 2021. Please direct any questions you may have by e-mail as well.

### *1.3 News from our website and our membership database*

When I took over the position of secretary in June 2019, I became responsible for our website [mcdmsociety.org](http://mcdmsociety.org) and the membership applications. At that time, membership applicants could register on our website and membership was pending until the secretary approved (or not). Our former secretary Banu Lokman already alerted me that the amount of spam applications was increasing more and more even though captchas were active. Between July 2019 and September 2020, I received 1675 membership applications among which 77 could be identified as credible, which is less than 5%. In order to avoid this high amount of fake applications I eventually decided to change the way of the membership application. Instead of providing a web-tool for registering, I switched back to an old-fashioned way. Applicants are asked now to write a mail and to provide information therein instead of filling a web form. Since then, the number of fake applications has shrunk to basically zero.

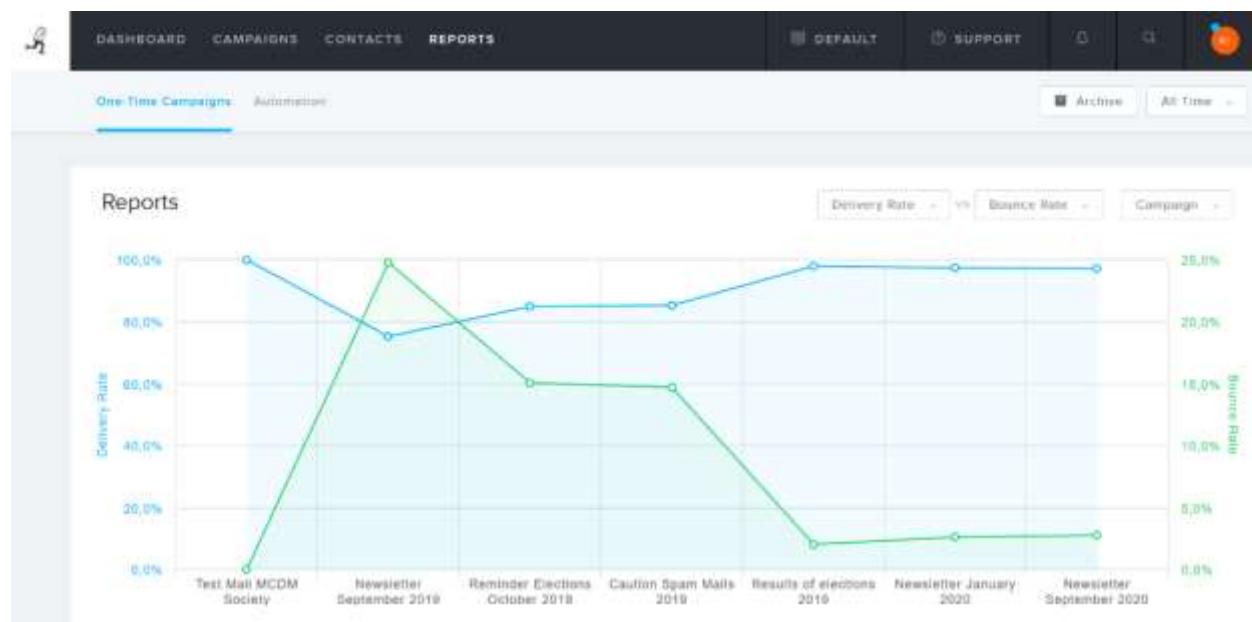
Another issue I had to deal with is how to reach all members. For our former secretary Banu it was still possible to send out mass mails from her university mail account. This was not possible for me for technical reasons, so I had to find another solution quickly. The probably easiest solution that would also be convenient when the secretary changes, would be to send out mass mails directly from our webhosting provider. Unfortunately, they were not able (or willing) to make mass mails possible. So in 2019 I decided to use a commercial tool and chose Newsletter2Go, now renamed as SendinBlue. Since a mailing to all members was not free of charge, I minimized contacting all members and used this tool only to distribute absolutely necessary information concerning, e.g., the semiannual publication of our newsletter or elections.

However, apart from the costs, the commercial tool also has certain advantages, among them nice statistics about how many members received the mailing, how many opened it, how many clicked on the link for assessing the MCDM Newsletter and so on. There are some interesting findings. When I sent out the first mailing in September 2019, the number of recipients was 2781, namely the number of members in our database at that time. However, only 2092 mails could be delivered (75.2%), 689 (24.8%) bounced and 25 (1.2%) participants unsubscribed. Out of the successful recipients, around 70% (1455) opened the mail and around 25% (516) clicked on the link that directs to the current issue of the MCDM Newsletter.

The bounce management of the tool is fully automated and removes mail addresses only when they are permanently not available, i.e., when the third delivery attempt has failed. After the first mailing, the number of total recipients shrunk to 2430. After the second and third mailing in October 2019, the number of active recipients was finally reduced by the system to around 2000. The last mailing in September 2020 was sent out to 2041 addresses and was delivered to 1985 members (97.3%). So this seems to be the number of actually reachable members of our society.

Among the recipients, nearly 70% opened the mailing and 25% opened the link to our MCDM Newsletter. A possible explanation for the first figure is that for 30% of our members, the mailing

goes to the spam folder. So here is still some improvement required. In case you read these lines and never received any mail message, you might have a look to your spam folder or check the mail address with which you are registered as member of the society.



While the statistics of the commercial tool are valuable, it is not satisfactory for a society like ours that does not charge membership fees and, thus, has to be careful with its expenses. Thanks to the help of a friend who is very skilled and experienced in website-related things, I managed to install a module in our content-management system recently that promises to make mass mails to all our members possible without any additional costs. This module will be tested to announce our Newsletter in January 2021. If it works, we will use it from now on.

