

IFORS

International Federation of Operational Research Societies

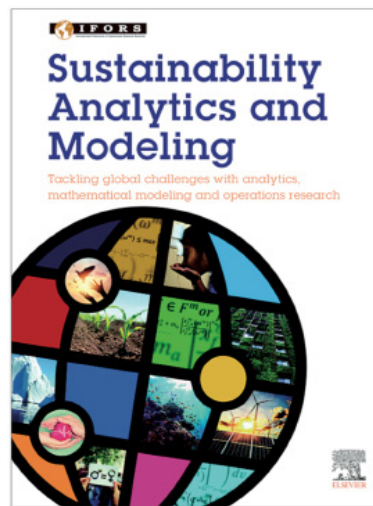
NEWS

From the President

A New IFORS journal is Born!

Grazia Speranza <grazia.speranza@unibs.it>

The International Transactions in Operational Research (ITOR) has been the flagship journal of IFORS since its launch in 1994. The journal has served the IFORS community for a number of years with publishing the proceedings of conferences and the biographies of key figures in the OR field, who now belong to the IFORS Hall of Fame (<https://www.ifors.org/ifors-hall-of-fame/>) The scientific editorial world substantially evolved over time, furthermore the ITOR mission expanded and began to publish high-quality scientific papers, capable of attracting citations. The initial goal for ITOR was to be indexed and then to increase the value of the key indicator of the success of a journal, its impact factor. Thanks to the commitment of the Editor-in-Chief, Celso Ribeiro, and the editorial board of the journal, year after year, ITOR has improved its impact factor (current impact factor: 2.987) and has become one of the leading journals for the OR community.



In addition to a well-established flagship journal, a global society such as IFORS has the responsibility to introduce new ventures. We asked ourselves: What should be the mission of a new IFORS journal? What will make it different from the other OR journals, in particular, from those related to scientific societies? IFORS gathers the global OR community. Therefore, we focused on a journal with a theme of global interest. This is how the new IFORS journal on Sustainability Analytics and Modeling (SAM) was born.

Sustainability is a word that is often associated with climate change, but has in fact a much broader meaning. In 1983 the United Nations General Assembly realized that there was a deterioration trend of the human environment and of the natural resources that needed to be reversed. The so-called Brundtland Commission was established with the mission to unite countries to pursue sustainable development. The Commission was chaired by Gro Harlem Brundtland, a former Prime Minister of Norway, chosen for her strong background in the sciences and public health. The Brundtland Commission released in 1987 a report titled 'Our Common Future', where the expression sustainable development was defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The three main pillars of sustainable development are: economic growth, environmental protection, and social equality. While most people agree that each of these three pillars contribute to the overall idea of sustainability, unequal levels of initiatives are observed for the three pillars in countries' policies worldwide. While an overwhelming number of countries put economic growth on the forefront of sustainable development, the other two pillars have been suffering.

With the launching of the journal Sustainability Analytics and Modeling, IFORS aims at attracting the interest of our community to the topic of sustainable development in the broadest sense. Papers published in SAM will contribute through mathematical modeling, optimization, data analysis, and other analytical approaches to the battle for a sustainable development of our planet. 🌍

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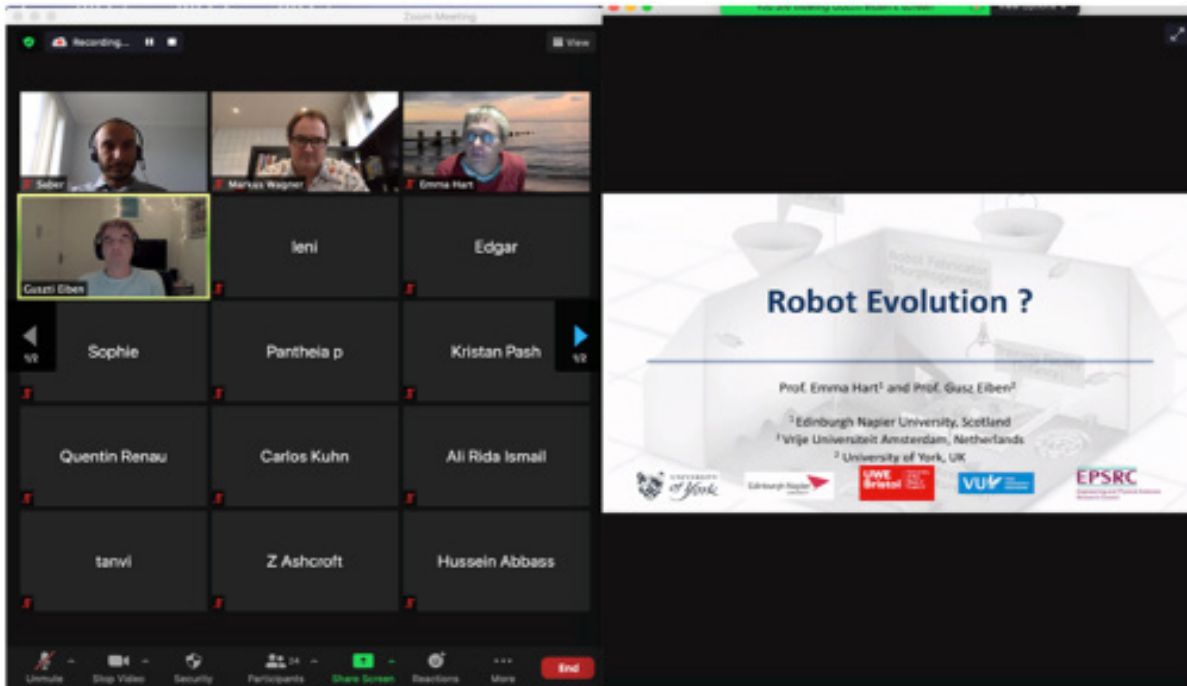
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▲ *IEEE Canberra AI 2020*: start of the session held by *Emma Hart* (Edinburgh Napier University) and *Guszt Eiben* (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam).

