

International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making

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Letter from the President

Dear Members of the International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making,

As we look back on an exceptionally active and inspiring period for our community, I am writing to share several key updates, celebrate our collective achievements, and highlight the vibrant initiatives shaping the future of Multiple Criteria Decision Making (MCDM).



Reflections on the 28th International Conference on MCDM.

Our recent 28th International Conference on MCDM at the University of Wuppertal in Germany was an extraordinary success. Under the overarching theme “*Better Decisions for a Better Tomorrow*,” the conference showcased groundbreaking research spanning multiple criteria decision making, continuous and combinatorial multi-objective optimization, interactive methods, preference modeling, and real-world applications addressing critical social, ecological, and economic challenges.

The technical sessions provided an intellectually stimulating environment, while the warm hospitality of our hosts at the University of Wuppertal allowed for meaningful networking and collaboration. I extend my deepest gratitude to the organizing committee, especially to Kathrin Klamroth and Michael Stiglmayr, session chairs, authors, and attendees who made this gathering so memorable.

Honoring Our Awardees. One of the highlights of our international conference is the recognition of scholars who have made outstanding contributions to our field. During the conference banquet, we had the privilege of bestowing the Society’s top honors: the MCDM Gold Medal, the Edgeworth-Pareto Award, the Georg Cantor Award, and the MCDM Doctoral Dissertation Award.

Please join me in offering our heartiest congratulations to all our awardees: Jafar Rezaei (MCDM Gold Medal), Xavier Gandibleux (Edgeworth-Pareto Award), Luís Dias (Georg Cantor Award), and Yannik Zeiträg (MCDM Doctoral Dissertation Award). Their work embodies the spirit of rigor and innovation that drives our society forward.

Executive Committee Elections. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to every member who participated in our recent Society elections: Xavier Gandibleux (Nantes University, France), Salvatore Greco (University of Catania, Italy), Carlos Henggeler Antunes (University of Coimbra, Portugal), Murat Köksalan (University of Michigan, USA), Danielle Morais (Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil), Caroline Mota (Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil), Ralph E. Steuer (University of Georgia, USA), Ilker Topcu (Istanbul Technical University, Turkey), Margaret M. Wiecek (Clemson University, USA). Your engagement is vital to maintaining a dynamic, transparent, and representative leadership structure.

We welcome our newly elected members to the Executive Committee, Xavier Gandibleux, Salvatore Greco, Murat Köksalan, and Ralph E. Steuer, and express our gratitude to those stepping into key operational roles, Fouad Ben Abdelaziz, Carlos Coello Coello, Kathrin

Klamroth, and Danielle Morais. Together with our President-Elect, newly elected officers, and long-standing committee members, the Executive Committee remains committed to support the management of the affairs of the Society.

Success of the EURO PhD Summer School in Delft. Investing in the next generation of researchers remains a cornerstone of our mission. The 2026 EURO PhD Summer School on Multiple Criteria Decision Analysis/Multiple Criteria Decision Making (MCDA/MCDM), hosted by the Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands, brought together talented PhD candidates and young researchers from across the globe.

Organized by Dr. Jafar Rezaei and his team, the two-week intensive program provided participants with deep theoretical insights, practical software training, and hands-on case studies focused on complex real-world decision problems. Supported jointly by EURO, the EWG-MCDA, and the International Society on MCDM, the summer school also fostered lifelong professional networks and friendships through its vibrant academic and cultural itinerary in the historic city of Delft.

More than 100 applications were submitted to participate in the summer school and, among them, only 61 applicants could be admitted. To provide an opportunity for those who were not admitted this year to participate in the near future, and also to alternate the organization of the MCDM Conference and the MCDA/MCDM Summer School, it has been decided that the next MCDA/MCDM Summer School will be organized in 2027 by the AGH University of Krakow (Poland), under the chairmanship of Konrad Kułakowski (the next MCDM conference, instead, will be organized in Rome at La Sapienza University in 2028 by Lavinia Amorosi and Paolo Dell’Olmo). Further information about the summer school, including its website, will be available soon. We are confident that Konrad and his team will organize an excellent event.

Looking Ahead. Our field is positioned at the intersection of complex global challenges—from climate change mitigation and sustainable energy transitions to ethical AI and healthcare management. The upcoming special issues featured in this newsletter reflect this growing diversity and the strong links between methodological development and real-world application. The tools, theories, and practices we develop are needed now more than ever.

I encourage all members to stay engaged through our newsletter, contribute to upcoming special issues in our field’s journal ([JMCD](#)), and participate actively in discussions through our mailing list.

Thank you for your ongoing passion, commitment, and contributions to the International Society on MCDM.

Warmest regards,

José Rui Figueira

President

International Society on MCDM

1 Society News

1.1 The 28th International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making

From May 25 to 29, 2026, the 28th International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making (MCDM 2026) brought together leading researchers, practitioners, and decision-makers from around the world at the University of Wuppertal. Under the theme “*Better Decisions for a Better Tomorrow*,” the conference explored how MCDM can address complex challenges in society, ecology, and economics. Organized by Kathrin Klamroth and Michael Stiglmayr and supported by the Optimization Group at the University of Wuppertal, the event fostered interdisciplinary exchange and innovation in the fields of decision-making and optimization.



A Global Platform for Multiple Criteria Decision Making

MCDM 2026 provided a unique forum for discussing cutting-edge research and practical applications of decision making methodologies. The conference program featured plenary talks by renowned experts, specialized streams, and awards recognizing outstanding contributions to the field. Participants engaged in lively debates on how MCDM can shape a sustainable and equitable future.

Four distinguished speakers delivered plenary talks, offering deep dives into critical aspects of MCDM:

- Salvatore Corrente (University of Catania, Italy): “Decision Rules for Explainable Decision Aiding and Interactive Evolutionary Multiobjective Optimization”
- Andreia Guerreiro (INESC-ID, Portugal): “Set-Quality Indicators in Multiobjective Optimisation”
- Manuel Bickel (Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy, Germany): “Decision Contexts in Applied Sustainability Science - Navigating Data Challenges, Trade-offs, and the Promises of Digitalization”
- Stefan Ruzika (RPTU Kaiserslautern-Landau, Germany): “Approximation in Multiobjective Optimization”

The conference program included six streams of parallel sessions covering key areas of MCDM research and application:

- Advances in MCDM Theory
- Heuristic Algorithms
- Multi-objective Programming
- Decision Analysis/Making
- Interactive Methods
- Practical Applications of MCDM

Additionally, invited sessions focused on the topics:

- Ordinal Optimization
- Parametric Optimization
- Multiple Rule-Based Decision Making

These sessions provided a platform for in-depth discussions on both theoretical advancements and real-world implementations of MCDM methodologies.

Celebrating Excellence: MCDM Awards 2026

The conference honored outstanding contributions to the field with four prestigious awards:

- MCDM Gold Medal: Awarded to Prof. Jafar Rezaei (Delft University of Technology, Netherlands) for his lifelong achievements in MCDM research and education.
- Edgeworth-Pareto Award: Presented to Prof. Xavier Gandibleux (University of Nantes, France) for his pioneering work in multiobjective combinatorial optimization and his contributions to MCDM software development.
- Georg Cantor Award: Recognized Prof. Luis Dias (University of Coimbra, Portugal) for his fundamental contributions to decision analysis.
- PhD Award: Granted to Yannik Nikolas Zeiträg (University of Wuppertal, Germany) for his innovative dissertation on interactive decision-making methods.

A Day of Inspiration: Outing to the Green Zoo Wuppertal

Beyond the conference halls, participants enjoyed an excursion to the Green Zoo Wuppertal, where Dr. Arne Lawrenz, the zoo's director, delivered an introductory talk. Lawrenz showcased the zoo's conservation projects and initiatives in species protection and nature preservation, underscoring the role of sustainable decision-making in biodiversity efforts. The outing provided a refreshing break and a reminder of the practical impact of MCDM on environmental stewardship.