In parallel, I want to advertise our MCDM discussion group. Currently, it has 314 members, so only a small portion of the registered members of the society. In case you are not subscribed already, you are encouraged to do so by filling out the form on <https://lists.mcdmsociety.org/mailman/listinfo/mcdm-discussion>. This link is also accessible from the main page of our website (“Electronic Discussion Group”). Every subscribed member can post messages, so this gives you the possibility to reach all other members directly. Of course, misuse has to be prevented but, fortunately, this has not happened so far. On the contrary, the list is still not used as it could be.

We try to constantly improve our website and our communication tools. For sure, we have members that know these things much better than I do. You are always welcome to tell me if you have suggestions for improvement.

*Kerstin Dächert*

Secretary of the MCDM society, [secretary@mcdmsociety.org](mailto:secretary@mcdmsociety.org)

## 2 Upcoming Events and Call for Papers

### 2.1 Promoting the European Journal of Operational Research in the Financial Times 50 -survey

Dear Colleagues,

The Financial Times (FT) organizes a survey concerning their ranking of 50 influential journals in the field of Business & Management. The link to the survey is: [https://survey.ft.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8qBwlr4MLqwwQaV](https://survey.ft.com/jfe/form/SV_8qBwlr4MLqwwQaV).

This process offers an opportunity for the international community to express opinions on the merits of particular journals in building the field of Business & Management that is obviously including Operations Research & Management Science.

We think that the absence of the European Journal of Operational Research (EJOR) among the 50 journals ranked by FT is inconsistent with the real impact of this journal on the field.

Therefore we seek your support that may consist in:

1. recommending to your Dean or Deputy Dean for Research to include EJOR on the top of the list of journals to be considered for inclusion in the FT list,
2. participating in the survey and ranking EJOR on the top of your list,
3. sharing the text with your colleagues, particularly from the US.

Over years, EJOR has considerably improved its position in the OR & MS category. The 2019 CiteScore=8.5 gives EJOR the 7th position in the MS & OR category of Scopus, including 161 journals. The 2019 IF=4,2 is higher than that of many journals included in the FT list. The number of almost 3 mln of full article downloads per year is speaking for itself. EJOR is also presented in special sessions at the most important conferences from the field, like Annual INFORMS Meeting, Triennial IFORS Conference, and EURO Conference. The corresponding authors of papers published in EJOR were internationally spread with, in the last five years, 446 being located in the USA, 361 in China, 352 in the UK, 273 in Germany, 192 in France, and 160 in Canada, with a spread across all continents.

We believe that our vote for EJOR is well justified and thus we should not abstain.

With all good wishes from the Editors of EJOR,

*Roman Słowiński*

Co-ordinating Editor of EJOR

# INFORMS JOURNAL ON APPLIED ANALYTICS

## Call for Papers *INFORMS Journal of Applied Analytics* Special Issue: Decision Analysis

### Guest Editors

Saurabh Bansal  
The Pennsylvania State University  
Karen E. Jenni  
US Geological Survey  
Jeffrey Keisler  
University of Massachusetts Boston  
Johannes Ulrich Siebert  
Management Center Innsbruck

### Introduction

The field of Decision Analysis (DA) continues to evolve with new areas of application and theoretical developments. The purpose of this special issue is to highlight recent exemplary applications of DA, for practitioners who seek to apply these tools in a variety of domains, and for teaching professionals who seek new examples that illustrate the breadth of DA practice. We hope to illustrate the richness and variety of DA applications in the special issue. Researchers also will benefit from an understanding for domain specific challenges that arise during the application of DA. As such, the application articles in the special issue will facilitate a cross fertilization of ideas between practitioners and researchers.

### Special Issue Scope and Topics

Authors are invited to submit applied papers describing successful implementations of DA in diverse applications areas including (but not limited to) healthcare, R&D, portfolio management, environmental and natural resource management, operations, agriculture, transportation, security, and energy. Insightful syntheses of authors' experiences from multiple related implementations are also welcome. We seek **manuscripts** that describe efforts to help decision makers improve their outcomes using a variety of methods from the DA literature such as dealing with multiple attributes, utilities, and uncertainties.

The articles should follow the standard requirements of the *INFORMS Journal on Applied Analytics* articles available at <https://pubsonline.informs.org/page/inte/submission-guidelines>.

We specifically encourage authors to discuss the implementation in a transparent manner so that other practitioners can understand and adopt it in their own applications; discuss, where appropriate, thought process for various modeling/analysis choices made during the application; and document improvement in decision quality using monetary or other metrics.

The editors encourage potential authors to contact them with ideas for papers before a making a full submission of a paper. Please note the following dates.

- **April 21, 2021:** Letter of interest due to the editors, with an abstract including the organization at which the work was implemented (early letters are encouraged).
- August 31, 2021: Deadline for first round of submissions.
- November 30, 2021: First round of reviews completed; decisions (and requests for revision, if appropriate) delivered to authors.
- February 28, 2021: Revisions due after first round decisions.
- May 30, 2022: Second round of reviews delivered to authors.
- September 1, 2022: Final versions of accepted papers must be submitted.

Papers must be submitted online at: <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/inte>.

When submitting a paper, please note the following.

- Under “Step 1: Type, Title, & Abstract,” select “Special Issue” for “Type.”
- Under “Step 5: Details & Comments,” answer “This paper is for which special issue?” with “Decision Analysis.”

More information can be found here: <https://pubsonline.informs.org/page/inte/calls-for-papers>

Publication contact information for the Special Issue Editors:

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### 2.3 Call for Nominations: 2021 INFORMS MCDM Section Junior Researcher Best Paper Award

Dear MCDM Section members,

It is now time for nominations for the **2021 MCDM Junior Researcher Best Paper Award**. As you know, the goal of the award is to recognize outstanding papers in the field of multicriteria decision making written by a junior researcher or a team of junior researchers. A person who is within seven years of their Ph.D. graduation by the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2021 qualifies as a junior researcher. Please consider nominating young researchers whose recent paper(s) you find inspiring.

