GROUP DECISION AND NEGOTIATION

GDN SECTION OF INFORMS

E-news • Issue 1 • November/2019

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Letter from the President

Dear members of the GDN section,

dear colleagues,

as president of the informs section on Group Decision and Negotiation, I warmly welcome you to the first issue of our GDN newsletter.

Group decision and negotiations are present everywhere in our lives. We bargain with our kids to go to school in time in the morning, we are members of teams who make group decisions at the workplace, we negotiate as part of our jobs and we discuss weekend plans with our families.

Thus, it is not surprising that many different scientific fields deal with problems of group decisions and negotiations. Economists and game theorist have studied bargaining problems using formal models for decades, psychologists and sociologists have performed countless empirical studies on the behavior in groups and of negotiators, negotiations are an important research topic in communication research, and more recently computer scientists have developed both systems that support users in group decisions and negotiations and algorithms for negotiations among autonomous software agents.

This diversity of our field is both an opportunity and a challenge. It is an opportunity, because it gives us the possibility to integrate research from many disciplines, to reach out into many fields and combine insights that were obtained by many different methods and that are based on very different theoretical approaches. It is a challenge, because a group that deals with such a wide range of topics from so many perspectives might easily lose its identity and it might not be clear what the group stands for.

Being a section of informs provides an identity to our group. On the one hand, operations research was always an interdisciplinary endeavor, combining insights from many scientific disciplines has characterized good OR work since the concept was established. On the other hand, OR always had a clear goal: supporting decision makers to find better solutions to their problems. This ultimate goal of supporting group members and negotiators in their tasks is a common ground that unites us beyond the common research interest in all forms of collective decision making.

Of course, as we all know, even the question what is "better" in a group decision or negotiation context is not easy to answer. It involves aspects of efficiency and fairness, of individual gains and improving relationships. We certainly cannot claim to have "the" answer to the difficult trade-offs between all these goals. However, in today's world, it sometimes seems necessary to remind actors that it is important to take into account the interests of many stakeholders when dealing with complex problems.

So there is plenty to do for us as researchers in group decisions and negotiations. Our section already has several activities in place to enable the exchange of knowledge and opinions among our members and at a wider scale. The journal Group Decision and Negotiation, which was started in 1992, is published by Springer in cooperation with the section. Under the editorship of Mel Shakun and now Gregory Kersten, it has developed into a well established journal with a high impact, that is ranked in the top quarter of journals in its category. Since the year 2000, the annual conferences on Group Decision and Negotiation organized by our section bring together researchers from various disciplines to discuss the latest developments in our field. The geographical dispersion of these conferences, which were already held at five continents (Asia, Australia, Europe, North and South America) clearly illustrates the global character of our group. Furthermore, Springer also publishes a book series "Advances in Group Decision and Negotiations" in collaboration with our section. This series contains for example the Handbook of Group Decisions and Negotiations, which is by now a standard reference volume to our field.

This newsletter is the latest addition to our activities. I would like to thank the editors, Eduarda Frej, Ginger Ke, and Danielle Morais for their initiative and for taking up this important task. I am sure they will do an excellent job in making this newsletter a success. However, even the best editorial team will not be able to create a good newsletter without input from you, our members. Please contribute to the newsletter by letting them know about your recent research, conferences and events you organize, activities of your research group and other information that might be of interest to the community.

I, and the entire GDN council, hope that this newsletter will further help to strengthen the ties between the members of our section, lead to new collaborations between members and contribute to advancing our field. It is one of several activities (such as strengthening our presence in social media) that we undertake to increase the outreach of section. Please let us know if the section can support you in other ways in your contributions to our field. Do not hesitate to contact me at rudolf.vetschera@univie.ac.at, or the two vice presidents Adiel Almeida and Liping Fang, with any ideas, suggestions, or wishes about how the section can contribute to your work. The success of our members in improving group decisions and negotiations round the world is the success of the section.

