



GROUP DECISION AND NEGOTIATION

GDN SECTION OF INFORMS

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Letter from the President

Dear Members of the Group Decision and Negotiation (GDN) Section,

Welcome to the fourteenth issue of our INFORMS Group Decision and Negotiation (GDN) Section Newsletter.

The 26th International Conference on Group Decision and Negotiation (GDN 2026) was held in Katowice, Poland, hosted by the University of Economics in Katowice, from June 28th to July 1st, 2026.



I would like to address my warmest thanks to the University of Economics in Katowice, Poland for hosting the 26th GDN Conference and more especially to the organising committee:

- Tomasz Wachowicz (chair)
- Marek Szopa
- Maciej Nowak
- Tadeusz Trzaskalik
- Ewa Michalska
- Jerzy Michnik
- Krzysztof Targiel
- Renata Dudzińska-Baryła
- Anna Gorczyca-Goraj
- Krzysztof Grzanka

Sławomir Jarek The conference attracted 95 participants from 19 countries, 89 submissions. 70 submissions were selected for presentation:

- 67 presentations organised in 9 streams
- 3 presentations in the doctoral consortium

During the conference the following awards were assigned to:

1. 2026 GDN Section Award: Roman Slowinski, University of Poznan, Poland
2. 2026 GDN Appreciation for Outstanding Service Award: Liping Fang, Toronto Metropolitan University, Canada
3. 2026 Gregory Kersten GDN Journal Best Paper Award: T. Wachowicz and E. Roszkowska
4. 2026 Gregory Kersten GDN Journal Best Paper Runner up: T. Suzuki
5. 2026 GDN Springer Best Paper Award: Atefeh Jebeli, Manmohan Aseri, Balaji Padmanabhan
6. 2026 GDN Springer Best Paper Runner up: Lennart Rukower, Muhammed-Fatih Kaya, Mareike Schoop
7. 2026 GDN Springer Best Student Paper Award: Kazuki Matsuo, Masahide Horita
8. 2026 GDN Springer Best Student Paper Award: Ayato Kitadai, Shunta Yoshimura, Takuya Nakashima, Noora Torpo, Rei Miratsu, Naoki Mizutani, Nariaki Nishino

I would like to thank all members of all committees who hardly work to select these winners. Congratulations to all winners!!!

During the conference several social activities were organised:

- Visit to the Guido Mine
- Gala Dinner & “Masters of Film Music”

A very special thanks to Tomasz Wachowicz and his team for the perfect organisation!!!

I would like to announce the next conference 27th GDN conference that will be organised at Chengdu, China, June 6th to 9th 2027. The call for papers will be distributed after the summer (winter) break.

I am grateful to Eduarda Asfora Frej for her dedicated work in coordinating and editing the GDN Section Newsletter since its commencement.

I would like to thank most sincerely my GDN Section Council colleagues Tomasz Wachowicz, Danielle Morais, and Ginger Ke, Masahide Horita for their dedicated and excellent service to the Section. We organise monthly meetings and the most difficult concern was to find the right time among the following countries: Canada, Brazil, Japan, France, Poland.

On behalf of the GDN Section Council, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a most pleasant summer break (winter break for some of you). Enjoy your Holidays.

Pascale Zaraté
July 2026

Group Decision and Negotiation Conference

• *Report on GDN 2026*

26th International Conference on Group Decision and Negotiation – Katowice, Poland

The 26th International Conference on Group Decision and Negotiation (GDN 2026) was held at the University of Economics in Katowice (UEKat), Poland, from June 28 to July 1, 2026. GDN 2026 was co-organized by the Department of Operations Research at UEKat and the Group Decision and Negotiation Section of the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS). The event was also co-financed by the Polish Minister of Science and Higher Education under the "Regional Initiative of Excellence" programme.