Key eligibility criteria for the award are the following:

1. A candidate must be the single author or the leading coauthor of an article. A team of candidates must consist of the leading coauthors of an article.
2. The article must be written in the English language and published electronically in a peer-reviewed journal within the period between the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2018 and the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2021.
3. All candidates must be members of the MCDM Section of INFORMS.

For more information about the nomination package and the evaluation process, you may visit <http://connect.informs.org/multiple-criteria-decision-making/awards>. The nominations shall be submitted by email to me at [ssayin@kuedu.tr](mailto:ssayin@kuedu.tr) by the **1<sup>st</sup> of February 2021**. Please contact me if you have an intention to nominate a young researcher and you have questions about the process.

Finalists will present their work in an MCDM Award Session at the 2021 INFORMS Annual Meeting which is scheduled to take place in Anaheim. The winner will be announced during the Section's business meeting. The award is accompanied by a \$500 honorarium for the first prize and an honorable mention for the second and third prize.

With best regards,

*Serpil Sayin*

Chair, judging committee

## 2.4 Call for the “Bernard Roy Award of the EURO Working Group on Multiple Criteria Decision Aiding” (Bernard Roy Award of EWG MCDA)

### **Background**

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 92, in September 2021, Cracow, Poland, if there is a suitable candidate. In this case, following a presentation of the competition by the Jury chair, the laureate will be invited to give a talk.

### **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 should have a recognized stature in the MCDA community. Significance, innovation, depth, and scientific excellence shall be emphasized.

### **Award**

The laureate will receive a financial award of 1000 EUR and a diploma.

### **Nominations**

Candidates must be nominated by three members of the EURO WG on MCDA. Becoming a member is free here: <http://www.cs.put.poznan.pl/ewgmcda/index.php/members>. An application for the Bernard Roy Award of EWG MCDA should be composed of:

1. a nomination letter signed by the three members of the EURO WG on MCDA;
2. a recent and detailed CV;
3. up to 5 best publications,
4. a self-description of the candidate’s achievements, up to 3 pages long in a standard manuscript format.

### **Selection process**

- Only one award may be assigned on each occasion.
- A 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 2021 edition is composed of Professors Irène Abi-Zeid (chair), Maria Franca Norese, Yannis Siskos, Roman Słowiński, and Daniel Vanderpooten.

## **Timeline**

- Deadline for nominations: **June, 30<sup>th</sup> 2021.**
- The Jury chair informs the EWG coordinators who invite the laureate to the meeting: **July, 31<sup>st</sup> 2021.**
- Preparation of the diploma by the EWG coordinators. Presentation of the laureate and her/his talk during the EURO WG on MCDA Autumn meeting in **September 2021.** 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 Prof. Irène Abi-Zeid at [irene.abi-zeid@osd.ulaval.ca](mailto:irene.abi-zeid@osd.ulaval.ca)**

2.5 *Call for Abstracts: Society for Risk Analysis - Europe 2021 - The Discipline(s) of Risk Science, 13-16 June 2021, Espoo, Finland, <http://srae2021.aalto.fi/>*

We welcome contributions on topics related to risk assessment, risk characterization, risk perception, risk communication, risk management, risk governance, and policy relating to risk, in the context of risks of concern to individuals, to public and private sector organizations, and to society at local, regional, national, or global levels.

We are planning to organize the conference as a hybrid event which offers excellent possibilities for virtual participation and memorable experiences for those who attend the event on the Aalto University campus in Espoo, Finland. However, if the COVID-19 situation does not allow for on-site attendance, the conference will be held as a virtual event. The decision between these two options is to be made by the end of February 2021.

At the SRA-Europe 2021 Conference, presentations will be held in the following formats.

1. **Symposia:** Represent a group of oral presentations (minimum 3 presentations; maximum 5 presentations) by one or more authors each, organized around one common topic + one short symposium introduction by the coordinator + symposium Q&A/discussion. Symposium duration: 90min.
2. **Oral presentations:** Represent individual oral presentations by one or more authors + Q&A/ discussion for all presentations at the session's end. Individual presentation duration: 15min.
3. **Poster presentations:** Represent an individual poster presentation by one or more authors + individual Q&A/discussion of the poster.

The organizers will allocate stand-alone oral presentations to thematic sessions. Symposia are self-organized sessions which have a specific thematic focus. Abstracts for oral presentations for symposia must indicate which symposium they belong to.

### **General guidelines**

1. For all presentations at the conference, an abstract in English must be submitted.
2. Abstracts must be submitted following the instructions below in the submission system which can be accessed by clicking [HERE](#) or by posting the following link to your browser: <https://www.conference-service.com/SRAE2020/welcome.html?lang=en>  
Please do not fax, mail or email your abstract as it will not be considered!
3. Proposed abstracts will be accepted only on condition that at least one of the authors has registered for the conference.

**Important dates**

- Submission of abstracts opens: November 15, 2020
- Submission of abstracts closes: **January 31, 2021**
- Notification of acceptance: February 21, 2021

For detailed instructions, see [https://blogs.aalto.fi/srae2020/files/2020/12/SRA-E2021\\_CfP.pdf](https://blogs.aalto.fi/srae2020/files/2020/12/SRA-E2021_CfP.pdf)

All abstracts will be reviewed and, upon acceptance, authors will be notified by email.

## 2.6 *EURO: Stream on Behavioral OR and Problem Structuring*

At the EURO, there is a stream on Behavioral OR and Problem Structuring planned. More information on the sessions can be found in the following.