1. SOCIETY NEWS

1.1. Group Decision and Negotiation Conference (GDN 2020)

The 20th International Conference on Group Decision and Negotiation will take place at Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada, from June 7 to 11, 2020. This event is organized by the Group Decision and Negotiation (GDN) Section, Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS).

The annual INFORMS GDN conference provides a forum for researchers from Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania. The Conference is the premier venue for academics, practitioners, teachers, consultants, and graduate students involved in every aspect of group decision and negotiation involving human as well as artificially intelligent agents.

The conference will include several keynote presentations by world-class experts, including a presentation of the 2020 winner of the GDN Section Award, which will be announced at the conference. Numerous presentations and panels will feature internationally renowned researchers. The conference will also support junior researchers by offering a dedicated student track and a doctoral consortium. The GDN Section will provide travel grants for up to two qualified junior researchers.

Selected papers will be published in a volume of the Springer Lecture Notes in Business Information Systems and possibly special issues of the Group Decision and Negotiation Journal and other journals. The submitted papers will be considered for GDN Springer Best Paper Awards ($600 and $400) and GDN Springer Young Researcher Awards ($300 and $200).

More information about doctoral consortium, paper submission, awards, focused streams, workshops and sessions as well as about deadlines and fees is available on the GDN 2020 website (http://gdnconference.org/gdn2020/).

We cordially invite you to join GDN 2020 in the dynamic, diverse, vibrant, and creative City of Toronto,

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Gregory Kersten, Honorary Chair
Keith Hipel, Adiel de Almeida, and Rudolf Vetschera, General Chairs
Liping Fang, Danielle Morais, and Masahide Horita, Program Chairs

1.2.   Call for Papers GDN 2020

You are cordially invited to submit papers to the 20th International Conference on Group Decision and Negotiation. The field of Group Decision and Negotiation focuses on decision processes with at least two participants and a common goal. Such processes are complex and self-organizing and constitute multi-participant, multi-criteria, ill-structured, dynamic, creative, and often evolutionary problems. Major approaches include:

1. Information systems, in particular negotiation support systems (NSSs) and group decision support systems (GDSs)

2. Cognitive and behavioral sciences as applied to group decision and negotiation

3. Conflict analysis and resolution

4. Applied game theory, experiment and social choice

5. Artificial intelligence

6. Management science as it relates to group decision making and negotiation. Many research initiatives combine two or more of these approaches.

Group Decision and Negotiation can be performed in an intra-organizational as well as an inter-organizational context. Both consist of complex processes, including preference elicitation, proposals and counter-proposals, preference adjustment, and choice. Communication and decision making are the two key process steps in Group Decision and Negotiation and thus require sophisticated support in many ways.

Application areas of Group Decision and Negotiation include intra-organizational and inter-organizational coordination (as in operations management and integrated design, production, finance, marketing and distribution functions, such as coordination of all phases of the life cycle of a product), computer-supported collaborative work and meetings, electronic negotiations including negotiating agents and negotiation support systems, labor-management negotiations, inter-organizational, intercultural negotiations, environmental negotiations, and many others.

Themes and areas of interest include but are not limited to the following:

Methodological & Theoretical Foundations
- Auction theory
- Bargaining theory
- Collaboration engineering
- Conflict analysis and resolution
- Design research in negotiation systems
- Game theory
- Multicriteria decision making
- Decision and negotiation analysis
- Social choice theory
- Modelling and simulation using software agents
- Machine learning

Technological Foundations
- Animation and visualization
- Artificial intelligence methods in GDN
- Distributed GDN technologies
- E-negotiation platforms and systems
- Multi-agent systems
- Virtual worlds and environments for GDN
- Collaborative information technologies
- Group support systems

Behavioral Aspects
- Comparisons of auction and negotiation mechanisms
- Creativity in GDN
- Characteristics of cross-cultural and intracultural negotiation
- Emotions in GDN
- Gender and negotiation
- Facilitation
- Impact, adoption and evaluation of GDN technologies
- Interaction of human and software agents
- Experimental studies in GDN
- Learning and teaching
- Micro-Processes

Applications
- Business
- Policy
- Diplomacy and international relationships
- Education
- Water and natural resources
- Sustainability
- Software engineering

Papers can be submitted as full papers to be published either in Conference proceedings by Springer in the Book series of LNBIP (Lecture Notes in Business Information Processing) or as abstracts/extended abstracts/full papers to be published in Local Proceedings.