Continuing its long-standing tradition, the conference provided an international forum bringing together researchers and practitioners from around the world to disseminate state-of-the-art knowledge and exchange ideas in the field of group decision and negotiation. This year, the conference attracted 98 participants from 20 countries. Following a rigorous review process supported by the Program Committee members and external reviewers, 70 papers were selected for presentation. These contributions were published across the Springer LNBIP proceedings volume (<https://gdnconference.org/gdn2026/springer-proceedings/>) and a local proceedings volume (<https://gdnconference.org/gdn2026/local-proceedings/>) for authors who chose to retain copyright of their work.

The conference programme included three keynote presentations (including the INFORMS GDN Section Award keynote), five parallel presentation sessions, the GDN Best Paper and Best Student Paper Award sessions, and the GDN Doctoral Consortium session. The programme also included the Mel Shakun Celebration Session, the Business Meeting, the GDN Journal meeting, and the opening and closing sessions.

The scientific programme was organised into nine streams, reflecting the breadth of research submitted to GDN 2026:

- Conflict Resolution
- Negotiation Support Systems and Studies
- Preference Modelling for Group Decision and Negotiation
- Collaborative Decision Making
- Intelligent Group Decision Making and Consensus Process
- Risk Evaluation and Negotiation Strategies
- Data Analytics as the Vehicle Assisting Negotiation Diplomacy
- Artificial Intelligence in Group Decision and Negotiation
- Behavioural Issues in Model-driven Group Decision Support

The conference opened on Sunday, June 28, with the Doctoral Consortium, chaired by Program Co-chair Marek Szopa. In this session, three pre-doctoral students presented their preliminary work and received feedback from senior members of the community. The session was followed by the Welcome Reception.



GDN 2026 conference. Katowice, 2026.

The scientific programme featured three keynote addresses. On Monday, June 29, the plenary session was dedicated to the 2026 INFORMS GDN Section Award, presented to Roman Słowiński (Poznan University of Technology and Systems Research Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences), who delivered the address "Constructive Preference Learning." He presented a personal synthesis of constructive preference learning, introducing a preference modelling framework based on a seven-valued logic to aggregate multiple criteria and a plurality of perspectives.

On Tuesday, June 30, Professor Sarit Kraus (Bar-Ilan University, Israel) delivered the keynote "Smarter Together? Assisting Humans in a World of Intelligent Agents." Her talk explored how intelligent advising agents can reduce cognitive load and foster goal alignment within human–AI–robot teams, with the aim of ensuring that their combined performance exceeds that of either working alone — summarised in the formula $AI + Human > \max(AI, Human)$.

On Wednesday, July 1, Miłosz Kadziński (Poznan University of Technology, Poland) delivered the keynote "When Rules Meet Plurality: From Rough Sets to Group Decision Aiding," a talk with particular relevance to the host country given Poland's role as the birthplace of rough set theory. Drawing on two case studies from the energy sector, he showed how the Dominance-based Rough Set Approach can serve as a transparent framework for group decision aiding.

The finalists of the GDN Springer Best Paper Award presented their papers in a session chaired by Masahide Horita, while the finalists of the GDN Springer Best Student Paper Award presented in a session chaired by Rudolf Vetschera. Due to circumstances that prevented one of the Best Student Paper Award finalists from travelling to Katowice, this session was held in hybrid format for the first time, while still meeting all requirements established for the award competition sessions.

This year, two equal GDN Springer Best Student Paper Awards were presented, to Kazuki Matsuo and Ayato Kitadai for their co-authored papers. The GDN Springer Best Paper Runner-Up award went to the paper by Lennart Rukower, Muhammed-Fatih Kaya, and Mareike Schoop. The GDN Springer Best Paper Award was won by Atefeh Jebeli, Manmohan Aseri, and Balaji Padmanabhan.

The conference included the Mel Shakun Celebration Session, chaired by Marc Kilgour and Tung Bui. Mel Shakun passed away on February 7, 2026. He was a founding figure of the GDN community: he

established the Group Decision and Negotiation Section of INFORMS, founded the Group Decision and Negotiation journal (Springer), and served as General Chair of the first GDN conference. The session was held in hybrid format to allow remote participation by colleagues unable to travel to Katowice, and friends, collaborators, and former students gathered online and in person to share memories of his life and work. A video recording of the session is available on the conference website ([link](#)).