Submissions:

<https://www.euro-online.org/conf/euro31/>

Area: Behavioral OR and Problem Structuring

Chair: Raimo P. Hämäläinen

Streams:

Behavioral modelling

Chair(s): Stephan Onggo ([b.s.s.onggo@soton.ac.uk](mailto:b.s.s.onggo@soton.ac.uk)), Duncan Robertson ([d.a.robertson@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:d.a.robertson@lboro.ac.uk))

Invitation code for general papers: c9e42cc7

Behavioral decision making

Chair(s): Valentina Ferretti ([V.Ferretti@lse.ac.uk](mailto:V.Ferretti@lse.ac.uk)), Konstantinos Katsikopoulos ([k.katsikopoulos@soton.ac.uk](mailto:k.katsikopoulos@soton.ac.uk))

Invitation code for general papers: 320a8035

Behavioural operations management

Chair(s): Andreas Größler ([andreas.groessler@bwi.uni-stuttgart.de](mailto:andreas.groessler@bwi.uni-stuttgart.de)), Ilkka Leppanen ([i.leppanen@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:i.leppanen@lboro.ac.uk))

Invitation code for general papers: 767963e7

Behavioural studies of OR-supported interventions

Chair(s): L. Alberto Franco ([L.A.Franco@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:L.A.Franco@lboro.ac.uk)), Etienne Rouwette ([e.rouwette@fm.ru.nl](mailto:e.rouwette@fm.ru.nl))

Invitation code for general papers: 0649eb5e

Experimental Economics

Chair:: Ulrike Leopold-Wildburger ([ulrike.leopold@uni-graz.at](mailto:ulrike.leopold@uni-graz.at))

Invitation code for general papers: bbcf49ee

Judgmental Forecasting

Chair(s): Paul Goodwin ([mnspg@bath.ac.uk](mailto:mnspg@bath.ac.uk)), Fotios Petropoulos ([f.petropoulos@bath.ac.uk](mailto:f.petropoulos@bath.ac.uk))

Invitation code for general papers: a992d3d7

Soft OR and Problem Structuring Methods

Chair(s): Leroy White ([sh340@bath.ac.uk](mailto:sh340@bath.ac.uk)), Mike Yearworth ([m.yearworth@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:m.yearworth@exeter.ac.uk))

Invitation code for general papers : c4948765

## 2.7 Call for Paper: Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference (GECCO 2021)

The Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference (GECCO 2021) July 10-14, 2021, Lille, France. Please note that the conference will be held as an **electronic-only conference**. More details will be provided soon.

**Webpage:** <http://blogs.exeter.ac.uk/ecmcdm/>

### **About the workshop:**

Solving real-world optimisation problems typically involve an expert or decision-maker. Decision making tools have been found to be useful in several such applications e.g. health care, education, environment, transportation, business, and production. In recent years, there has also been growing interest in merging Evolutionary Computation (EC) and decision-making techniques for several applications. This workshop will showcase research that is both at the interface of EC and decision making.

The workshop on **Evolutionary Computation and Decision Making** to be held in **GECCO 2021** aims to promote the research on theory and applications in the field. Topics of interest (but not limited to) include:

- Interactive multiobjective optimization or decision-maker in the loop
- Visualization
- Aggregation/trade-off operators & algorithms
- Fuzzy logic-based decision-making techniques
- Bayesian and other decision-making techniques
- Interactive multiobjective optimization for (computationally) expensive problems
- Using surrogates (or metamodels) in decision making
- Hybridization of EC and decision making
- Scalability in EC and decision making
- Decision making and machine learning
- Decision making in Big data
- Decision making in real-world applications
- Use of psychological tools to aid the decision maker

**Submission:**

We invite papers up to 8 pages relevant to the workshop and position papers of up to 2 pages showing preliminary results. We also welcome posters, demonstrations or presentations on ground-breaking theoretical and application results in the field.

For paper submission instructions and templates, please see: [Paper submission instructions](#)

**Keynote talk:**

Prof. Michael Emmerich will be giving a keynote talk in the workshop.

**Important (STRICT) deadline dates:**

- Submission opening: **February 11, 2021**
- Submission deadline: **April 12, 2021**
- Reviews due: April 22, 2021
- Decisions due: April 26, 2021
- Camera-ready Material: May 3, 2021
- Author registration deadline: May 3, 2021

**Workshop organizers:**

Tinkle Chugh (University of Exeter, UK)

Richard Allmendinger (Alliance Manchester Business School, University of Manchester, UK)

Jussi Hakanen (Faculty of Information Technology, University of Jyväskylä, Finland)

More information about the organizers can be found on the workshop webpage <http://blogs.exeter.ac.uk/ecmcdm/>

**Contact**

Please feel free to contact any of the special session organizers at [t.chugh@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:t.chugh@exeter.ac.uk), [richard.allmendinger@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:richard.allmendinger@manchester.ac.uk), [jussi.hakanen@jyu.fi](mailto:jussi.hakanen@jyu.fi)

2.8 *Call for Papers: Annals of Operations Research Special Issue: Classification, Sorting and Clustering Methods Based on Multiple Criteria: Recent Trends*

The Annals of Operations Research seeks submissions for a **special issue** on Classification, Sorting and Clustering Methods Based on Multiple Criteria: Recent Trends. The deadline for submission is **May 31, 2021**.