In the Local Proceedings the authors will keep the copyright. After the reviewing process, the authors could choose to replace their full paper in the Local Proceedings for abstract only. However, to be considered for the Conference Awards evaluation process, those papers should be available as full papers in the Local Proceedings, which will be on a stick that is given only to conference participants, at the beginning of the conference.

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The topics are organized in conference streams that can be found on the conference website (http://gdnconference.org/gdn2020/streams/). Research in Group Decision and Negotiation has continued to expand, and many new research directions have been proposed. At GDN conferences, we encourage researchers to present research in Group Decision and Negotiation even if (in fact, especially if) it does not fit into any of the above areas. We particularly invite Bachelor and Master students to submit their work to the dedicated Student Stream.

Important dates:

1. Deadline for the submission to the Springer Proceedings: **December 15, 2019**.

2. Deadline for the submission to the Local Proceedings: **January 31, 2020**.

3. Deadline for the submission to the Doctoral Consortium: **March 16, 2020**.

1.3.   2019 GDN Awards

1.3.1.   2019 Group Decision and Negotiation Section Award

The GDN INFORMS Section honors **Tung Bui** for his outstanding contributions to research in the field of Group Decision and Negotiation and outstanding contributions to the GDN Section. The award was granted in the 2019 GDN conference, which took place in Loughborough – England (see conference website).

1.3.2.   2019 GDN Springer Best Paper Award

Winners: Y. Fang, H. Xu, M. Perc & S. Chen
Paper: *The Effect of Conformists' Behavior on Cooperation in the Spatial Public Goods Game.*

Runner up: Q. Han, G. Ke & Y. Zhu
Paper: *Evaluating the Risks Associated with Applying Public-Private-Partnership in Brownfields Remediation Projects in China*

1.3.3.   2019 GDN Springer Young Researcher Award

Winner: M.F. Kaya
Paper: *Application of Data Mining Methods for Pattern Recognition in Negotiation Support Systems*
Paper written with M. Schoop.

Runner up: T. Gherman
Paper: *Managing Resistance in Group Decision Support: Preliminary Findings from a Study of Client-consultant Interactions in a Progress Meeting*
Paper written with L.A. Franco & A. Carreras.

More information about the awards and awardees, and past and future GDN Conferences is available at the [GDN INFORMS website](#).

Source: GDN Journal.

1.4. Call for nominations 2020 GDN Section Award

We are seeking nominations for the 2020 Group Decision and Negotiation Section Award.

The GDN INFORMS Section Award honors an individual who has made outstanding contributions to research in the field of Group Decision and Negotiation and/or outstanding contributions to the GDN Section. The contributions justifying the award may be recent or they may have been made over the recipient's lifetime. The Award will be accompanied by a Citation, to be prepared by the Section Award Committee, describing the recipient's contributions to Group Decision and Negotiation.

The 2020 GDN Section Award is scheduled to be presented during the GDN conference dinner in Toronto, in June 2020. The Award Recipient will be invited to give a keynote at the conference.

Nominations should explain why the nominee is deserving of the GDN Section Award, specifying exceptional research contributions to the field of Group Decision and Negotiation, and/or outstanding service within and for the GDN Section. The nomination letter should not exceed two pages in length, and should be submitted to the Section Award Committee Chair (see below) prior to the nomination deadline. The letter should be in a suitable electronic form, for example pdf, and should be received on or before **February 25, 2020**.

Nomination letters should be sent to Adiel Teixeira de Almeida at: almeida@cdsid.org.br.