Conference Dinner: A Toast to Collaboration and Community

The highlight of the social program was the conference dinner on Thursday, May 28, held at the Brauhaus Wuppertal. Attendees gathered for an evening of networking, lively discussions, and culinary delights, enjoying a varied buffet featuring regional specialties and German beer brewed on-site. The convivial atmosphere fostered connections among researchers. As the evening progressed, the Brauhaus's warm ambiance and the clinking of glasses became a fitting celebration of the spirit of MCDM 2026.

MCDM 2026 reinforced the critical role of decision-making science in addressing global challenges. From climate change to economic inequality, the methodologies discussed at the conference offer tools to navigate complexity, balance trade-offs, and drive sustainable progress. The University of Wuppertal and its Optimization Group are proud to have hosted MCDM 2026.

Acknowledgments

The organizers extend their gratitude to:

- The University of Wuppertal for hosting the event.
- The Optimization Group for their logistical and academic support.
- The German Research Foundation and the German OR Society (GOR) for providing financial support.
- The plenary speakers, session chairs, and participants for their contributions.
- The Green Zoo Wuppertal for an inspiring and memorable outing.
- The MCDM Society for the trust in us.



Looking Ahead

We are looking forward to the next edition of the International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making 2028 in Rome which will be organized by Lavinia Amorosi and Paolo Dell'Olmo.

We hope to see you in Rome!

Kathrin Klamroth & Michael Stiglmayr

1.2 Report on the 2026 MCDM Awards

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 outstanding nominations and chose the winners after studying all nominees carefully and deliberating extensively. The President of the Society, José Figueira, and I presented the awards at the banquet of the 28th International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making in Wuppertal, Germany, in May 2026.

The **MCDM Gold Medal** was awarded to **Jafar Rezaei**. Jafar is a professor at Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands. He has contributed extensively to the theory, methodology, and applications of MCDM. He developed the well known Best Worst Method which has been widely applied in a variety of areas including energy and sustainability, supply chain management, logistics, and health and public policy. He has actively contributed to the community as the Editor in Chief of the Journal of Multi-criteria Decision Analysis and as the organizer of the 2026 EURO PhD Summer School on MCDA/MCDM.

Xavier Gandibleux received the **Edgeworth-Pareto Award**. Xavier is a professor at Nantes University, France. He has done pioneering work and published extensively in multiobjective combinatorial optimization. He has applied MCDM to railway infrastructure, solar power and electric vehicles, and data centers. He has developed a test library of multiobjective optimization that has been used by many researchers. He has facilitated making many multiobjective optimization software publicly available through Julia Mathematical Programming system (JuMP).

Luis C. Dias received the **Georg Cantor Award**. Luis is a professor at the University of Coimbra, Portugal. He has made important contributions to the methodology MCDA. He has published extensively in performance assessment, decision support as well as group decisions

and negotiations. His contributions in the areas of energy, environment, and sustainability with multiple criteria focus are noteworthy.

In addition to the lifetime achievement awards, the Society presented service awards. **Kathrin Klamroth and Michael Stiglmayr** received the MCDM Conference Chairmanship Award for their most gracious hospitality and outstanding leadership and resourcefulness in organizing, managing, and chairing the 28th International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making, Wuppertal, Germany, May 25-29, 2026. Together with their colleagues, they have demonstrated the highest standards of performance and quality.

MCDM Gold Medal Winner 2026



Jafar Rezaei

Edgeworth-Pareto Award Winner 2026



Xavier Gandibleux

Georg Cantor Award Winner 2026



Luis C. Dias

MCDM Conference Chairmanship Award



Michael Stiglmayr and Kathrin Klamroth

Congratulations to Jafar, Xavier, Luis, Kathrin, and Michael!

I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to the Awards Committee members for their diligent work throughout this decision process. The Committee was composed of Adiel Teixeira de Almeida, José Figueira, Kathrin Klamroth, Murat Köksalan (Chair), Kaisa Miettinen, Roman Slowinski, Michael Stiglmayr, Jyrki Wallenius, and Margaret Wiecek.

Murat Köksalan

Chair of the Awards Committee, 2026

1.3 *Report on the 2026 MCDM Doctoral Dissertation Competition*

Our Society organized the 2026 MCDM Doctoral Dissertation Competition in cooperation with the Organizing Committee of the 28th International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making, held at the University of Wuppertal, Germany, from May 25 to 29, 2026. The jury for the evaluation of the submissions consisted of four members: Sarah Ben Amor, Yves De Smet, Gülşah Karakaya, and Jafar Rezaei as chair.

The four finalists presented their dissertation research during the Doctoral Dissertation Award Session on May 27. They were (in alphabetical order of last name):

- **Grzegorz Miebs:** Computer-aided Decision Support Methods Resistant to Imperfections of Learning Data
- **Giovanni Misitano:** Enhancing the Decision-support Capabilities of Interactive Multiobjective Optimization with Explainability
- **Kathrin Prinz:** Parallelization in Multi-Objective Optimization based on the Epsilon-Constraint Scalarization
- **Yannik Nikolas Zeiträg:** A Decision Support Tool for Multi-Objective Production Scheduling and Lot-sizing: Exact, Approximate, and Hybrid Algorithms

Grzegorz Miebs developed robust computer-aided decision-support methods for situations in which learning data or preference information are incomplete, inconsistent, imprecise, or otherwise imperfect. Giovanni Misitano integrated explainability into interactive multiobjective optimization, introducing new methods and open-source software that help decision makers express preferences and understand recommended solutions. Kathrin Prinz introduced the Parallel Epsilon Algorithm, which distributes the computation of nondominated solutions across independent parallel tasks and achieves near-linear speedups. Yannik Nikolas Zeiträg developed an integrated decision-support approach for multi-objective lot-sizing and production scheduling, combining exact optimization, interactive methods, genetic programming, reinforcement learning, and rolling-horizon planning to produce fast, high-quality solutions in dynamic manufacturing settings.

All four dissertations were of very high quality and made notable theoretical, methodological, and practical contributions to MCDM. After careful consideration of the dissertations and the finalists' presentations, the jury selected **Yannik Nikolas Zeiträg as the winner of the 2026 MCDM Doctoral Dissertation Award**. Congratulations to all four finalists for their excellent work, with special congratulations to this year's winner, Yannik.



Yannik Nikolas Zeiträg

I wish to thank all jury members for their valuable and time-consuming work in reviewing the dissertations and evaluating the presentations.

Jafar Rezaei

Chair of the MCDM Doctoral Dissertation Award Jury, 2026

1.4 Report on the 2026 EURO PhD Summer School on MCDA/MCDM

The 2026 EURO PhD Summer School on MCDA/MCDM, the 15th edition of the event, took place at Delft University of Technology (TU Delft), the Netherlands, from July 19 to August 1, 2026, with the academic program running from July 20 to 31. It was organized by Jafar Rezaei, Geqie Sun and Pelin Gülüm from TU Delft. The event continued the long-standing tradition of EURO PhD Summer Schools on MCDA/MCDM, which began in 1983.

A total of 103 applications were received, of which 61 were accepted. Ultimately, 57 participants attended the event, representing 26 nationalities from 22 countries: Belgium (1), Brazil (1), Canada (1), Czechia (1), Denmark (3), Ethiopia (2), Finland (1), France (1), Germany (4), India (2), Italy (12), Morocco (2), the Netherlands (11), Norway (1), Poland (4), Serbia (1), Spain (1), Sweden (3), Switzerland (1), Taiwan (1), Türkiye (2), and the UK (1). The participants comprised 30 women and 27 men.