The main topics of interest are:

- New multicriteria methods for classification, sorting, and clustering problems
- Problem structuring and preference modeling
- Behavioral issues and decision analytics
- Preference elicitation and the inference of multicriteria models from data
- Knowledge-based methods and computational intelligence for multicriteria classification/sorting/clustering problems
- Robustness analysis
- Multicriteria decision support systems
- Computational and experimental analyses
- Applications in engineering and management

Instructions for authors can be found at:

<http://www.springer.com/business/operations+research/journal/10479>

Authors should submit a cover letter and a manuscript by **May 31, 2021**, via the Journal's online submission site. Please see the Author Instructions on the web site if you have not yet submitted a paper through Springer's web-based system, Editorial Manager. When prompted for the article type, please select Original Research. You will then be asked if the manuscript belongs to a special issue, please choose the special issue's title to ensure that it will be reviewed for this special issue.

Manuscripts submitted after the deadline may not be considered for the special issue and may be transferred, if accepted, to a regular issue.

Papers will be subject to a strict review process under the supervision of the Guest Editors, and accepted papers will be published online individually, before print publication.

Guest Editors:

Salvatore Corrente, Yves De Smet, Michalis Doumpos, Salvatore Greco, Constantin Zopounidis

## 2.9 *Special Issue of International Journal of Multicriteria Decision Making: Multi-Criteria Decision Making for Sustainable Policies*

### **Guest Editors**

Maria Barbati, University of Portsmouth, UK. Email: [maria.barbati@port.ac.uk](mailto:maria.barbati@port.ac.uk)

Salvatore Corrente, University of Catania, Italy. Email: [salvatore.corrente@unict.it](mailto:salvatore.corrente@unict.it)

Public authorities and private organizations must constantly handle several issues characterized by scarcity of resources, uncertainty of consequences and ever-increasing request of participation from the different stakeholders. The strategic objectives to meet become more and more challenging, and the definition of sustainable policies, that takes into account criteria of different nature, even more challenging. Multi-Criteria Decision Making represents a decision support tool that helps to find a compromise among different criteria such as environmental, economic, social and so on. It can help to build policies that look at the interests not only of the current generation but also to sustain and enhance resources to which future generations can rely on.

This special issue aims at presenting original and innovative pieces of research where Multi-Criteria Decision Making methods support decision makers in the definition of sustainable policies. All papers must address contemporary and innovative challenges and must clearly demonstrate the relevance of their contributions with respect to the sustainability of the policies.

A list of potential topics of interest is reported below:

- Portfolio Decision Problems
- Sustainable logistics and supply chain management
- Sustainable urban planning
- Sustainable companies reorganizations
- Public Sector Decision Making
- Group Decision Making
- Outranking methods (ELECTRE, PROMETHEE, etc.)
- Preference modelling methods

All papers must be submitted online at <http://www.inderscience.com/papers>.

The submission deadline is **February 28th, 2021**. The plan is to publish the special issue in early 2022. Researchers from all relevant disciplines are invited to consider this special issue as an outlet to publish their quality work on this topic of increasing significance.

Inquiries on the special issue can be directed to the guest editors ([maria.barbati@port.ac.uk](mailto:maria.barbati@port.ac.uk)).



### 3 Past Conferences, Workshops, and other News

#### 3.1 Report on the 7<sup>th</sup> Edition of the International Workshop “Recent Advances in Multi-Objective Optimization” (RAMOO 2020)

Organizers:

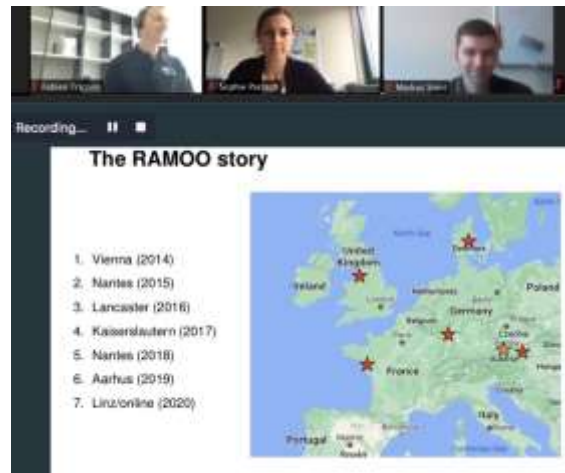
Sophie N. Parragh, Markus Sinnl, Fabien Tricoire

Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria

The 2020 edition of the annual international workshop “Recent Advances in Multi-Objective Optimization (RAMOO)” took place on September 17, 2020. Since its first edition, its focus has been on sharing latest advances in exact methods in multi-objective (mixed) integer programming and related fields, in a single stream, one day event featuring two keynote and about 10 invited talks.

Having announced the 2020 workshop in 2019 in Aarhus, it was supposed to return to Austria, taking place at the Johannes Kepler University Linz. However, due to the COVID-19 situation, it became clear that moving to a hybrid or purely online setting was necessary. Thanks to the flexibility of the keynote as well as the invited speakers, this move became possible.

The 2020 workshop followed the blue print of the very first workshop: It started with the first keynote talk, which was given by *Professor Birgit Rudloff* (Vienna University of Economics and Business), on “*Multivariate Dynamic Programming: from the Mean-Risk Problem to dynamic Nash games*”. The following four sessions featured nine invited talks on topics ranging from approximation methods to branch-and-bound algorithms, lower bound set computation strategies, the integration of Benders decomposition, stochastics information, applications in routing with drones, disaster relief, the relationship to multiplicative programs and more; and the presentation of an upcoming handbook on multi-objective combinatorial optimization, which is close to completion. The second keynote talk was given by *Professor Kathrin Klamroth* (University of Wuppertal) on “*Multiobjective Optimization Methods for Neural Network Training*”. The talks presented recent results as well as ongoing work, open questions and exciting new research directions. For detailed information we refer to the online program: <https://moo.univie.ac.at/ramoo-2020-program/>





About 150 registrations from 30 different countries resulted in an average online presence of about 75 persons per session. Due to the usual one-day setting, traveling to the workshop from far has often not been a feasible option. The 2020 workshop allowed the participation of members from the multi-objective optimization community from all over the world and as far as New Zealand. Even if an online workshop cannot replace all those great informal exchanges of ideas during coffee breaks, excursions, lunch or dinner, which workshops in physical presence allow, the feedback from the participants was very positive. For us, the organizers, it has been a pleasure to host the workshop and we express many thanks to the community for the real applause!

