

The Briefing

Newsletter of *Public Sector Operations Research*

December 2023

Vol. 11



PSOR has had a fantastic year! Thank you to each of our members for the work that you do. In this newsletter, we recap the INFORMS Annual Meeting, Best Paper Award, and Best Video Award sponsored by UC3M and present the 2024 officer team.

INFORMS Annual

PSOR Cluster

Our cluster at the annual meeting was led by co-chairs **Mahyar Eftekhar** and **Chris Zobel**.

There was a strong showing by our membership with 38 sessions overall. Sessions focused on topics related to sustainability, redistricting, community resilience, and many more. A flash session on Health and Public Policy (co-sponsored with Health Applications Society) and a panel on collaborating with public institutions were special this year.

Thank you to each of the session chairs and speakers.

PSOR Session Chairs

Andrew Arnette
Gemma Berenguer
Vibhuti Dhingra
Soraya Ezazipour
J r mie Gallien
Andres Gonzalez
Chengyue Huang
Weixiao Huang
Dawson Kaaua
Milan Kaur
Nur Kaynar
Shikha Safaya
Maral Shahmizad
Abhinav Shubham
Charles Thraves
Zhili Tian
Andrew Trapp
Emily Tucker
Vanitha Virudachalam
Anqi Wu
Muer Yang
Eunae Yoo
Hamid Reza Zarei
Wenqing Zhang
Christopher Zobel

Doing Good with Good OR

INFORMS Annual

Session Highlight

A panel discussion about *How OR Scholars Successfully Collaborate with Public Institutions?* moderated by the PSOR President (Gemma Berenguer) was held at the 2023 INFORMS Annual Meeting in the PSOR track. The panelists were professors:

- **Ravi Anupindi** (University of Michigan), who described his involvement with multiple national and international programs in the areas of global health and sustainability.
- **Mahyar Eftekhar** (Arizona State University), who presented projects with Catholic Relief Services and the Danish Refugee Council.
- **Jessica Heier Stamm** (Kansas State University), who gave details of her collaboration with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.
- **Yuehwern Yih** (Purdue University) who is the director of the LASER PULSE project and described this collaboration.

The session provided numerous insights and recommendations such as a unanimous recommendation to partner with a group and not a unique individual from the public organization and to dedicate sufficient to build trust, to listen well to the organization's issues, and to offer help. From PSOR, we thank the panelists for graciously serving on this panel.

Be on the lookout for next year's panel discussions offered in the PSOR track!

Business Meeting

The conference also hosted the PSOR business meeting and breakfast. Here is a link to the slides if you were not able to attend:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1V98wmVfBxae2ysDgR2j9xH7NM4Fe6Yih>

We hope to see you at the next meeting in Seattle!



Best Paper Competition

The paper competition was led by co-chairs **Yanhan (Savannah) Tang** and **Alan Scheller-Wolf**.

There were **59** papers considered, and **5** papers were named finalists.

It was a very competitive field (19 more papers than last year!), and we are proud of the great research being conducted by our membership.

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

Amin Asadi	Gabriela Gongora-Svartzman	Minglong Zhou	Sait Tunc
Andrew Daw	Iris (Yixin) Wang	Mohammad Zhalechian	Sean Sinclair
Angela Zhou	Jason Acimovic	Nan Kong	Selvaprabu Nadarajah
Ann Campbell	Jay Sethuraman	Neda Mirzaeian	Shubham Akshat
Arian Aflaki	J�r�mie Gallien	Nitin Bakshi	Steven Shechter
Arielle Anderer	Jiding Zhang	Nur Sunar	Vahid Sarhangian
Armann Ingolfsson	Jinglong Zhao	Ohmad Eisenhandler	Vince Slauch
Cheng Hua	ingui Xie	Ozlem Ergun	Violet Chen
Christian Kaps	John Silberholz	Peter Zhang	Xiaofang Wang
David Czerwinski	Lavanya Marla	Pieter van den Berg	Xin Fang
Divya Singhvi	Leela Nageswaran	Prashant Chintapalli	Xin Wang
Ebru Bish	Luyi Yang	Pryiank Arora	Yanchong (Karen) Sheng
Emre Nadar	Mario Arrieta Prieto	Qiushi Chen	Yao Cui
Eunae Yoo	Maya Ganesh	Raghav Singal	Yeqing Zho
Faidra Monachou	Melih Celik	Reut Noham	Zhaowei She
Felipe Caro	Michael Hamilton	Saed Alizamir	Zhuoting April Yu
Fernanda Bravo			

Best Paper Competition Results

Best
Paper

Planning Bike Lanes with Data: Ridership, Congestion, and Path Selection

Sheng Liu, Auyon Siddiq, and Jingwei Zhang

Link: <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4055703>



Congratulations Sheng, Auyon, and Jingwei!