The GDN Section Award Committee

      Adiel Teixeira de Almeida (Chair)
      Pascale Zarate
      Tung Bui

1.5. Group Decision and Negotiation Cluster at INFORMS Annual Meeting

In 2019, for the first time, a cluster of the GDN Section was organized at INFORMS Annual Meeting, which took place in Seattle (US), from October 20 to 23, 2019. GDN Section clusters have been organized before at INFORMS international conferences in Toronto (Canada) and Taipei (Taiwan), but at the Annual Meeting it was the first time in 2019. For the next years, the idea is to continue with our own cluster at the Annual Meeting, and we will start to invite members of our community to organize sessions for the 2020 cluster.

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2. MEMBERS NEWS AND AWARDS

2.1. Keith W. Hipel awarded Friendship Award by China

Professor Keith W. Hipel received the *2019 China Friendship Award*, China's highest recognition bestowed upon foreign experts for "their important contributions to the promotion of China's modernization, friendly exchanges and mutually beneficial cooperation between China and foreign countries". Dr. Hipel is *University Professor* of Systems Design Engineering at the University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, where he is the *Coordinator* of the Conflict Analysis Group, *Past President* of the Academy of Science within the Royal Society of Canada, *Senior Fellow* with the Centre for International Governance Innovation, *Fellow* with the Balsillie School of International Affairs, and *Past Chair* of the Board of Governors of Renison University College. He has visited China on many occasions as a foreign expert since 1982.

Professor Hipel is *Officer* of the Order of Canada, *Foreign Member* of the National Academy of Engineering (*NAE*) of the United States of America, as well as *Fellow* of the Royal Society of Canada (*FRSC*), Canadian Academy of Engineering (*FCAE*), Engineering Institute of Canada (*FEIC*), American Association for the Advancement of Science (*FAAAS*), Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (*IEEE*), International Council on Systems Engineering (*FINCOSE*), American Society of Civil Engineers (*FASCE*), and American Water Resources Association (*FAWRA*). He is recipient of the *2013 Group Decision and Negotiation Section Award* to honor his outstanding contributions to research in the field of Group Decision and Negotiation (GDN) and outstanding contributions to the GDN Section and Journal; *Joseph G. Wohl Outstanding Career Award*, *Norbert Wiener Award*, *Outstanding Contribution Award*, and *Most Active SMC Technical Committee Award*, all from the IEEE Systems, Man and Cybernetics

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(SMC) Society; *Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Eminent Scientist Award*; *Killam Prize in Engineering* from the Canada Council for the Arts; *Docteur Honoris Causa* (*DrHC*) from École Centrale de Lille; *Doctor Honoris Causa* (*DrHC*) from Obuda Universiy; *Honorary Doctorate of Science* from Vancouver Island University; *Honorary Member* designation and *W.R. Boggess Award* from AWRA; *Honorary Diplomate, Water Resources Engineers* (*Hon.D.WRE*) from the American Academy of Water Resources Engineers within ASCE; *Ven Te Chow Award* from the Environmental and Water Resources Institute of ASCE; *Sir John William Dawson Medal* and *Miroslaw Romanowski Medal* from the RSC; *Distinguished Teacher Award, Faculty of Engineering Teaching Excellence Award,* and *Award of Excellence in Graduate Supervision* from the University of Waterloo; *Outstanding Engineering Educator Award* from IEEE Canada; and *Engineering Medal for Research and Development* from Professional Engineers Ontario.

2.2. Roman Slowinski joins INFORMS Fellows Class of 2019

Roman Slowinski, Professor & Founding Chair, Poznań University of Technology (Poland), has been elevated to the grade of Fellows of INFORMS by the 2019 Fellows Selection Committee. He contributed for outstanding service to the O.R. community worldwide over an extended period of time and significant contributions that advanced the stature and recognition of the OR/MS profession.