And this is not the end of the story. The 2021 edition of the workshop will be organized in Wuppertal in September 2021. More information to come soon on <https://moo.univie.ac.at> and distributed via <https://moo.univie.ac.at/ mailing-list/>

### 3.2 *Gabriela M. Siva receives the 2020 INFORMS MCDM Section Junior Researcher Best Paper Award*

The Third Edition of the MCDM Junior Researcher Best Paper Award was presented at the 2020 Annual INFORMS Meeting, which was held online during November 7-13, 2020. The goal of the award is to recognize outstanding papers in the field of multicriteria decision making written by a junior researcher or a team of junior researchers.

The two finalists who presented in the Awards Session on November 12, 2020 were:

**Garrett Dranichak**, Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, NM, U.S.A.

Article: Dranichak, Garrett M., and Margaret M. Wiecek. "On highly robust efficient solutions to uncertain multiobjective linear programs." *European Journal of Operational Research*, 273, no. 1 (2019): 20-30.

**M Gabriela Sava**, Clemson University, Clemson, SC, U.S.A.

Article: Sava, M. Gabriela, Luis G. Vargas, Jerrold H. May, and James G. Dolan. "An analysis of the sensitivity and stability of patients' preferences can lead to more appropriate medical decisions." *Annals of Operations Research*, 293, no. 2 (2020): 863-901.

The 2020 Award was presented to Gabriela M. Sava while Garrett Dranichak received an honorable mention.

**M. Gabriela Sava** is an assistant professor in the Department of Management at Wilbur O. and Ann Powers College of Business at Clemson University since 2016. Gabriela completed her Ph.D. in Business Analytics and Operations at Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business, University of Pittsburgh and her undergraduate studies at Bucharest University of Economic Studies. Her research interests lie in the area of health care analytics, ranging from health care operations management to medical decision making with an emphasis on patients' engagement in the medical decision-making process. Methodologically, Gabriela's research focuses on the use of stability analysis of multi-criteria decision making models and the use of data mining methods to improve resource allocation in preventive healthcare services. She is actively collaborating with healthcare providers from University of Rochester and Prisma Health Greenville, SC.

### **Judging Committee Members**

*Cristiano Cavalcante*, Federal University of Pernambuco, Recife, Brazil.

*Gulsah Karakaya*, Middle East Technical University, Turkey.

*Banu Lokman*, University of Portsmouth, United Kingdom.

*Theodor Stewart*, University of Cape Town, South Africa.

*Evangelos Triantaphyllou*, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, United States.

Firdevs Ulus, Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey.

Serpil Sayın, Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey (non-voting chair).

## 4 New Books/Publications

This section presents a list of recent publications in multiple criteria decision making. This list is by no means exhaustive. If you want your recent publications to appear in the next newsletter, please send an email with the complete citation of your work to [lucie.galand@dauphine.fr](mailto:lucie.galand@dauphine.fr).

### *Book and book chapter*

Y. W. Chen, **Social Network Analysis: Self Organizing Map and WINGS by Multiple Criteria Decision Making**, in *Handbook of Research on Autopoiesis and Self-Sustaining Processes for Organizational Success*, Chapter 8, 155-184, to appear in Jan. 2021.

I. Linkov, E. Moberg, B. D. Trump, B. Yatsalo, J. M. Keisler, **Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis: Case Studies in Engineering and the Environment**, *CRC Press*, 2021.

Y.İ. Topcu, Ö. Özyayın, Ö. Kabak, Ş. Önsel Ekici, (Eds.), **Multiple Criteria Decision Making - Beyond the Information Age**, *Contributions to Management Science Series*, 2021.

### *Journal papers*

S. A. Adepoju, I. O. Oyefolahan, M. B. Abdullahi, A. A. Mohammed, **Multi-Criteria Decision-Making Based Approaches in Website Quality and Usability Evaluation: A Systematic Review**, *Journal of Information and Communication Technology*, 19(3):399-436, 2020.

P. Aghaei Pour, T. Rodemann, J. Hakanen, K. Miettinen, **Surrogate Assisted Interactive Multiobjective Optimization in Energy System Design of Buildings**, *Optimization and Engineering*, 2020.

S. Babashahi, P. Hansen, T. Sullivan, **Creating a priority list of non-communicable diseases to support health research funding decision-making**, *Health Policy*, early online version, 2020.

A. Bączkiewicz, J. Dagil, B. Kizielewicz, K. Urbaniak, W. Sałabun, **Is the Distribution of Research Grants Sustainable? An Empirical Study of Grant Assessment**, *Sustainability*, 12(17), 6891, 2020.

Z. Bashir, T. Rashid, W. Sałabun, S. Zafar, **Certain convergences for intuitionistic fuzzy sets**, *Journal of Intelligent & Fuzzy Systems*, 38(1):1-12, 2020.

M. C. Carnero, **Waste segregation FMEA model integrating intuitionistic fuzzy set and the PAPRIKA method**, *Mathematics*, 8(8), 2020.

J. Chua, P. Hansen, A. Briggs, R. Wilson, D. Gwynne-Jones, J. Abbott, **Stakeholders' preferences for osteoarthritis interventions in health services: a cross-sectional study using multi-criteria decision analysis**, *Osteoarthritis and Cartilage Open*, 2(4), 2020.