The summer school was designed to provide PhD candidates with an in-depth understanding of the theoretical, methodological, behavioral, and applied dimensions of MCDA/MCDM. Participants attended lectures by leading scholars, completed hands-on exercises, worked collaboratively on case studies, and interacted with editors and members of the international MCDA/MCDM community.

The topics covered in the summer school were:

- Problem structuring in MCDA/MCDM
- Multi-attribute value and utility theory (MAVT/MAUT), preference modeling, and robust ordinal regression
- Analytic Hierarchy/Network Process (AHP/ANP)
- Best-Worst Method and behavioral aspects of preference elicitation
- Outranking methods
- Decision rule approach to MCDA
- MCDA/MCDM method selection
- Modeling and solving multiobjective optimization problems
- Interactive methods of multiobjective optimization with behavioral aspects
- Multiobjective discrete optimization
- Composite indicators
- Collective decision making
- Meet-the-editor sessions for EJOR and JMCDA

The full program and further information are available at <https://mcdmsummerschool.tudelft.nl/>

The lecturers and their topics are listed below in alphabetical order:

Matteo Brunelli UNIVERSITY OF TRENTO AHP/ANP, covering basic and advanced concepts with exercises that enabled participants to apply the method	Marco Cinelli LEIDEN UNIVERSITY Problem structuring in MCDA/MCDM, including the roles of stakeholders, alternatives, criteria, and decision support, illustrated through practical projects.
Salvatore Corrente UNIVERSITY OF CATANIA Composite indicators, with emphasis on measurement scales, normalization, aggregation, compensation, and the interpretation of numerical indicators.	José Rui Figueira UNIVERSITY OF LISBON Outranking methods, including PROMETHEE and ELECTRE for choice, ranking, and sorting problems, with software demonstrations and reflections on the history of the MCDM community.
Xavier Gandibleux NANTES UNIVERSITY Modeling and solving multiobjective optimization problems, including hands-on exercises using Julia.	Salvatore Greco UNIVERSITY OF CATANIA MAVT/MAUT, preference modeling, UTA methods, robust ordinal regression, and stochastic multicriteria acceptability analysis.
Miłosz Kadziński POZNAŃ UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY MCDA/MCDM method selection, including requirements for matching methods to decision-problem characteristics and an exercise using an online method-selection resource.	Murat Köksalan UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN Interactive methods of multiobjective optimization and behavioral aspects of MCDA, including classifications of interactive approaches and cognitive biases in decision processes.
Jafar Rezaei TU DELFT The Best-Worst Method, its theoretical and applied development, and behavioral issues such as anchoring in preference elicitation. Meet-the-Editor session on the Journal of Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis.	Serpil Sayın KOÇ UNIVERSITY Multiobjective discrete optimization, delivered online, with emphasis on scalarization methods and their use in interactive optimization.
Roman Słowiński POZNAŃ UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY The decision rule approach to MCDA and its application under different preference-information conditions. Meet-the-Editor session on the European Journal of Operational Research.	Rudolf Vetschera UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA Collective decision making, focusing on the properties of collective processes and the criteria by which such processes and outcomes can be evaluated.



Opening session by Jafar Rezaei



Group photo with participants and some lecturers

Academic program and case studies

The program combined lectures on foundational MCDA/MCDM concepts with advanced methodological developments, behavioral perspectives, software-supported exercises, and discussions of academic publishing. The sessions linked formal models to the practical work of problem structuring, preference elicitation, robustness analysis, and the interpretation of results. Participants were encouraged to question methodological assumptions, compare alternative approaches, and reflect on the conditions under which different methods are appropriate.

The Meet-the-Editor sessions provided a complementary perspective on academic publishing. Roman Słowiński discussed the scope, development, and editorial positioning of the *European Journal of Operational Research*, while Jafar Rezaei introduced the *Journal of Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis* and discussed the development of a clear and well-positioned research article. These sessions gave participants an opportunity to raise practical questions about journal selection, contribution claims, review processes, and scholarly communication.

Alongside the lectures, participants were assigned to teams and worked on two collaborative case studies: one emphasizing multiobjective optimization and one emphasizing multi-criteria decision analysis. 11 teams developed problem formulations, selected and applied appropriate methods, interpreted their findings, and prepared final presentations. The work was supported through dedicated case-study sessions and consultations with lecturers and organizers.

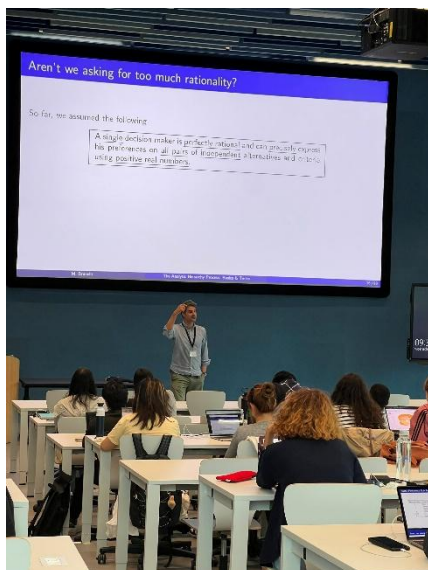
The teams presented their analyses at the end of the summer school. The presentations demonstrated substantial methodological engagement and a wide range of modeling choices. Lecturers provided feedback on the clarity of the problem formulation, the consistency between assumptions and methods, the interpretation of results, and possible extensions. The case work therefore served not only as an application exercise but also as a structured setting for interdisciplinary collaboration and methodological reflection.



Problem structuring: Marco Cinelli



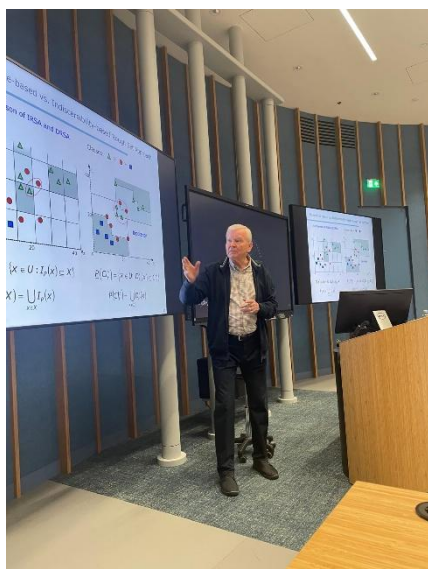
MAVT/MAUT, ordinal regression:
Salvatore Greco



AHP/ANP: Matteo Brunelli



Best-Worst Method: Jafar Rezaei



Decision Rule Approach to MCDA:
Roman Słowiński



Composite Indicators: Salvatore Corrente



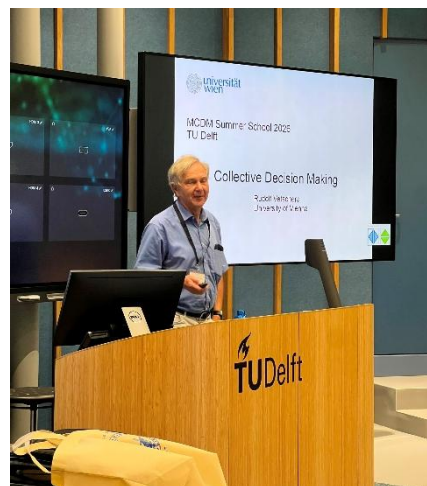
Outranking methods: José Rui Figueira



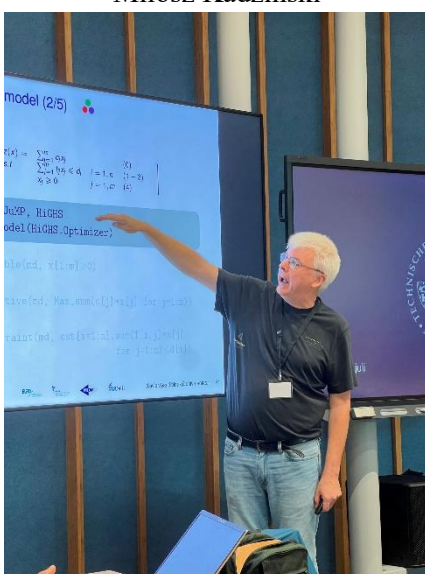
Interactive Methods of Multiobjective
Optimization with Behavioral Aspects:
Murat Köksalan



