

Call for invited Papers

Methodology of Societal Complexity

The IFORS Conference on Operational Research

Operational Research: Developing communities, managing the connections between them

IFORS

South Africa , Africa

July 13-18 2008

Stream organizer: Dorien J. DeTombe
Chair International Research Society on Methodology of Societal Complexity
P.O. Box. 3286, 1001 AB Amsterdam,
The Netherlands, Europe Tel: +31 20 6927526
E-Mail: DeTombe@nosmo.nl
<http://www.geocities.com/doriendetombe>

The stream of methodology of societal complexity consists of:

Session I : Societal complexity and Safety
Session II : Societal complexity and Sustainable Development
Session III : Societal complexity and Healthcare

We welcome contributions of methodology of societal complexity

Send abstracts for one of these sessions as invited papers before 15 January 2008

Notification of acceptance: February 15, 2008

Deadline for super saver February 29, 2008

Deadline early registration April 30, 2008

Send abstracts/papers to:

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Session info: <http://www.geocities.com/doriendetombe/detombeIFORS2008.html>

General information of the Conference: www.ifors2008.org

The subject of Methodology of Societal Complexity:

Methodology of Societal Complexity focuses on methods and tools for handling complex societal problems. Handling means analyzing, structuring, guiding and evaluating complex societal problems. Complex societal problems are often policy problems that can occur in many fields, like in the Agro-industry (Mad-Cow disease, BSE; Foot- and Mouth disease; Fowl Plague, birds flu), in the transportation sector, in healthcare (Malaria, HIV/AIDS, Sars, Flu), in Water affairs and Global Safety. It focuses also on handling local safety problems like large city issues and natural disasters as flood and hurricanes as well as global safety problems like war, terrorism. Although many of these issues have a different cause, they have so much in common that they can be approached in the same way. Complex societal problems as such, are unstructured, dynamical and constantly changing and have a large impact on society on macro, meso and on micro level.

Handling complex societal problems needs a special interdisciplinary approach. The content knowledge comes from content experts. The process knowledge comes from facilitators. The attention of the research group is on the methods and tools facilitators need for supporting these kinds of problems. The facilitators use methods specially created for the field of societal problems combined with methods and insights derived from their original field like medicine, law, economics, societal sciences, methodology, mathematics, computer sciences, technology, engineering sciences, chaos theory and operational research. Often a combination of methods is needed. In this way the field uses all kind of methods from social sciences and operational research. An often-used approach is simulation. A simulation model is one of the powerful tools to describe societal complexity. With simulation models one cannot only understand the causal relations between the phenomena but also see what effect changes have.

Keywords: methodology, complex societal problems, decision, simulation, societal complexity

Important Dates

June 1, 2007 Abstract submission opens
December 15, 2007 Abstract submission deadline
February 29, 2008 Super-saver registration deadline Fee R 4490
May 1, 2008 Authors' registration deadline to appear in the printed programme
April 30, 2008 Early registration deadline Fee R 5240
June 30, 2008 Fee R 5990
July 13-18, 2008 Conference dates

Contacts and information:

For questions and information you may consult the IFORS website at www.ifors2008.org This may already answer many of your questions. You may also directly contact the Session Organizers.

Other activities organized by the International Research Society on Methodology of Societal Complexity see <http://www.geocities.com/doriendetombe/detombeagendas.html>