- S. Faizi, W. Sałabun, T. Rashid, S. Zafar, J. Wątróbski, **Intuitionistic fuzzy sets in multi-criteria group decision making problems using the characteristic objects method**, *Symmetry*, 12(9), 2020.
- S. Faizi, W. Sałabun, S. Ullah, T. Rashid, J. Więckowski, **A New Method to Support Decision-Making in an Uncertain Environment Based on Normalized Interval-Valued Triangular Fuzzy Numbers and COMET Technique**, *Symmetry*, 12(4), 2020.
- G. Guastaroba, R. Mansini, W. Ogryczak, M. G. Speranza, **Enhanced index tracking with CVaR-based ratio measures**, *Annals of Operations Research*, 292:883-931, 2020.
- S. Gül, Ö. Kabak, Y. İ. Topcu, **Coordinating the ISM Code and OHSAS procedures to improve the occupational health and safety at sea**, *Journal of Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis*, 27(5-6):286-303, 2020.
- Ç. Kadaifçi, U. Asan, Y. İ. Topcu, **A fuzzy cognitive mapping approach to the conference selection problem**, *International Journal of Information Technology & Decision Making*, 19(6):1451-1484, 2020.
- S. Kadenko, V. Tsyganok, O. Andriichuk, A. Karabchuk, **Analysis of decision support tools in the context of solving strategic planning tasks** (in Ukrainian), *Registration, Storage and Data Processing*, 22:77-91, 2020.
- I. Kaliszewski, J. Miroforidis, **Cooperative Multiobjective Optimization with Bounds on Objective Functions**, *Journal of Global Optimization*, 2020.
- G. Karakaya, M. Koksalan, **Estimating the form of a decision maker's preference function and converging towards preferred solutions**, *IIE Transactions*, 52(6):651-664, 2020.
- J. M. Keisler, I. Linkov, **Use and Misuse of MCDA to Support Decision Making Informed by Risk**, *Risk Analysis*, 2020.
- B. Kizielewicz, L. Dobryakova, **How to choose the optimal single-track vehicle to move in the city? Electric scooters study case**, *Procedia Computer Science*, 176:2243-2253, 2020.
- B. Kizielewicz, L. Dobryakova, **MCDA based approach to sports players' evaluation under incomplete knowledge**, *Procedia Computer Science*, 176:3524-3535, 2020.
- B. Kizielewicz, J. Kołodziejczyk, **Effects of the selection of characteristic values on the accuracy of results in the COMET method**, *Procedia Computer Science*, 176:3581-3590, 2020.
- B. Kizielewicz, W. Sałabun, **A New Approach to Identifying a Multi-Criteria Decision Model Based on Stochastic Optimization Techniques**, *Symmetry*, 12(9), 2020.
- B. Kizielewicz, Z. Szyjewski, **Handling economic perspective in multicriteria model-renewable energy resources case study**, *Procedia Computer Science*, 176:3555-3562, 2020.
- B. Kizielewicz, J. Wątróbski, W. Sałabun, **Identification of Relevant Criteria Set in the MCDA Process-Wind Farm Location Case Study**, *Energies*, 13(24), 2020.

J. Kołodziejczyk, A. Piegat, W. Sałabun, **Which Alternative for Solving Dual Fuzzy Nonlinear Equations Is More Precise?**, *Mathematics*, 8(9), 2020.

S. Marques, V. A. Bushenkov, A. V. Lotov, M. Marto, J. G. Borges, **Bi-Level Participatory Forest Management Planning Supported by Pareto Frontier Visualization**, *Forest Science*, 66(4):490-500, 2020.

V. Narayanan, K. Baird, R. Tay, **Investment decisions: the trade-off between economic and environmental objectives**, *The British Accounting Review*, early online version, 2020.

B. Paradowski, J. Więckowski, L. Dobryakova, **Why TOPSIS does not always give correct results?**, *Procedia Computer Science*, 176:3591-3600, 2020.

L. Pérez-Domínguez, L. C. David, L. A. R. Picón, R. R. López, S. M. K. Yohana, **Suppliers selection based on intuitionistic fuzzy dimensional analysis**, *Journal of Intelligent & Fuzzy Systems*, 2020.

M. Riaz, W. Sałabun, H. M. A. Farid, N. Ali, J. Wątróbski, **A Robust q-Rung Orthopair Fuzzy Information Aggregation Using Einstein Operations with Application to Sustainable Energy Planning Decision Management**, *Energies*, 13(9), 2020.

L. Romeo, J. Loncarski, M. Paolanti, G. Bocchini, A. Mancini, E. Frontoni, **Machine learning-based design support system for the prediction of heterogeneous machine parameters in Industry 4.0**, *Expert Systems with Applications*, 140, 2020.

G. Saccani, J. Hakanen, K. Sindhya, V. Ojalehto, M. Hartikainen, M. Antonelli, K. Miettinen, **Potential of Interactive Multiobjective Optimization in Supporting the Design of a Groundwater Bionitrification Process**, *Journal of Environmental Management*, 254:1-9, Published in parallel in JYX (open access), 2020.

W. Sałabun, **How the normalization of the decision matrix influences the results in the VIKOR method?**, *Procedia Computer Science*, 176:2222-2231, 2020.

W. Sałabun, **How to handling with uncertain data in the TOPSIS technique?**, *Procedia Computer Science*, 176:2232-2242, 2020.

W. Sałabun, A. Shekhovtsov, D. Pamučar, J. Wątróbski, B. Kizielewicz, J. Więckowski, B. Nyczaj, **A Fuzzy Inference System for Players Evaluation in Multi-Player Sports: The Football Study Case**, *Symmetry*, 12(12), 2020.

W. Sałabun, J. Wątróbski, A. Shekhovtsov, **Are MCDA Methods Benchmarkable? A Comparative Study of TOPSIS, VIKOR, COPRAS, and PROMETHEE II Methods**, *Symmetry*, 12(9), 2020.