MCDA/MCDM Method Selection:
Miłosz Kadziński



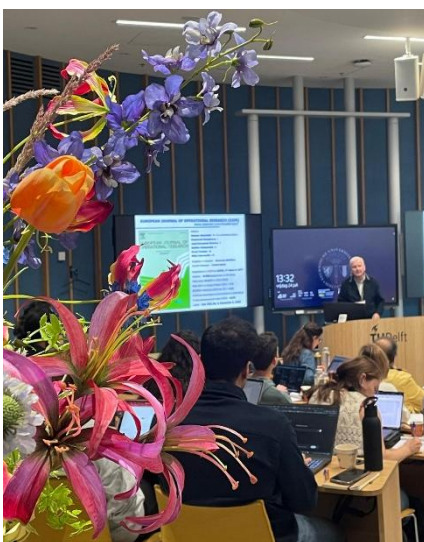
Collective Decision Making:
Rudolf Vetschera



Modeling and Solving Multiobjective
Optimization Problems: Xavier Gandibleux



Multiobjective Discrete Optimization:
Serpil Sayın



Meet the editor of EJOR: Roman Słowiński



Meet the editor of JMCDM: Jafar Rezaei

Academic interaction and community

A defining feature of the summer school was the close interaction between participants and lecturers. The two-week format created time for questions during lectures, informal methodological discussions, and exchanges across research traditions. Participants came from different disciplinary and national backgrounds, and shared an interest in supporting complex decisions through transparent and analytically sound methods.

The combination of lectures, exercises, editorial sessions, and case work enabled participants to connect individual methods to the broader MCDA/MCDM research landscape. In particular, the program highlighted that method choice cannot be separated from problem structure, preference information, behavioral assumptions, measurement scales, and the intended form of decision support. These cross-cutting themes were repeatedly revisited across the sessions.



Photos of the case presentations

Social program in Delft

The academic program was complemented by social activities that gave participants and lecturers opportunities to continue their discussions in a more informal setting and to experience Delft. On Saturday, July 25, the group joined a canal tour through the historic city center, followed by a visit to Royal Delft. The activities introduced participants to Delft's canals, architecture, and ceramic heritage while creating further opportunities for interaction across institutions and research interests.

The day concluded with the summer-school dinner at De Kurk in the city center. The dinner brought together participants, lecturers, and organizers and provided a relaxed setting for conversations, new connections, and the continuation of discussions that had begun during the academic sessions.





Photos of Boat tour, Royal Delft, and Dinner

Completion and acknowledgments

Participants who successfully completed the academic program and case-study requirements received an official certificate of completion. The summer school was equivalent to 5 ECTS credits, reflecting the intensity of the lectures, exercises, collaborative case work, and final presentations.

We would like to thank the Association of European Operational Research Societies (EURO) and the International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making for their financial and institutional support. We also acknowledge the support of Delft University of Technology, particularly the Faculty of Technology, Policy and Management.

Special thanks are due to the lecturers for contributing their time, expertise, and sustained engagement with participants; and to the administrative and technical staff who supported the program.

Finally, we thank all participants for their active involvement, thoughtful questions, collaborative work, and enthusiastic contribution to the summer-school community. We believe the program provided a valuable opportunity to deepen knowledge of MCDA/MCDM theory and applications, develop practical analytical skills, build professional networks, and initiate collaborations and friendships that will continue beyond the summer school.

The 2026 summer school continued the tradition of bringing together emerging researchers and leading scholars in MCDA/MCDM. We look forward to seeing how the ideas, connections, and research questions developed in Delft contribute to the future of the field.

Further details are available at <https://mcdmsummerschool.tudelft.nl/>

Jafar Rezaei

Organizing Chair of the 2026 EURO PhD Summer School on MCDA/MCDM

1.5 A First Announcement: 2027 EURO PhD Summer School on MCDA/MCDM, Kraków, Poland

The PhD Summer School on MCDA/MCDM brings together PhD students from all over the world and leading scholars at a venue where all participants live, work, and socialize together for a two-week period. This event has been very successful in educating future generations of MCDA/MCDM scholars and facilitating networking among participants.

We are pleased to announce that the 2027 EURO PhD Summer School on MCDA/MCDM will take place **in Kraków, Poland**, and will be organized under the chairmanship of Konrad Kułakowski (AGH University of Krakow).

Further details regarding the dates, program, application process, and call for participation will be announced at a later stage. Please follow the International Society on MCDM [website](#) for future announcements and updates.



1.6 A First Announcement: 29th International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making (MCDM 2028), Rome, June 18-23, 2028

“New challenges and applications in multiple criteria decision making”



Multiple Criteria Decision Making
The International Society



DIPARTIMENTO
DI SCIENZE STATISTICHE

SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA



We are very pleased to announce that the 29th International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making will be held at Sapienza University of Rome, hosted by the Department of Statistical Sciences, from 18th to 23rd June, 2028.

Important Dates

- Call for invited session proposals: October 1, 2027
- Submission deadline for invited session proposals: October 30, 2027
- Call for abstracts: November 2, 2027
- Submission deadline for abstracts: **March 1, 2028**
- Notification of acceptance: March 31, 2028
- Early bird registration deadline: April 28, 2028

Organizing Committee

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Prof. Paolo Dell'Olmo (Chair) | • Dr. Maria Grazia Cairo |
| • Prof. Lavinia Amorosi (Co-chair) | • Dr. Giorgia Sacco |
| • Prof. Marianna De Santis (Co-chair) | • Dr. Alina Dynnikova |
| • Prof. Umberto Ferraro Petrillo | • Ph.D. Lorenzo di Rocco |

Venue

The conference will be hosted by the Department of Statistical Sciences at Sapienza University of Rome.

Contact

Email: mcdm2028@uniroma1.it

1.7 Results of Society Elections

The 2026 elections for the renewal of the Executive Committee of the International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making concluded on July 18, 2026. A total of 518 Society members participated in the election. The following four candidates have been elected to the Executive Committee:

- Xavier Gandibleux, Nantes University, France
- Salvatore Greco, University of Catania, Italy
- Murat Köksalan, University of Michigan, USA
- Ralph E. Steuer, University of Georgia, USA

We warmly congratulate Xavier Gandibleux, Salvatore Greco, Murat Köksalan, and Ralph E. Steuer on their election. Their extensive scholarly contributions and longstanding engagement with the MCDM community will undoubtedly support the Society's continued development. We also extend our sincere appreciation to all the candidates who stood for election. Their willingness to serve reflects their commitment to the Society and the wider MCDM community. We wish the newly elected members a productive and successful term on the Executive Committee.

The complete composition of the MCDM Executive Committee can be found on the [MCDM website](#).

Below, we are pleased to introduce the four newly elected members and highlight their backgrounds, research contributions, and engagement with the MCDM community.