Roman Slowinski contributed also to the field of Group Decision and Negotiation. In 2013, he published an article together with Milosz Kadziński and Salvatore Greco "Selection of a representative value function for robust ordinal regression in group decision making", in *Group Decision and Negotiation* journal, 2013, 22(3), pp. 429-462. He was Keynote Speaker at the GDN conference in Warsaw (Poland), in 2015, and also in Nanjing (China), 2018.

This is the highest honor within INFORMS. The Group Decision and Negotiation community congratulates Roman Slowinski for this great achievement and well-deserved recognition.

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2.3. Paper on FITradeoff Method won the EURO Award for the Best EJOR Paper in theory/methodology category

The paper related to the FITradeoff method, "A new method for elicitation of criteria weights in additive models: Flexible and interactive tradeoff", was awarded the "EURO Award for the Best EJOR Paper", an award that elects the best article published in the European Journal of Operational Research (EJOR), which is ranked among the top 15% in the area of operational research and management science in ISI/JCR classification.

Since 2012, EURO (Association of European Operational Research Societies) awards the best papers published in EJOR in three distinct categories: "best survey paper", "best application paper" and "best theory / methodology".

The FITradeoff paper article was awarded in the "best theory / methodology" category, having competed with all works published during 2016 and 2017 in the EJOR journal, totaling 1381 competing papers. It was presented on June 26 during the closing session of the EURO Conference, which took place this year in Dublin, Ireland.

The paper authored by Adiel Teixeira de Almeida, Jonatas Araujo de Almeida, Ana Paula Cabral Seixas Costa and Adiel Teixeira de Almeida Filho, from Federal University of Pernambuco – UFPE, is the first paper published about FITradeoff method, which since its publication, has already generated several other awards for work published in international conferences with applications in various contexts.

A Decision Support System for FITradeoff is available for free download at www.fitradeoff.org. The FITradeoff site includes support information for its use and cases and several publications with methodological and applications information, as well as extra information about the method.

The awarded publication was viewed or downloaded from more than 60 countries using the ScienceDirect platform: Brazil; China; United States; United Kingdom; Netherlands; Turkey; India; France; Australia; Iran; Poland; Portugal; Taiwan; Indonesia; Finland; Germany; Hong Kong; Italy; Spain; Japan; Greece; South Korea; Switzerland; Canada; Belgium; Colombia; New Zealand; Tunisia; Saudi Arabia; Mexico; Serbia; Thailand; Malaysia; Sweden; Austria; South Africa; Argentina; Slovenia; Oman; Singapore; Lithuania; Slovakia; Russia; Ireland; Pakistan; Israel; Chile; Denmark; Nigeria; Romania; Bulgaria; Zambia; Philippines; Bahrain; Iceland; Czech Republic; Ethiopia; Egypt; Peru; Morocco.

A new method for elicitation of criteria weights in additive models: Flexible and interactive tradeoff

De Almeida A , De Almeida J , Costa A , De Almeida-Filho A

European Journal of Operational Research, vol. 250, issue 1 (2016)

Citations	Views
45	2.696

For free download of the EJOR award-winning paper. go to
https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0377221715008140

3. NEW BOOKS/PUBLICATIONS

3.1. Group Decision and Negotiation Handbook

The editors, Marc Kilgour and Colin Eden, are happy to say that the updated Group Decision and Negotiation Handbook is coming together nicely. There will be many new chapters as well as updated previous chapters. The new Handbook will be a Springer Major Reference Work, and so chapters will be published electronically as soon as they have been reviewed and approved. Some chapters are already available to you (through the normal Springer arrangements with your library):

- Impact of cognitive style on group decision and negotiation by Sonia Adam-Ledunois, Sebastian Damart
- Collaboration Engineering for Group Decision and Negotiation by Gert-Jan de Vreede, Robert Briggs, Gwen Kolfschoten
- Communication media and negotiation: A review by Ingmar Geiger
- Same-time Different-place Group Support by Mike Yearworth, Leroy White
- Procedural justice in Group Decision Support by Parmjit Kaur, Ashley Carreras

Many more chapters are currently in production and will be published soon.