The social programme offered participants an opportunity to experience the industrial heritage and ongoing transformation of Katowice and the wider Silesia region. Following Sunday's Welcome Reception, Monday's excursion took participants to the historic Guido Coal Mine in Zabrze, concluding with a light supper underground. Walking through the historic shafts offered a reminder of Silesia's identity, shaped by heavy industry, coal mining, and steel production.

The Gala Dinner was held on Tuesday evening at the Vienna House Hotel. The evening opened with a concert featuring the music of the film composer Wojciech Kilar, who lived in Katowice. The pieces were performed by musicians from the National Symphony Orchestra of the Polish Radio (NOSPR) alongside pianist Tadeusz Trzaskalik, the long-standing Chair of the Department of Operations Research at UEKat. The performance captured the essence of Silesia's transformation, connecting the region's industrial past with its modern role as a center for culture and science.

During the Gala Dinner, two community honours were also presented:

- INFORMS GDN Appreciation for Outstanding Service Award, awarded to former GDN Section President Liping Fang.
- Gregory Kersten GDN Journal Best Paper Award, presented to Tomasz Wachowicz and Ewa Roszkowska (Winners), with Takahiro Suzuki recognised as Runner-Up.

We are grateful to the many individuals who made GDN 2026 possible. Our thanks go to:

- Authors and collaborators for their contributions to oral presentations,
- Stream organizers for their planning and coordination: Liping Fang, Keith W. Hipel, D. Marc Kilgour, Mareike Schoop, Rudolf Vetschera, Muhammed-Fatih Kaya, Tomasz Wachowicz, Danielle Costa Morais, Pascale Zaraté, Zhen Zhang, Yucheng Dong, Francisco Chiclana, Enrique Herrera-Viedma, Haiyan Xu, Shawei He, Shinan Zhao, Tomasz Szapiro, Viktoriia Hurochkina, Viktoriia Yanovska, Dominik Siemon, Edona Elshan, and L. Alberto Franco,
- Members of the GDN 2026 Program Committee and the reviewers, for their reviews of all submissions,
- Our keynote speakers for their presentations: Roman Słowiński, Sarit Kraus, and Miłosz Kadziński,
- Members of the GDN Section Awards Committee for organising the Springer GDN Best Paper and Best Student Paper competitions: Masahide Horita, Rudolf Vetschera, Ginger Ke, Tomasz Wachowicz, Gert Jan de Vreede, and Liping Fang,
- The Honorary Chairs of GDN 2026: Liping Fang and Pascale Zaraté,
- All conference chairs and committees for their work in organising the event.

Tomasz Wachowicz, Danielle Costa Morais, Marek Szopa, and Ginger Ke
General and Program Chairs

26th International Conference on Group Decision and Negotiation (GDN 2026)

- ***GDN 2026 Awards***

26th International Conference on Group Decision and Negotiation – Katowice, Poland

At GDN 2026 in Katowice, Poland, the Section recognized outstanding scholarship and service with five awards: the 2026 INFORMS GDN Section Award, the INFORMS GDN Appreciation for Outstanding Service Award, the Gregory Kersten GDN Journal Best Paper Award, the GDN Springer Best Student Paper Award, and the GDN Springer Best Paper Award. Congratulations to all the honorees below.

- ***2026 INFORMS GDN Section Award***

The GDN INFORMS Section honors **Roman Slowinski** for his outstanding contributions to research in the field of Group Decision and Negotiation and outstanding contributions to the GDN Section.



Opening session, GDN Conference, Katowice, 2026



The Group Decision and Negotiation Section
of the
Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences
confers the

INFORMS GDN Award

on

Roman Slowinski

The 2026 INFORMS GDN Award is conferred on Professor Roman Słowiński in recognition of his extensive contributions as an internationally renowned scholar and a pioneer in Intelligent Decision Support Systems. As the Founding Chair of the Laboratory of Intelligent Decision Support Systems at Poznań University of Technology, he has made fundamental contributions by bridging Operational Research and Artificial Intelligence. Professor Słowiński is celebrated for proposing transformative paradigms, including dominance-based rough set theory, robust ordinal regression, and interactive evolutionary multiobjective optimization. His work on preference learning and modeling uncertainty has provided essential frameworks for complex group decision processes.