- **Xavier Gandibleux**

Nantes University, France

Xavier Gandibleux is Full Professor at Nantes University, France. He has been a member of the MCDM Society since 1992, after having participated in the 10th International MCDM Conference held in Taipei, Taiwan. His research in MCDM mainly focuses on the conceptual and algorithmic aspects of multi-objective mathematical programming: interactive procedures, metaheuristics, combinatorial optimization, branch-and-bound, solvers. He also enjoys tackling concrete multi-objective problems, and has provided operational solutions to problems encountered in national electricity production, communication networks, railway transport, and supply chain. He is a founding member of ROADEF, the French OR society, created in 1998, for which he served as vice president for four years. He is co-founder of the French national group PM2O (Multi-Objective Programming), created in 1999 and active in France ever since. He has organized several international conferences on MCDM in France, such as MOMH (Multi-Objective MetaHeuristics) in 2002, MOP/GP (Multi-Objective Programming and Goal-Programming) in 2006, and EMO (Evolutionary Multi-Objective



Optimisation) in 2009. Currently he is co-chair of the MCDM area for the IFORS 2026 conference, to be held in Vienna, Austria. More information about him is available at: <https://xgandibleux.github.io/>

- **Salvatore Greco**

University of Catania, Italy

Salvatore Greco is a Full Professor at the University of Catania, where he obtained his degree in Economics in 1988. He has taught and teaches courses such as Decision Theory, General Mathematics, Financial Mathematics, and Actuarial Mathematics. He has coordinated several PhD programs. From 2013 to 2022, he also held a part-time position at the Business School of the University of Portsmouth (UK). His research activity focuses on preference modeling and Multiple Criteria Decision Making, with particular attention to Rough Set Theory, Robust Ordinal Regression (ROR), criteria interaction and interactive evolutionary multiobjective optimization. Together with Roman Słowiński and Benedetto Matarazzo, he played a key role in the development of the Dominance-based Rough Set Approach (DRSA), which is now considered an innovative and interpretable decision-support methodology, anticipating key concepts of Explainable Artificial Intelligence. He is the author or co-author of numerous papers in leading journals of Operations Research and Management Science.



In 2013, he received the MCDM Gold Medal, the highest international distinction in the field of Multiple Criteria Decision Making. He is co-author of a paper ranked among the most influential in the history of the European Journal of Operational Research and co-editor of fundamental state-of-the-art volumes on MCDM published by Springer. He has held several prominent roles in the international scientific community, including coordinator of EURO working groups, member of the Executive Committee of the International Society on MCDM, President of the MCDM Section of INFORMS, Vice-President of AMASES, and Editor-in-Chief or Area Editor of leading scientific journals. He has also organized and chaired numerous international conferences and seminars. His scientific production includes several hundred publications and tens of thousands of citations, with high h-indices on Web of Science, Scopus, and Google Scholar. He is consistently listed among the top 2% of the world's most cited scientists.

- **Murat Köksalan**

Ross School of Business, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA

Murat Köksalan is currently teaching at the Ross School of Business, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA. He has spent most of his career at the Industrial Engineering Department of the Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Türkiye. He has held visiting positions at SUNY Buffalo, NY, USA, Purdue University, IN, USA, Georgetown University, DC, USA, and Aalto University, Finland. He received multiple awards, including the Gold Medal from the

International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making, the Science Award from the Parlar Foundation, and several INFORMS Case Competition first place awards. He is the founding president of the INFORMS Section on MCDM, a past president of the International Society on MCDM, and an elected member of the Science Academy Society of Turkey.



His research focuses on multiple criteria decision making in general, and multi-objective combinatorial optimization, heuristic search, and their practical applications, in particular. He enjoys studying the history of his field and developing teaching cases based on real-world problems. Outside of academia, he enjoys skiing and playing tennis.

- **Ralph E. Steuer**

University of Georgia, USA

Ralph E. Steuer is the Sanford Family Distinguished Chair of Business in the Department of Finance of the Terry College of Business at the University of Georgia. He received an Sc.B. (electrical engineering) from Brown University, an MBA (accounting & finance) from Cornell University, and a Ph.D. in Business Administration (quantitative methods) from the University of North Carolina. He is the author of *Multiple Criteria Optimization: Theory, Computation, and Application* and over 100 research articles. Steuer's research interests are in multicriteria portfolio selection, efficient sets and surfaces, and methods of multiple criteria optimization.



A recipient of a Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of North Carolina, he was a co-founder of the Special Interest Group on Multiple Criteria Decision Making in 1979, which has gone on to be the International Society on MCDM of today. Having lectured in 50 countries, he has been an advisor to universities in emerging countries on the establishment of curricula in management and for over 20 years served as Honorary Dean of the School of Industrial Management at the Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology in Vietnam. Prior to joining the University of Georgia, he was a Visiting Associate Professor at Princeton University (one year) and on the faculty of the University of Kentucky (eight years).

Salvatore Corrente

Secretary, International Society on MCDM

2 Upcoming Events, Calls for Papers, and Other News

2.1 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 vibrant and growing MCDM community at: <https://connect.informs.org/multiple-criteria-decision-making/home>. The annual membership fee is \$10 for non-INFORMS members, \$7 for INFORMS members, and only \$2 or \$5 for students and retired members, respectively.



INFORMS is the world's leading professional association for decision and data sciences, with more than 12,500 members worldwide. The INFORMS MCDM Section is dedicated to advancing the theory and practice of multiple criteria decision making through interdisciplinary collaboration. Our mission is to foster the exchange of ideas, promote innovative research, and enhance the visibility and impact of MCDM across academia, industry, and the public sector. A key priority of our Section is to strengthen collaboration among the INFORMS MCDM Section, the International Society on MCDM, the EURO Working Group on MCDA, and other leading organizations in our field. By working together, we can expand opportunities for research collaboration, professional networking, and knowledge sharing within the global MCDM community.



We are also delighted to announce the publication of the inaugural issue of the INFORMS Section on MCDM Newsletter. The newsletter highlights activities, achievements, and developments within our community and serves as a platform for sharing news and ideas. We warmly invite you to read the first issue at: <https://connect.informs.org/multiple-criteria-decision-making/newsletter>. Contributions for future issues are welcome and may be submitted at any time to the Newsletter Editor, Eduarda Frej (eafrej@cidsid.org.br).

We also warmly invite you to participate in the [2026 INFORMS Annual Meeting](#), to be held in San Francisco, California, USA, from November 1-4, 2026. The meeting will feature a rich MCDM program and provide an excellent opportunity to connect with colleagues, exchange ideas, and explore emerging research directions.

As President and Vice President of the INFORMS MCDM Section, we are excited about the opportunities ahead to build a stronger, more connected, and more inclusive MCDM community. We sincerely hope you will join us in advancing our shared mission and shaping the future of multiple criteria decision making.

We look forward to welcoming you as a member of the INFORMS MCDM Section.

Best wishes,

Banu Lokman & Mikołaj Kadziński

2.2 CFP: The 14th International Conference on Evolutionary Multi-Criterion Optimization

The International Conference on Evolutionary Multi-Criterion Optimization (EMO) 2027 will be hosted by the University of Exeter in Exeter, UK, April 5-8, 2027. EMO is the premier venue for researchers and practitioners working on multi-objective and many-objective optimization using evolutionary and nature-inspired computation approaches. EMO 2027 will bring together leading experts from academia and industry to present and discuss the latest advances in evolutionary multi-objective optimization, including theoretical foundations, algorithm design, performance assessment, and real-world applications.

Important Dates

- **Paper Submission Deadline:** **September 28, 2026**
- **Tutorial Proposal Deadline:** December 2, 2026
- **Conference:** April 5-8, 2027 (Exeter, UK)

Types of Submissions

The conference will comprise the main EMO track, along with special MCDM and Industry tracks. For full papers (in any track), the page limit is 15 pages including references. For abstract submissions (in MCDM and Industry tracks only), the page limit is 2 pages including references. There is no separate limit for the main body and references.