3.2. GDN 2019 Springer Proceedings
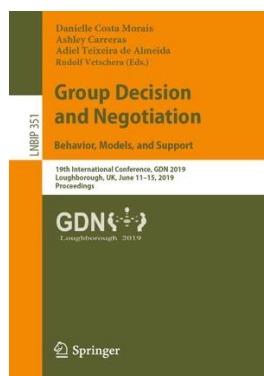
The Springer Proceedings of GDN 2019, which took place in Loughborough (UK), June 7-9, is published:

- D. Costa Morais, A. Carreras,. A. Teixeira de Almeida and R. Vetschera: Group Decision and Noegotiaiton - Behavior, Models and Support. Springer Lecture Notes in Business Information Processing LNBIP 351, 2019.

3.3. A Triplet of Booklets on Paradoxical Aspects of Voting Rules

1. Dan S. Felsenthal and Hannu Nurmi, Monotonicity Failures Afflicting Procedures for Electing a Single Candidate. Springer Briefs in Economics. Cham: Springer 2017. ISBN 978-3-319-51060-6. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-319-51061-3. viii + 88p
2. Dan S. Felsenthal and Hannu Nurmi, Voting Procedures for Electing a Single Candidate. Proving Their (In)Vulnerability to Various Voting Paradoxes. Springer Briefs in Economics. Cham: Springer 2018. ISBN 978-3-319-74032-4. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-319-74033-1. xv+134p
3. Dan S. Felsenthal and Hannu Nurmi, Voting Procedures Under a Restricted Domain. An Examination of the (In)Vulnerability of 20 Voting Procedures to Five Main Paradoxes. Springer Briefs in Economics. Cham: Springer 2019. ISBN 978-3-030-12626-1. DOI 10.1007/978-3-030-12627-8. x+92p.

Over the past three years Dan S. Felsenthal (1938 – 2019) and Hannu Nurmi have published three brief treatises on voting rules focusing particularly on their vulnerability to various types of paradoxes. The first booklet deals with monotonicity-related properties and paradoxes. It includes a chapter co-authored by Felsenthal and Nicolaus Tideman. Monotonicity is regarded as one of the most important hallmarks of democratic decision rules. Monotonicity paradoxes or failures may occur in fixed or variable electorates (e.g. the more-is-less or no-show paradoxes). They may be downward or upward oriented. In the former case a group of voters ranking candidate x last may – by joining an electorate where, before their entrance, y wins – bring about the victory of x, the worst candidate in the opinion of the entrants. In upward oriented paradoxes an additional support for a winning candidate may render it non-winning. The booklet discusses the vulnerability of 13 voting rules to various types of monotonicity paradoxes under fixed and variable electorates. The vulnerability is demonstrated through fictitious examples, while invulnerability is proven by a theoretical argument to the effect that the paradox can occur under no conceivable profile of preferences.

The second booklet takes a broader view on voting paradoxes. In all, 13 paradoxes are introduced along with the susceptibility of three non-ranked, six ranked non-Condorcet and eight ranked Condorcet procedures to these paradoxes. The first three procedures do not require complete and transitive preference rankings of the voters in order to be implementable. The six ranked non-Condorcet procedures are characterized by their occasional failure to result in a Condorcet winner – i.e. a candidate that would defeat all others in pairwise majority comparisons – when

one exists. The eight ranked Condorcet procedures, in turn, always result in a Condorcet winner when there is one. The method of showing the vulnerability is the same as in the first booklet.

The main question addressed in the third booklet is: are the most common voting rules vulnerable to paradoxes in the domains where a Condorcet winner exists and is elected? The motivation of this question is the conclusion derived from many probability and simulation studies according to which profiles with cyclic majorities (where no Condorcet winner exists) are far less common than those with Condorcet winners. The paradoxes investigated pertain to monotonicity (in various senses of the concept), consistency, subset choice condition, no-show paradox and well as the preference inversion paradox. The method of proof is the same as in the two preceding booklets.

