

The Briefing

Newsletter of *Public Sector Operations Research*

February 2023

Vol. 10



INFORMS Annual

PSOR Cluster

It was great to see many colleagues at the INFORMS Annual Meeting in Indianapolis! We had an outstanding cluster led by co-chairs **Justin Boutilier** and **Mahyar Eftekhar**.

The cluster included 36 sessions with approximately 150 presentations. There were 4 joint sessions with other sections, 2 flash sessions, and 1 panel.

The talks spanned the breadth of PSOR research including humanitarian operations, substance abuse, transportation accessibility, community engagement, and public health.

Perhaps you participated or organized one of these sessions! We look forward to seeing the impact of your research in academia and in practice.

We would like to wish a special thank you to each of the PSOR session chairs in 2022. You are pivotal to our cluster, and we appreciate your service.

Doing Good with Good OR

Session Chairs

Nathan Adeyemi
Rebecca Alcock
Andrew Arnette
Hessam Bavafa
Vedat Bayram
Maria Besiou
Yaren Bilge Kaya
Justin Boutilier
Mark Brennan
Qiushi Chen
Noah Chicoine
Andres David Gonzalez
Mohammad Delasay
Vibhuti Dhingra
Geri Dimas
Zhila Dehdari Ebrahimi
Mahyar Eftekhar
Deniz Emre
Ozlem Ergun
James Fan
Gina Maria Galindo Pacheco
Lluvia (Weijia) Jing
Michael Johnson
Paul Jomon
Jonas Oddur Jonasson
Nur Kaynar
Kayse Maass
Lavanya Marla
Xiaofeng Nie
Iman Parsa
Alfonso Pedraza-Martinez
Sara Reed
Shikha Safaya
Charles Thraves
Lisanne van Rijn
Luk Van Wassenhove
Vanitha Virudachalam
Anqi Wu
Eunae Yoo
Peter Zhang
Han Zhang
Chris Zobel

INFORMS Annual

Business Meeting

Our business meeting for 2022 was held the INFORMS Annual Meeting, and it was great to reignite the tradition of PSOR breakfast meetings. Over 60 colleagues attended. The meeting included updates on our section, networking, and catching up.

Here's a link to the slides if you weren't able to attend:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GKupJbDpu9e9ZrDK48xVVIbgKZ2mXWj8/view?usp=share_link

Best Paper Competition

The paper competition was led by co-chairs **Bhavani Shanker Uppari** and **Serguei Netessine**.

There were 40 submissions, and five papers were named finalists.

Selection Process

There were 2 double-blind rounds with equally weighted selection criteria:

- Problem importance
- Results
- Writing
- Relevance to the public sector
- Overall recommendation.

First round: each paper was evaluated by two judges.

Second round: top five (finalists) were reviewed by each judge

Both rounds excluded judges with conflicts

Competition Judges

Arzum Akkas	Pnina Feldman	Xin Fang	Anna Saez de Tejada Cuenca
Hamsa Bastani	Yini Gao	Ashish Kabra	Soroush Saghafian
Elena Belavina	Joel Goh	Song-Hee Kim	Auyon Siddiq
Philippe Blaettchen	Harish Guda	Amrita Kundu	Hummy Song
Prashant Chintapalli	Kejia Hu	Lesley Meng	Vanitha Virudachalam
Vivek Choudhary	Maria Ibanez	Ruslan Momot	Ozge Yapar
Harwin de Vries	Nitish Jain	Chris Parker	Safak Yucel
Sripad Devalkar	Jonas Jonasson	Morvarid Rahmani	Fanyin Zheng
Kimon Drakopoulos	Dawson Kaaua	Sandeep Rath	Helen Zhou

Best Paper Competition Results

Best Paper

Split Liver Transplantation: An Analytical Decision Support Model

Yanhan (Savannah) Tang (Carnegie Mellon University), Alan Scheller-Wolf (Carnegie Mellon University), Sridhar Tayur (Carnegie Mellon University), Emily R. Perito (University of California, San Francisco), and John P. Roberts (University of California, San Francisco).

Link: <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3877523>

Second Place

Interpretable Models for the Automated Detection of Human Trafficking in Illicit Massage Businesses

Margaret Tobey (North Carolina State University), Ruoting Li (North Carolina State University), Osman Y. Özaltın (North Carolina State University), Maria E. Mayorga (North Carolina State University), and Sherrie Caltagirone (Global Emancipation Network).

Link: <https://doi.org/10.1080/24725854.2022.2113187>

Finalists

Competition and Collaboration on Fundraising for Short-Term Disaster Response: The Impact on Earmarking and Performance

Arian Aflaki (University of Pittsburgh) and Alfonso Pedraza-Martinez (Indiana University).