In the last session on December 7, again termed “*AI for dinner*”, *Song Guo* (Hong Kong Polytechnic University) first presented on “*Edge Learning for Distributed Big Data Analytics: Theory, Algorithm and System Design*”, before we concluded the summer school with *Emma Hart* (Edinburgh Napier University, UK) and *Guszt Eiben* (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands) “*Artificial Evolution of Robotic Ecosystems*”.

This online summer school has shown that modern technology based on machine learning as well as mathematics can bring us engaging summer schools despite travel bans. While many

of the established academics might be longing to see each other again in person, new teaching and interaction concepts open up academic events to audiences who could otherwise not participate, may it be due to health, political, or financial reasons. We are looking forward to seeing what the future will enable us to do - in the ever-growing fields of *AI* and *OR*, and in particular at their intersection.

Lastly, we would like to thank thank *Jiangjun Tang* and *Raul Zapata* for looking after the website, as well as *Yuanheng Zhu* and the *IEEE CIS* for making this summer school possible. 🌐

Innovation for Systems Information and Decision - The 2nd Meeting: Virtual Conference from Brazil



Prof. Dr. Danielle Morais (Recife, Brasil):
Program Chair of *INSID-2020*.

The *INSID* meeting is an event linked to the *INCT-INSID* (<http://insid.org.br>), which is a Brazilian project with a cooperative inter-institutional scientific network through international extensions for developing advanced research and applications on decision making and aiding (including multicriteria and multiobjective methods - *MCDM-A*, and group decision and negotiation - *GDN*). The *INCT-INSID* is led by *Prof. Adiel Teixeira de Almeida* from Universidade Federal de Pernambuco and has more than 10 international partners (<http://insid.org.br/>



Prof. Dr. Pascale Zaraté (Toulouse, France):
Member of scientific committee *INSID-2020*.

international-associate-partners/).

The *INSID* is an annual *International Conference on INnovation for Systems Information and Decision*. This meeting provides a forum for those working in developing advanced research and applications on decision making and aiding (including multicriteria and multiobjective methods - *MCDM-A*, and group decision and negotiation - *GDN*) since 2008, under the acronym *SIDS*.

The first *INSID* was held in 2019 in Natal, Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil. The second *INSID* has been at the Federal University of Pernambuco in Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil, from December 2-4, 2020. Due to the current situation of COVID-19, the *INSID 2020* happened virtually.

The *INSID 2020* presented long papers in proceedings published at Lectures Notes in Business Processing (LNBIP), Springer (*INSID 2020* was the first volume of proceedings in LNBIP Series). Short papers, extended abstracts and abstracts published in local proceeding. For *INSID 2020*, 8 long papers, 14 short papers, 31 extended abstracts and 29 abstracts have been presented during the conference.

Before the conference, the participants were asked to create a 15 minutes video of their presentation. The videos were broadcast for the participants according to the schedule of the event, and after each presentation, the participants had 5 minutes for live discussion. The program assigned a chair/co-chair for each session, which briefly introduced the session and requested to the technical support to broadcast the video. At the end of each presentation, the participants activated camera and microphone (in *google meet* platform) and discuss



INSID Innovation for Systems Information and Decision meeting about the paper.

INSID 2020 provided a stimulating environment for the dissemination of state-of-the-art and knowledge about *INnovation for Systems, Information and Decision* and allowed discussions among participants, exchanging ideas and critical comments.

A new *INSID* event will be organized next year hopefully in real life, in Recife/Brazil from December 1-4, 2021 (see the call for papers at <http://insid.events/insid2021/>). We hope that these events series could initiate new collaborations among all participants. 🌐

Promoting OR in Nigeria: IORMS 2020 Virtual Conference - “Overcoming Impacts of COVID-19”

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▲ IORMS 2020 Guest Speakers (from left to right): Prof. Adedeji Badiru, USA, Dr. Paula Carroll, Ireland, and Prof. Christopher Thron, USA.

The *Institute of Operational Research and Management Science (IORMS)*, a registered professional institute to promote, develop, and regulate the education and practice of Operational Research in Nigeria held its *3rd Annual International Conference* on November 17-19, 2020 (www.iorms.org.ng). The 1st and 2nd International Conferences took place in March 2018 at Akwa Ibom State University, Nigeria (www.aksu.edu.ng) and in July 2019 at Mountain Top University (MTU), Ogun State, Nigeria (www.mtu.edu.ng), respectively.

The *2020 IORMS conference* with the theme “*Overcoming Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic: An Operational Research*

Optimization Approach” was held as a virtual event due to the restrictions imposed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. The event kicked off at exactly 12 noon on Tuesday, November 17, with the opening announcement by the anchor of the conference, *Dr. Olabode Adewoye*. Immediately after the first activity, *Olugbenga Oso*, the Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee in his opening remarks, stated that the virtual conference intends to educate, inspire and expose participants to various tools of OR in tackling COVID-19. This ushered in the IORMS President and Chairman of Governing Council to declare the event open.