3.4. Systems, Procedures and Voting Rules in Context: A Primer for Voting Rule Selection

Authors: de Almeida, Adiel Teixeira, Morais, Danielle Costa, Nurmi, Hannu

- Covers the topic of choosing voting procedures for business organization decision process
- Is the only book dealing with choice of voting rules for business context
- Provides a structured framework for choosing voting procedures in business decision process
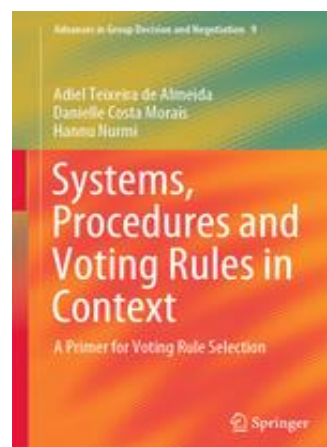
This book is part of the series Advances in Group Decision and Negotiation and deals with the choice of methods to be applied in the decision processes within organizations. It discusses the use of voting procedures for group decision in business organizations, focusing on decision-making contexts. Within this book the reader explores the relevant part of the decision-making process consisting of choosing the voting procedures and recognizing the drawbacks of that procedure. This book includes a unique feature of providing a framework for choosing the voting procedure that is the most appropriate for a particular business decision process. The book is useful for a broad researcher audience dealing with the group decision making processes within business organizations and for practitioners and students working in the group decision and negotiation field.

If you want your recent publications to appear in the next newsletter, please send an email to newsletter@gdnconference.org.

4. GROUP DECISION AND NEGOTIATION JOURNAL
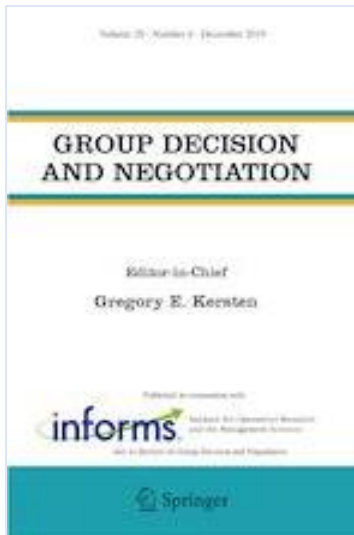
Group Decision and Negotiation is unique; we publish papers from many disciplines that deal with every aspect of group and negotiated decisions. The Journal is both/ eclectic and focused; it transcends well-established disciplines and at the same time maintains its roots in organization science, economics, social sciences, applied mathematics, and computer science. The Journal provides a venue for scholars from every field of study: practitioners involved in giving expertise to governments and corporations, scientists studying human and organizational behavior, and engineers developing and deploying systems.

The idea for the *Group Decision and Negotiation* journal came up from Mel Shakun in the summer of 1990 who, together with a group of colleagues, established the INFORMS GDN Section. Since the early 1990s, the Journal has been closely associated with the GDN Section, which is shown on its cover page. Many members of the Editorial Board are active members of the INFORMS section; they serve as the Departmental and Associate Editors and as Reviewers and Authors.

The purpose of the Journal is to provide scholars and practitioners involved with the different aspects of group decision and negotiation with content relevant to their work. The fields of study that belong to GDN are both those that are well established and those that are emerging. The established fields increasingly employ newly developed methods and technologies, while the new and emerging fields verify and adapt well-known theories to new circumstances. This means that the fields of study do not only evolve but also become increasingly intertwined. For example, research in psychology and sociology often relies on artificial intelligence and decision support systems, economics incorporates social-psychological approaches, and artificial intelligence increasingly relies on results coming from psychology and management. To keep the Journal relevant to our readers we need to continue publishing high quality articles from the established disciplines as well as the emerging ones.