EMO track: This is the main track of the conference, where traditional full papers should present state-of-the-art results on theory, algorithms, benchmarking, applications and other topics of interest as outlined in the Topics of Interest section.

MCDM special track: This track is intended to foster collaborations and knowledge-exchange between the two distinct but related areas of EMO and MCDM. It recognizes the value of methods in either domain that may be less known in the other, but can be of mutual benefit in solving open challenges in both fields. For this track, authors have the option to submit a full paper or an abstract, which are MCDM focused. Studies that use non-evolutionary methods are also welcome, but the relevance to the EMO field should be indicated for the benefit of the audience.

Industry special track: This track is intended to encourage collaborations and knowledge-exchange between practitioners and academics on topics relevant to the conference. The aim is to improve the collective understanding of the fundamental challenges that occur in real-world applications and work collaboratively towards solving them. To emphasize the involvement of practitioners, at least one author of the submission must be from industry or a non-academic institution (e.g. public service) to qualify for submission in this track. Authors have the option to submit a full paper or an abstract, which are focused on industrial/non-academic problems.

Keynote Speakers: Sanaz Mostaghim, Benjamin Doerr, Margaret M. Wiecek

General Chairs: Jonathan Fieldsend, Ke Li, Hisao Ishibuchi

Program Chairs: Oliver Schütze, Tea Tušar

Detailed information is available at the following URL: <https://www.emo2027.org/>

2.3 CFP: Special Issue on “Better Decisions for a Better Tomorrow: MCDM Approaches for Sustainability, Risk, and Complex Systems,” *Journal of Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis*

In an era characterized by increasing complexity, systemic risks, and pressing sustainability challenges, decision-making processes must effectively integrate quantitative rigor with real-world constraints and stakeholder perspectives. This Special Issue focuses on innovative applications and methodological advances in Multi-Criteria Decision Making, with particular emphasis on their relevance for complex, real-world decision contexts. The aim is to highlight contributions that strengthen the connection between theoretical developments and practical implementation.

Particular attention will be given to submissions that demonstrate how MCDM approaches can effectively support decision-making in domains such as sustainability, risk management, policy-making, engineering, and healthcare. Interdisciplinary contributions integrating MCDM with fields such as data science, artificial intelligence, and behavioral decision making are especially welcome.

We welcome high-quality submissions including:

- application-driven studies addressing real-world decision problems involving multiple stakeholders and conflicting objectives;
- methodological and theoretical contributions that are clearly motivated by, or demonstrate potential for, impactful applications;
- works that incorporate real data, realistic scenarios, or validated case studies;
- approaches addressing complexity and uncertainty, including incomplete, imprecise, or large-scale data;
- contributions providing robust validation, comparison, or implementation insights.

Authors should follow the journal’s [Guidelines for Authors](#) and submit their high-quality manuscript by January 31, 2027 via the [Wiley online system](#), selecting the appropriate Special Issue option. Submitted manuscripts should not have been published previously, nor be under consideration for publication elsewhere. The results included in the manuscripts shall be reproducible by others. Thus, we strongly encourage authors of algorithmic papers to share their implementations (e.g., via GitHub). Submitted manuscripts will be subject to a peer-review process according to the journal’s standards.

Submission deadline is **January 31, 2027**.

The Guest Editors of this Special Issue are:

- Salvatore Corrente, *University of Catania, Italy*, salvatore.corrente@unict.it
- Birsen Karpak, *Youngstown State University, US*, bkarpak@ysu.edu
- Michael Stiglmayr, *University of Wuppertal, Germany*, stiglmayr@uni-wuppertal.de
- İlker Topcu, *Istanbul Technical University, Turkey*, ilker.topcu@itu.edu.tr

2.4 CFP: Special Issue on “Multicriteria Decision Aiding in Applications: Methodological Advances in Energy and Environment,” *Journal of Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis*

This Special Issue of the *Journal of Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis* invites original, high-quality research that explores this feedback loop between complex applications and methodological advancement. We do not simply seek case studies; rather, we seek papers that demonstrate how the specific challenges of the energy and environmental sectors necessitate the adaptation, extension, or creation of new MCDA techniques.

This Special Issue aims to disseminate recent scientific advances where Multicriteria Decision Aiding (MCDA) is applied to, or inspired by, the energy and environmental sectors. The goal is to collect a high-quality selection of research articles that offer methodological insights into the decision-aiding process. We are particularly interested in how analysts handle specific challenges such as long time horizons, inter-generational equity, criteria interaction, and data sparsity.

We welcome research articles that promote new theoretical approaches, axiomatic foundations, and methodological tools that address energy and environmental problems, including:

- Preference Learning and Elicitation: Novel approaches for eliciting preferences in energy.
- Handling Uncertainty: Methodological advances in Stochastic MCDA and Fuzzy MCDA.
- Constructive Decision Aiding: Papers focusing on the process of structuring the decision problem and the interaction between the analyst and the Decision Maker.
- Behavioral MCDA: Studies analyzing how cognitive biases affect decision-making in environmental and energy contexts and how methods can be designed to mitigate them.
- Group Decision Making: Advanced aggregation operators and consensus-reaching models for multi-stakeholder conflicts.

Submission deadline is **January 31, 2027**.

The Guest Editors of this Special Issue are:

- Salvatore Greco (Lead Guest Editor), salgreco@unict.it
University of Catania, Department of Economics and Business, Italy
- River Huang, river.huang@psi.ch
Paul Scherrer Institute, Laboratory for Energy Systems Analysis, Switzerland
- Eleftherios Siskos, esiskos@tuc.gr
Technical University of Crete, Decision Support Systems Laboratory, School of Production Engineering and Management Greece
- Peter Burgherr, peter.burgherr@psi.ch
Paul Scherrer Institute, Laboratory for Energy Systems Analysis, Switzerland

Detailed information is available at the following URL:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/10991360/homepage/call-for-papers>

2.5 CfP: Special Issue on “Multicriteria Decision Aiding for Sustainable Energy and Environmental Planning,” Socio-Economic Planning Sciences

The contemporary socio-economic landscape is defined by the urgent necessity to reconcile robust economic development with planetary boundaries. We are witnessing a paradigm shift where the planning and management of energy systems and environmental resources are no longer distinct sectoral challenges, but are deeply intertwined with public policy, social equity, and technological innovation. The transition toward a decarbonized economy and the sustainable stewardship of natural capital demand sophisticated analytical frameworks capable of navigating inherent uncertainties and conflicting stakeholder values.

MCDA is not merely a methodological toolkit for optimization; it serves as a critical instrument for transparent governance, enabling the structuring, evaluation, and legitimization of complex decisions in the public interest. From the strategic deployment of renewable infrastructure and the assessment of circular economy pathways to the resolution of water-energy-food nexus conflicts, MCDA facilitates the rigorous integration of technical data with socio-economic priorities.

This Special Issue of Socio-Economic Planning Sciences invites original, high-quality research that explores the transformative roles of Multicriteria Decision Aiding in addressing these “wicked problems” within the energy and environmental sectors. The SI aims to disseminate recent methodological and applied advances, providing valuable insights for planners, policymakers, and researchers. We seek contributions that demonstrate how formal decision-support methodologies can improve the robustness and social acceptance of planning outcomes, bridging the gap between quantitative modelling and real-world socio-economic implementation.