W. Sałabun, J. Więckowski, A. Shekhovtsov, K. Palczewski, S. Jaszczak, J. Wątróbski, **How to Apply Fuzzy MISO PID in the Industry? An Empirical Study Case on Simulation of Crane Relocating Containers**, *Electronics*, 9(12), 2020.

A. Shekhovtsov, J. Kołodziejczyk, **Do distance-based multi-criteria decision analysis methods create similar rankings?**, *Procedia Computer Science*, 176:3718-3729, 2020.

A. Shekhovtsov, J. Kołodziejczyk, W. Sałabun, **Fuzzy Model Identification Using Monolithic and Structured Approaches in Decision Problems with Partially Incomplete Data**, *Symmetry*, 12(9), 2020.

A. Shekhovtsov, V. Kozlov, N. Nosov, W. Sałabun, **Efficiency of Methods for Determining the Relevance of Criteria in Sustainable Transport Problems: A Comparative Case Study**, *Sustainability*, 12(19), 2020.

A. Shekhovtsov, W. Sałabun, **A comparative case study of the VIKOR and TOPSIS rankings similarity**, *Procedia Computer Science*, 176:3730-3740, 2020.

G. Sri Kumar, T. Eglinton, A. MacCormick, **Development of the General surgery prioritisation tool implemented in New Zealand in 2018**, *Health Policy*, 124:1043-49, 2020.

B. Unver, Ö. Kabak, Y. İ. Topcu, A. Altınışik, Ö. Çavuşoğlu, **A decision support system for proactive failure prevention: A case in a leading automotive company**, *Journal of Enterprise Information Management*, 33(5):845-880, 2020.

K. Urbaniak, J. Wątróbski, W. Sałabun, **Identification of Players Ranking in E-Sport**, *Applied Sciences*, 10(19), 2020.

L. Weerasena, **Algorithm for generalised multi-objective set covering problem with an application in ecological conservation**, *International Journal of Mathematical Modelling and Numerical Optimisation*, 10(2):167-186, 2020.

L. Weerasena, B. P. Belinskiy, J. W. Hiestand, **Optimal effectiveness and efficiency of a fin in steady-state: multiobjective approach**, *Optimization and Engineering*, 1-24, 2020.

J. Więckowski, J. Kołodziejczyk, **Swimming progression evaluation by assessment model based on the COMET method**, *Procedia Computer Science*, 176:3514-3523.

### **Conference proceedings**

B. Afsar, K. Miettinen, A. B. Ruiz, **An artificial decision maker for comparing reference point based interactive evolutionary multiobjective optimization methods**, in *Proceedings of the 11th International Conference Series on Evolutionary Multi-Criterion Optimization (EMO 2021)*, to appear, 2021.

B. Afsar, D. Podkopaev, K. Miettinen, **Data-driven Interactive Multiobjective Optimization: Challenges and a Generic Multi-agent Architecture**, in *Proceedings of the 24th International Conference on Knowledge-Based and Intelligent Information & Engineering Systems (KES-2020)*, 176:281-290, Published in parallel in JYX (open access), 2020.

A. C. V. Assis, R. L. I. Silva, L. F. A. M. da Gomes, E. D. L. Gonçalves, **Flexibility of Expansion in Port Infrastructure: a case study in Brazil**, In Proceedings of *XXIII Seminars in Administration (SemeAD 2020)*, 2020.

A. Mazumdar, T. Chugh, J. Hakanen, K. Miettinen, **An Interactive Framework for Offline Data-Driven Multiobjective Optimization**, in Proceedings of the *9th International Conference Bioinspired Optimization Methods and their Applications (BIOMA 2020)*, 97-109, Published in parallel in JYX (open access), 2020.

W. Sałabun, K. Urbaniak, **A new coefficient of rankings similarity in decision-making problems**, in Proceedings of *International Conference on Computational Science (ICCS 2020)*, 632-645, 2020.

B. Saini, J. Hakanen, K. Miettinen, **A New Paradigm in Interactive Evolutionary Multiobjective Optimization**, in Proceedings of the *16th International Conference on Parallel Problem Solving from Nature (PPSN XVI)*, 243-256, Published in parallel in JYX (open access), 2020.

J. Więckowski, B. Kizielewicz, J. Kołodziejczyk, **Application of Hill Climbing Algorithm in Determining the Characteristic Objects Preferences Based on the Reference Set of Alternatives**, in Proceedings of the *12th KES International Conference on Intelligent Decision Technologies (KES-IDT 2020)*, 341-351, 2020.

J. Wieckowski, B. Kizielewicz, J. Kołodziejczyk, **The Search of the Optimal Preference Values of the Characteristic Objects by Using Particle Swarm Optimization**, in Proceedings of the *12th KES International Conference on Intelligent Decision Technologies (KES-IDT 2020)*, 353-363, 2020.

J. Więckowski, B. Kizielewicz, J. Kołodziejczyk, **Finding an Approximate Global Optimum of Characteristic Objects Preferences by Using Simulated Annealing**, in Proceedings of the *12th KES International Conference on Intelligent Decision Technologies (KES-IDT 2020)*, 365-375, 2020.



## 5 Imprints

**Johannes Siebert:** [newsletter@mcdmsociety.org](mailto:newsletter@mcdmsociety.org), [johannes.siebert@mci.edu](mailto:johannes.siebert@mci.edu)

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Jana Siebert: [jana.siebert@upol.cz](mailto:jana.siebert@upol.cz)

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 10<sup>th</sup> and the issue is intended to be published “around January 20<sup>th</sup>”. Usually the deadline for the September issue is August 20<sup>th</sup> 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).