Maintaining the multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary nature of the Journal and continuing to increase its high quality are challenging objectives and the Board strives to achieve them. We actively search for the best manuscripts from economics, management, political science, psychology, cognitive science, sociology as well as artificial intelligence, computer science, engineering, and fuzzy systems. The challenge

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is to attract good manuscripts from these areas and to provide the best possible review process that increases the manuscripts' quality. In addition, we need to maintain the right balance of fields of study that the Journal covers so that a currently fashionable area does not dominate the issues.

I wish to thank the editors of the GDN Newsletter, Eduarda Frej, Ginger Ke and Danielle Morais for their initiative and for taking up this important task. I hope that the newsletter will enrich the relationship among the GDN members and contribute to the increase of the Section's membership. This, in turn, will help the Journal to maintain its growth in terms of both the quality and quantity of the published articles and the Journal's standing. The Journal Impact Factor and other indicators have been improving and I do hope that this will continue in the coming years. The GDN INFORMS Section, GDN Conferences, GDN Springer awards, and the Newsletter are instrumental to *Group Decision and Negotiation* not only maintaining its position but also becoming a better journal. Therefore, I ask the Readers of this Newsletter to contribute your best works and to write good reviews of the submitted papers. Let me know, if you would like to play a more active role in the Journal.

The *Group Decision and Negotiation* website is at https://www.springer.com/journal/10726. There you will find information about upcoming issues, new articles, the next GDN Conference, GDN Springer awards, information about the Special Issues and call for papers. The Guidelines for the Authors and the Guidelines for Special Issues are also available on the website.

Gregory Kersten

Editor-in-Chief

5. IMPRINTS

Eduarda Frej: newsletter@gdnconference.org; eafrej@cdsid.org.br

Danielle Morais: dcmorais@cdsid.org.br

Ginger Ke: gingerk@mun.ca

We are working on publishing the newsletter of the Group Decision and Negotiation Section of INFORMS two times a year, July and November. The deadline for the July issue is June 30, and the issue is intended to be published by the end of July. The deadline for the November issue is October 30, and the issue is intended to be published by the end of July. Contributions can be sent at any time to the editor (please see the address provided above).

In Memoriam

Tobias W. Langenegger (1986 – 2019)

Tobias W. Langenegger was born on May 05, 1986 in Zurich. He passed away on August 22nd, 2019 after an unexpected and unexplained complication of elective surgery.

Tobias received B.Sc. and Ph.D. from the ETH Zurich (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich). Between 2014 and 2019, he was a scientific assistant and lecturer at the Department of Management, Technology, and Economics at ETH Zurich. His research interests included conflict dynamics, international politics, and environmental negotiations and the development of practical negotiation approaches and has experiences in negotiation consulting for administration and governmental bodies.

Tobias was a very active member of the GDN community and participated in several GDN Conferences. In 2016, Tobias won the GDN Springer Young Researcher Award (Runner Up) for the paper "A Sequential Repeated Sanction Model Exemplified by the Case of Iran", which he presented at the 16th International Conference on Group Decision and Negotiation in Bellingham, USA. And, in 2017, he won the GDN Springer Young Researcher Award for the paper for the paper "Micro-Level Perspective on Sanction Conflicts: An Agent-Based Simulation Approach", which he presented at the 17th International Conference on Group Decision and Negotiation in Stuttgart, Germany. In 2018, together with Michael Ambühl, Tobias published an article "Negotiation Engineering: A

Quantitative Problem-Solving Approach to Negotiation" in Group Decision and Negotiation, 2018, 27(1), pp. 9-31.

The Editorial Board of the Group Decision and Negotiation journal and the GDN community will miss our good friend and a very likable person. We will miss Tobias as not only a researcher and contributing author, but also as a friend, whose lively presence and warm smile brightened our meetings and seminars. We expected that in a few years, Tobias would become one of the key members of the GDN journal and the Section management.

We think of you and your family.

Source: GDN Journal.

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