This Special Issue aims to disseminate recent scientific advances in the field of MCDA that drive innovation and facilitate sustainable planning in the energy and environmental sectors. The goal is to collect a high-quality selection of contemporary research articles on this theme, providing researchers and practitioners with insights into how MCDA techniques can be used to improve transparency in public planning, address complex environmental trade-offs, overcome challenges pertaining to energy policy and infrastructure siting, and strategically guide socio-economic decision-making for a sustainable future. In addition, we welcome research articles that promote Multicriteria Decision Aiding in other public and private sectors related to the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem Nexus and the Circular Economy (e.g., waste management, urban mobility, agricultural planning, climate adaptation, and resource governance). Submitted articles may also promote new theoretical approaches and methodological tools that can address complex energy and environmental planning problems, including:

- Integration of MCDA with Data Mining, Decision Support Systems, Fuzzy Systems, Game Theory, Machine Learning.
- Group Decision Making and Participatory Modelling.
- Integration of MCDA with Geographic Information Systems (GIS).
- Integration of MCDA with Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) and Energy System Models.

Manuscript submission information:

Authors are advised to select VSI: EWG-MCDA as article type, in the [editorial system of the journal](#). This ensures that the submission is grouped under this special issue for the review process.

Submission deadline is **January 31, 2027**.

The Guest Editors of this Special Issue are:

- River Huang, *Paul Scherrer Institute PSI, Villigen, Switzerland*
- Russell McKenna, *ETH Zurich, Zürich, Switzerland*
- Jutta Geldermann, *University of Duisburg-Essen, Duisburg, Germany*
- Valentin Bertsch, *Ruhr University Bochum, Bochum, Germany*

2.6 CfP: Special Issue on “New Trends and Novel Applications of Bilevel Optimization,” *International Transactions in Operational Research*

Bilevel optimization provides a natural framework for representing hierarchical decision-making processes in which multiple actors or decision levels interact sequentially. Over the past years, its use has expanded across a wide range of application areas, including supply chain, logistics, transportation systems, environmental management, energy planning, communication networks, security, machine learning, and artificial intelligence. This sustained interest is largely driven by the capability of bilevel models to reflect nested decision structures and to explicitly represent interactions between decision makers with potentially conflicting objectives.

From a computational and theoretical perspective, bilevel problems are widely recognized as challenging. Their intrinsic complexity has motivated significant research efforts aiming to strengthen the theoretical foundations of bilevel optimization and to develop more effective solution methodologies. In the last two decades, considerable progress has been made in both algorithmic design and analytical understanding, although many challenges remain open.

This special issue seeks to offer a timely platform for disseminating high-quality contributions on recent advances in bilevel optimization. While applications constitute a central focus, submissions addressing theoretical developments are also strongly encouraged. In particular, the special issue welcomes studies proposing new methodological approaches, as well as submissions establishing connections with robust, stochastic, and multi-objective optimization frameworks. Manuscripts addressing both exact solution methods and heuristic approaches are encouraged. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Linear and nonlinear bilevel programming,
- Continuous and integer bilevel programming,
- Bilevel optimization under uncertainty,
- Bilevel optimization with multiple objectives,
- Exact solution methods for bilevel problems,
- Decomposition, reformulation, and relaxation techniques,
- Heuristic, metaheuristic, and matheuristic approaches for bilevel problems,
- Computational tools and solver implementations for bilevel optimization, and
- Applications of bilevel optimization in transportation, supply chain, logistics, energy, production, healthcare, environmental systems, and social sciences.

Submission deadline is **September 30, 2026**.

All papers submitted for this special issue will undergo the standard peer review procedures established by *ITOR*. Submitted papers must be original, unpublished, and not currently under consideration for publication elsewhere. All submissions must fit within the domain statement of the journal and will be judged for their relevance to the special issue’s scope, innovativeness, and the extent of theoretical and practical research contribution. Contributions should be prepared according to the [instructions to authors](#).

3 Past Conferences, Workshops, and Other News

3.1 MCDM Starts Before the Model: Lessons from the Entscheidungsnavi

Many MCDM methods and software tools begin where the criteria and alternatives are already given and the task is to evaluate and rank them. Yet in consequential decisions, critical challenges may arise earlier: the problem may be framed too narrowly, relevant objectives overlooked, or the set of alternatives treated as fixed when better options could still be created. The Entscheidungsnavi (<https://entscheidungsnavi.com/>), a freely accessible, open-source decision support system developed at RWTH Aachen University, was designed to address this front end as well as the subsequent evaluation. It supports problem framing, objective structuring, and alternative generation through Value-Focused Thinking, followed by preference modeling and aggregation using Multi-Attribute Utility Theory. The project is led by Rüdiger von Nitzsch, with Johannes Siebert as a co-initiator. Its development and use point to three broader lessons for MCDM support. The Entscheidungsnavi supports this broader view by linking the decision front end with the decision back end and, through its repeated use, creating opportunities for empirical learning about MCDM (Figure 1).

From decision support to empirical learning

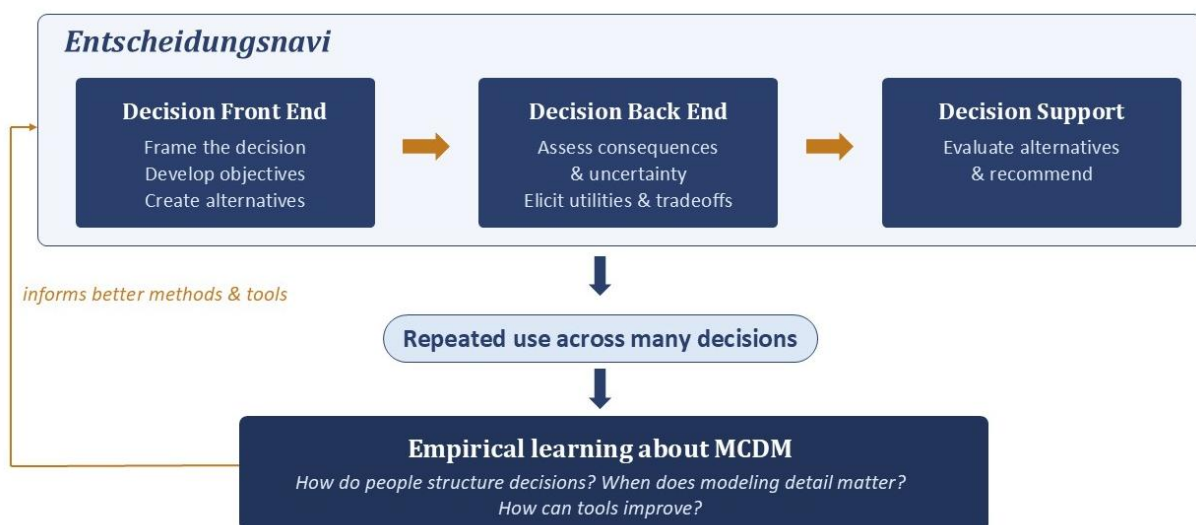


Figure 1. The Entscheidungsnavi links decision support with empirical learning about how MCDM is used in practice.

Lesson 1: Objectives and alternatives should be developed, not assumed

Value-Focused Thinking rests on a simple but consequential idea: objectives are not only criteria for evaluating alternatives, but also a powerful source for generating them. Rather than starting from a given set of options, decision makers first clarify what they want to achieve and then use these objectives as prompts to create new and better alternatives. Experimental evidence supports this: when guided to reason from their objectives, decision makers identify substantially more—and better—alternatives than they do on their own (Siebert and Keeney 2015).

In the running example, Peter initially considers three job offers (Siebert and von Nitzsch 2020a). After articulating what truly matters to him, he identifies additional options, including founding a start-up.

The same principle scales to high-stakes organizational decisions. At Bayer Pharmaceuticals, which in 2019 spent €2.8 billion on R&D and had 51 assets in its development pipeline, a value-focused multicriteria process was developed with seven decision makers (Methling et al. 2022). Although the process started from an existing set of development assets, reflection on the fundamental objectives revealed opportunities to create alternative development plans and even stimulated ideas for additional assets to bring into the portfolio.