Link: <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3705595>

Analysis of Farm Equipment Sharing in Emerging Economies

Olufunke Adebola (Hello Tractor), Priyank Arora (University of Massachusetts Amherst), and Can Zhang (Duke University)

Link: <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4190725>

Combating Excessive Overtime in Global Supply Chains

Anyan Qi (University of Texas at Dallas), Jiayu Chen (University of Calgary), and Chuanya Jiao (University of Science and Technology of China)

Link: <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4134422>

PSOR Board of Officers

Biographies

President Gemma Berenguer Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

I am a Ramón y Cajal Fellow at the Department of Business Administration at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (Spain). My major research topics are nonprofit operations, sustainable and socially responsible operations, and supply chain design. I believe that the current times are presenting us with an unprecedented opportunity for the PSOR Section to increase its visibility, expand its activities, and extend its influence to a large fraction of INFORMS members. Participating in the PSOR board as president this 2023 is a great honor and a big chance to actively take part in these activities with a great group of board members and PSOR members. Stay tuned for this year's new PSOR activities!

President-Elect Renata Konrad Worcester Polytechnic Institute

I am an Associate Professor of Industrial Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. My research focuses on the application of operations research methodologies to vulnerable populations to improve the quality, timeliness, and efficiency of operations. This research includes using optimization and simulation to inform human trafficking awareness campaigns, to locate housing, to understand the relationship between illegal fishing and exploited labor, and to improve access to services for homeless youth. As President-Elect of PSOR, I am looking forward to working with the wonderful PSOR officers, developing our society, and supporting our membership.

Past President Andrew C. Trapp Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Operations research and analytics are powerful tools for addressing challenging social issues in a comprehensive and inclusive way. I am passionate about using such methods for pressing social problems to find solutions that are equitable and inclusive for all stakeholders, and especially for the most vulnerable members of society.



PSOR Board of Officers

Biographies

Secretary/Treasurer Kayse Maass Northeastern University

I am an Assistant Professor of Industrial Engineering and Director of the Operations Research and Social Justice Lab at Northeastern University. My research focuses on advancing operations research methodology to address social justice, access, and equity issues within human trafficking, mental health, and housing contexts using a community-based participatory action approach. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as the PSOR Secretary/Treasurer and am looking forward to helping PSOR continue to refine its knowledge management processes to continue to run smoothly and sustainably.

Senior Vice President of Programs Mahyar Eftekhar Arizona State University

I am an Associate Professor of Supply Chain Management at W. P. Carey School of Business. My research concentrates on nonprofit operations management, global health and humanitarian development programs as well as disaster response operations. As a VP of Programs, I have been following two goals. My first goal centers on further diversifying both the topics/methods presented at INFORMS meetings as well as researchers involved in PSOR activities. I believe that we had an inclusive cluster last year in 2022, and we will pursue this plan for the 2023 annual meeting as well. Second, I would like to identify ways to improve program activities currently not scheduled at INFORMS. This includes organizing practitioners' webinars, and finding ways to further introduce the work of doctoral students and junior faculty. I hope, with the support of our PSOR Board Members, we are able to arrange such programs this coming year.

Junior Vice President of Programs Chris Zobel Virginia Tech University

I am the R.B. Pamplin Professor of Business Information Technology in the Pamplin College of Business at Virginia Tech. I am also one of the founding faculty members of Virginia Tech's NSF NRT graduate program on Disaster Resilience and Risk Management, which is located within the Center for Coastal Studies. My primary research interests include disaster operations management, humanitarian supply chains, and resilience. I am honored to serve on the PSOR board as the Junior VP of Programs and I look forward to many interactions with the PSOR community over the coming year.

Vice President of Communications Emily Tucker Clemson University

I am an Assistant Professor of Industrial Engineering and a Faculty Scholar in the School of Health Research at Clemson University. My research focuses on improving access to social good in systems under strain. This includes applications in pharmaceuticals, local parks, and non-profits. I am excited about working with PSOR and the rest of the board to support our membership!

From the Editor

Dear colleagues,

By all measures 2022 was a great year for PSOR, and as we look ahead, we are excited for the future of our section. PSOR exists to support and celebrate the work of our members (that's you!), and in the coming year, this will include several initiatives! We will continue participation at major conferences to disseminate research (INFORMS Annual in Phoenix and INFORMS Healthcare in Toronto this summer) and awarding outstanding work (Best Paper and the [brand new!] Best Video Competitions). We are actively exploring new opportunities to help you engage with both academic and practitioner communities – this may include webinars and public relations. Stay tuned – more information will come soon!

In the midst of our larger programs, PSOR also uses social media to connect with each other. If you would like PSOR to highlight your work (e.g., a paper, involvement with practitioners, an outreach event), please reach out to me (etucke3[at]clermson[dot]edu), and we can explore options to showcase it.

Finally, on a somber note, the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria has been devastating to the affected areas and communities. Within the field of OR, we have many colleagues at universities in Turkey and Syria and many who have moved elsewhere in the world but call these regions home. My heart, and that of the PSOR Board as a whole, hurts for you. These tragedies underscore the human impact of our work, and I hope that, no matter our application area, we continue to keep the end goal in mind as we do our math – supporting people.

I wish you all the best in 2023 and look forward to seeing (and promoting!) the great work you're doing.

Emily Tucker
VP of Communications