A dedicated leader in the GDN community, Professor Słowiński has served as a keynote speaker at multiple GDN conferences and received the 2025 GDN Best Springer Paper Award. His global influence is further reflected in his role as the Coordinating Editor-in-Chief of the European Journal of Operational Research (EJOR) and his leadership as President of the INFORMS MCDM Section. His distinguished career is marked by the EURO Gold Medal and the rank of Officer in the French Order of Academic Palms. For his extraordinary scientific vision, organizational proficiency, and lifelong commitment to the field, the INFORMS Group Decision and Negotiation Section is proud to present Professor Roman Słowiński with the 2026 GDN Section Award.

Pascale Zaraté

President, GDN Section

Tomasz Wachowicz

Vice-President, GDN Section

Danielle C. Morais

Vice-President, GDN Section

June 28–July 1, 2026
Katowice, Poland



Award Committee: Masahide Horita (Chair), L. Alberto Franco, Pascale Zarate, Liping Fang, Adiel Teixeira de Almeida.

○ ***INFORMS GDN Appreciation for Outstanding Service Award***

The Award honors an individual who has made outstanding Service contributions to the INFORMS GDN Section. The Service 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 Award Committee, describing the recipient's Service contributions to the Section.

The winner of the 2025 INFORMS GDN Appreciation for Outstanding Service Award was **Liping Fang**.



Award Ceremony, GDN Conference, Katowice, 2026

The Group Decision and Negotiation Section |
of the
Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences
confers the

INFORMS GDN Appreciation for Outstanding Service Award

On

Liping Fang

The 2026 INFORMS GDN Appreciation for Outstanding Service Award is conferred on Liping Fang in recognition of his exceptional contributions to the INFORMS Group Decision and Negotiation (GDN) Section. He has been a member of the GDN Section, since several years and served on the GDN Section Board for eight years, being President of the Section (2023–2025). As a committed and active member of the GDN community, he played a key role in organizing the first virtual GDN conference in 2021, following the cancellation of GDN 2020, which had been scheduled to take place in Toronto under his organization, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He has made significant contributions to GDN conferences as a stream chair, a keynote speaker, a co-editor of conference proceedings and award committees. He has also been a Program Co-Chair and a general co-Chair of numerous GDN Conferences. Since several years, he has served on the Editorial Board of the GDN journal and is Departmental Editor of *Applied Game Theory and Social Choice* area.

Pascale Zaraté

President, GDN Section

Tomasz Wachowicz

Vice-President, GDN Section

Danielle C. Morais

Vice-President, GDN Section

June 28–July 1, 2026
Katowice, Poland



Award Committee: *Pascale Zaraté, Tomasz Wachowicz, Danielle Morais*

○ ***Gregory Kersten GDN Journal Best Paper Award***

The Gregory Kersten GDN Journal Best Paper Award, supported by the Kersten Foundation, is given annually to a paper published in the journal Group Decision and Negotiation in the previous calendar year that best contributes to the advancement of the theory and/or practice of group decision and negotiation. Nominations are made by members of the editorial board.



Award Ceremony, GDN Conference, Katowice, 2026

WINNER

Enhancing TOPSIS to Evaluate Negotiation Offers with Subjectively Defined Reference Points

by Tomasz Wachowicz and Ewa Roszkowska — Group Decision and Negotiation, vol. 34, pp. 715–749, Jun. 2025



Award Ceremony, GDN Conference, Katowice, 2026

RUNNER UP

Aggregating Opinions on Sets of Alternatives: Characterization and Applications

by Takahiro Suzuki — Group Decision and Negotiation, vol. 34, pp. 273–295, Feb. 2025

Award Committee: Rudolf Vetschera (Chair); Pascale Zaraté; Gert Jan de Vreede; Masahide Horita; Liping Fang

○ **2025 GDN Best Conference Papers**

The purpose of the GDN Springer Best Conference Paper Award is to recognize research presented at the GDN conference. There are two award categories: GDN Springer Best Paper and Runner-up and GDN Springer Best Student Paper and Runner-up. The Award is sponsored by Springer, the publisher of the GDN Journal. A full-length paper accepted for GDN 2026 is eligible for consideration for the GDN 2026 Springer Best Paper and Best Student Paper Award (if eligibility conditions are met) if the full-length paper is presented at GDN 2026.