Lesson 2: More detailed preference modeling matters—but selectively

Once a decision is well structured, how much detail does the preference model actually require? Tönsfeuerborn, von Nitzsch, and Siebert (2026) examined 2,536 detailed personal decisions created with the Entscheidungsnavi to assess what happens when elicited one-dimensional utility functions are replaced by linear ones.

Nonlinearity was widely used: 95.9% of participants specified at least one nonlinear utility function, and 76.4% of all objectives were evaluated nonlinearly. Yet this additional modeling detail affected the identity of the best alternative in only a minority of cases. Linearizing the elicited utility functions produced a rank reversal of the best alternative in 15.5% of decisions. Moreover, in this dataset no such reversal was observed when the absolute utility difference between the first- and second-ranked alternatives under linearity exceeded 0.27.

The lesson is therefore neither that detailed preference modeling is unnecessary nor that it is always decisive. Its value depends on the decision at hand. For MCDM support, the broader challenge is to understand when additional modeling effort can affect the recommendation and when simplification may be justified.

Lesson 3: Decision-support software can become an empirical laboratory for MCDM

These findings point to a broader opportunity created by digital decision-support platforms. Because the Entscheidungsnavi is used to construct structured decision models—objectives, alternatives, consequences, probabilities, utility functions, and weights—repeated use can generate something rare in our field: a large collection of detailed models of personal decisions that participants themselves were facing.

Such a collection turns a decision-support tool into an empirical laboratory. It allows questions that are otherwise difficult to study: How elaborately do people actually model their preferences? Which parts of an MCDM process most strongly shape the final recommendation? When do decision makers simplify, and at what cost? Researchers can examine how MCDM is used across many modeled decisions and feed these insights back into the design of better methods and better decision-support tools.

Implications for the MCDM community

Taken together, these lessons suggest a broader view of what MCDM support can be. Good decision support should begin before the evaluation model, helping decision makers develop objectives and alternatives rather than treating them as given. It should model preferences to

the level of detail that the decision warrants. Used at scale, it can also help the field learn empirically how MCDM is actually practiced. The Entscheidungsnavi is one example of this broader potential. We invite the MCDM community to use it in teaching and research, build on the open platform, and collaborate to study and improve decision support itself.

Johannes Ulrich Siebert and Rüdiger von Nitzsch

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- von Nitzsch R, Siebert JU (2020b) The job selection problem for career starters: A decision-theoretical application. Part 2: Identifying the best alternative using the Entscheidungsnavi. *Wirtschaftswissenschaftliches Studium* (Scientific Contributions, English translation of the 2018 original).
- Tönsfeuerborn M, von Nitzsch R, Siebert JU (2026) Linear transformation of one-dimensional utility functions: Empirical study on the impact on the final ranking of alternatives in personal decisions. *Decision Analysis* 23(1):46–64.

4 New Books/Publications

This section provides a curated list of recently published books and papers. The list is generated automatically by a script that identifies works indexed in Scopus using the ORCID profiles of MCDM Society members and filters them with relevant MCDM-related keywords. Please note that this list is not exhaustive.

To ensure your recent publications are featured in the next newsletter, kindly send an email including your ORCID or the complete citation of your works to river.huang@psi.ch.

4.1 Book chapters

Aytekin A.; Korucuk S., **An Application on Evaluating the Elements of Sustainability Performance in Port Operations Using MCDA Methods**, 2026, *Lecture Notes in Intelligent Transportation and Infrastructure*, Part F1340, 356-368.

Basuri T.; Das S.G.; Gazi K.H.; Salahshour S.; Bhaduri P.; Mondal S.P., **Preference of Medium of Study in Schools for Higher Secondary (10+2) Level: An Insights Study From India**, 2026, *Advanced Data Analysis Techniques, Theory, and Applications*, 323-351.

Baydaş M.; Özçil A.; Stević Ž.; Wang Z., **A Hybrid IVN-CODAS Model for Ranking Electric Hatchback Cars: Application with Extensive Weight Sensitivity Analysis**, 2026, *Lecture Notes in Intelligent Transportation and Infrastructure*, Part F1340, 503-515.

Fernández E.; Figueira J.R.; Navarro J.; Solares E.; Hernández-Molina A.; Molina-Morejón V., **A P-based Multiple Criteria Ordinal Classification Method Where Classes Are Described by Subsets of “Non-central” Profiles**, 2026, *Studies in Systems, Decision and Control*, 628, 31-50.

Sree P.K.; Chowdhury S.; Thakur R.S.; Mishra D.; Roy V., **Global Adoption of Blockchain for Circular Economy Transformation in Resource Optimization Environmental Protection and Supply Chain Sustainability**, 2026, *Studies in Big Data*, 180, 113-135.

Stević Ž.; Huskanović E.; Subotić M.; Erceg Ž., **IMF SWARA-ARAS Model for Solving the Location Problem in Goods Delivery**, 2026, *Lecture Notes in Intelligent Transportation and Infrastructure*, Part F1906, 291-301.

Vimala J.; Karthikeyan R.; Kausar N.; Vizhi M.T.; Salman M.A.; Mohammed F., **Optimal Railway Route Selection via Distance Measure on Spherical Fuzzy Soft Set**, 2026, *Lecture Notes in Intelligent Transportation and Infrastructure*, Part F1340, 551-562.

4.2 Journal papers

Adhikari D.; Gazi K.H.; Basuri T.; Giri B.C.; Mandal S.; Ramalingam S.; Mondal S.P., **Contribution of Education in Women Empowerment: An Innovative Neutrosophic Approach on MCDM Method**, 2026, *Journal of Uncertain Systems*, 19(2), 2550026.

Adhikari D.; Gazi K.H.; Momena A.F.; Salahshour S.; Mandal S.; Giri B.C.; Dey P.; Ghosh A.; Mondal S.P., **Sub-factors based decision making with uncertainty for sustainable women empowerment**, 2026, *Soft Computing*, 30(6), 4497-4542.

Afsar B.; Silvennoinen J.; Eyvindson K.; Miettinen K.; Ovaskainen O., **Identifying key components for multiobjective forest management decisions: A case study of state-owned Finnish forests**, 2026, *Forest Policy and Economics*, 182, 103681.

Ali T.; Aytakin A.; Demidionov M., **Optimal siting of wind powered green hydrogen production in Bangladesh using interval-valued T-spherical fuzzy multi-criteria decision-making method**, 2026, *International Journal of Hydrogen Energy*, 217, 153931.

Amman M.; Rashid T.; Ali A., **Multi-criteria decision-making with EDAS method and weighted operators for linguistic Fermatean hesitant fuzzy sets**, 2026, *Operational Research*, 26(2), 45.

Angilella S.; Doumpos M.; Pappalardo M.R.; Zopounidis C., **An enhanced simulation-based approach for multicriteria evaluation of SMEs' performance**, 2026, *Annals of Operations Research*, 360(2-3), 767-813.

Asensio-Hernández M.; Gómez-Jiménez A.; Jiménez-Martín A.; Jiménez-Martín P.J.; Dorado-Suárez A., **IPASDU: A DSS based on MAUT to evaluate intervention programs based on physical activity and sport for the prevention of drug use**, 2026, *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 153, 105328.

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5 Imprints

Gülşah Karakaya: newsletter@mcdmsociety.org, kgulsah@metu.edu.tr

He Huang (River): he.huang@psi.ch

Ece Demirer: eced@metu.edu.tr

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 15th and the issue is published by the end of January. The deadline for the September issue is August 20th and the issue is published at the beginning of September. Contributions can be sent at any time to the editor (please see the address provided above).