Best Paper Competition Results

Honorable Mention

Leapfrogging for Last-Mile Delivery in Health Care: Drone Delivery for Blood Products in Rwanda

Harriet Jeon, Claudio Lucarelli, Jean-Baptiste Mazarati, Donatien Ngabo, and Hummy Song

Link: <https://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4214918>

Finalists

Treatment Planning of Victims with Heterogeneous Time-sensitivities in Mass Casualty Incidents

Yunting Shi, Nan Liu, and Guohua Wan

Link: <https://doi.org/10.1287/opre.2021.0310>

Dynamic Budget Allocation for Public Health Procurement: A Multi-Product Inventory Model with Partial Backlogging

Iva Rashkova and Jérémie Gallien

Food Subsidies at the Base-of-the-Pyramid: Take-up, Substitution Effects and Nutrition

Ali Aouad, Kamalini Ramdas, and Alp Sungu

Congratulations to all!

Inaugural PSOR Best Video Competition

Sponsored by UC3M

The goal of PSOR's newest award is to showcase the amazing work of the PSOR community to a broader audience.

The competition was founded and chaired by **Phebe Vayanos**.

There were **11** videos submitted, and **4** were named finalists.

Selection Process

There were 2 rounds with equally weighted criteria:

- Relevance to public sector OR
- Potential for impact to grow community, showcase work, etc.
- Clarity of content
- Quality and originality

First round: evaluated by judges

Second round: 50% judge vote, 50% PSOR member vote

Competition Judges

Bryan Wilder
Cagil Kociyit
Nikos Trichakis
Yonatan Mintz
Faidra Monachou

Popular Vote

PSOR members

Thank you to all who participated.

Doing Good with Good OR

PSOR Best Video Competition Results

Sponsored by UC3M

Best
Video

Improving Access to Volunteers

Akshaya Suresh, Vahideh Manshadi, Scott Rodilitz, and Daniela Saban

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HN_WVggyL4A



Finalists

Operations Research in Milk Banking

Timothy Chan, Rachel Wong, Rafid Mahmood, Ian Zhu, Debbie Stone, Deborah O'Connor, and Sharon Unger

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwHTlrUojo>

Disrupting Sex Trading Recruitment Using Community-Based Resources

Bariş Tezcan, Kayse Lee Maass, Madeline Zhang, Molly Hodsdon, Rachael Cheung, Amy Farrell, Thomas Sharkey, Yongjia Song, Lauren Martin, and Kelle Barrick

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cz9wKfk2o1k>

Improving Emergency Department Flow

Jacob Jameson, Soroush Saghafian, and Nicole Hodgson

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=do6j8G9qUoM>

2024 PSOR Board of Officers

Biographies



President 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 of PSOR, I am looking forward to working with the wonderful PSOR officers, developing our society, and supporting our membership.



President-Elect 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 President-Elect and am looking forward to helping PSOR continue to raise awareness about public sector opportunities for its members, build relationships outside of academia, and provide valuable resources for the community.



Past-President Gemma Berenguer Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

I am a Ramón y Cajal Fellow and an Associate Professor 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 the current times present 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 in 2023 has been a true honor and I am proud of what the section has achieved this year. The most relevant and novel activities have been the launching of a new video award, changing the bylaws, and creating a new LinkedIn page and a new PSOR YouTube channel. Acting as Past-President in 2024 will be a big chance to continue actively participating in PSOR activities with a great group of board members and PSOR members.

2024 PSOR Board of Officers

Biographies



Secretary/Treasurer Iva Rashkova Washington University in St. Louis

I am an Assistant Professor of Supply Chain, Operations and Technology at Olin Business School, Washington University in St. Louis. My research focuses on public health considerations in food and medical supply chains, such as distributing medicines to underserved communities and incentivizing the provision of safe and nutritious food. I am excited to be formally involved with the PSOR community as a Secretary/Treasurer and contribute to a thriving, growing INFORMS subsection.



Senior Vice President of Programs Chris Zobel Virginia Tech

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 Senior VP of Programs, and I look forward to many interactions with the PSOR community over the coming year.



Junior Vice President of Programs Gabriela Gongora-Svartzman Carnegie Mellon University

I am an Assistant Teaching Professor for Heinz College of Information Systems and Public Policy, at Carnegie Mellon University. My research interests revolve around societal impact and improving people's quality of life. This involves research ranging from resilience to disruptions in transportation services, using social media to assess equity in social movements or to measure social cohesion for disaster preparedness, all the way to developing ethical machine learning frameworks for decarbonization strategies. I have served as a Session Chair for the PSOR cluster (2018-2021), a Judge for the PSOR 2023 Best Paper Award, and I look forward to contributing to PSOR as the incoming Junior Vice President of Programs.



Vice President of Communications Theodore T. Allen Ohio State

I am a Professor of Integrated Systems Engineering and Computer Science Engineering (Courtesy) at The Ohio State University. I earned my PhD degree from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor). My prior roles include serving on the board of the QSR section and as past president of the Social Media Analytics section. I will be the 2024 VP of Communications for the PSOR section.

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https://twitter.com/INFORMS_PSOR