○ **GDN Springer Best Student Paper Award**

**The committee recognized two papers as co-winners this year, judging both to be of equally outstanding quality; no runner-up was designated.*



Award Ceremony, GDN Conference, Katowice, 2026

WINNER

Blockchain as a Decentralized Allocator: A Consensus-based Auction Model for Multi- Robot Task Allocation

*by Kazuki Matsuo, Masahide
Horita*



Award Ceremony, GDN Conference, Katowice, 2026

WINNER

“Sail Fast, Then Wait” in First-come, First-served Port Queues: Information Sharing for Sustainable Shipping

*by Ayato Kitadai, Shunta
Yoshimura, Takuya Nakashima,
Noora Torpo, Rei Miratsu, Naoki
Mizutani, Nariaki Nishino*

Award Committee: *Rudolf Vetschera (Chair); Ginger Ke; Tomasz Wachowicz; Gert Jan de Vreede; Liping Fang*

○ **GDN Springer Best Paper Award**

WINNER

Negotiating the Small Stuff: AI Agents for Low-Stakes Group Decisions

by Atefeh Jebeli, Manmohan Aseri, Balaji Padmanabhan

**Photos of the winners could not be included, as they were not present at the award ceremony.*



RUNNER UP

The Impact of Pre-Trained Language Models for Success Prediction in Digital Negotiations – A Comparative Analysis

*by Lennart Rukower,
Muhammed-Fatih Kaya,
Mareike Schoop*

Award Ceremony, GDN Conference, Katowice, 2026

Award Committee: Masahide Horita (Chair); Ginger Ke; Tomasz Wachowicz; Gert Jan de Vreede; Liping Fang

- **GDN 2026 Session Celebrating Mel Shakun**

Melvin F. Shakun

October 27, 1928 – February 7, 2026

At GDN 2026, a Special Session was dedicated to the memory of Melvin F. Shakun. Mel died a few months ago, after a long and successful career. The session was an opportunity for the GDN Community to thank him for creating and building the GDN organization, to reminisce about interactions with him over the years, and to celebrate his many accomplishments.

We are grateful to the organizers of GDN 2026 for facilitating the Mel Shakun Celebration Session. They gave it in a prominent place in the program and streamed it to the internet so that participants from around the world could be involved.

The Mel Shakun Celebration Session was co-organized by Tung Bui and Marc Kilgour, and chaired by Marc Kilgour. It was recorded and is available on the conference website at <https://gdnconference.org/gdn2026/gallery/>. It can also be downloaded directly from Google Drive [here](#). Everyone is encouraged to watch the session in its entirety. The action starts at about the 3-minute mark. Unfortunately the audio is not great; it may be slightly better on Google Drive.

The speakers expressed their gratitude to Mel in many different ways. They recorded their respect for his efforts to create and lead the GDN organization and the GDN community which became his legacy. We all owe a great debt to Mel; to repay, we must keep the organization strong.

The speakers were, in order: **Marc Kilgour; Tung Bui; Adiel de Almeida and Danielle Morais; Tomasz Szapiro; Mareike Schoop; Liping Fang; Pascale Zaraté; Dan Druckman; Bilyana Martinovski; Katia Sycara; Ana Paula Cabral; Rudolf Vetschera; John Zeleznikow; Tomasz Wachowicz.**



In-person Speakers. Mel Shakun Celebration Section, GDN 2026, Katowice.

Some of the speakers were physically at the session, and others remote. At the end, Marc Kilgour read a message from R. P. Sundarraj (known as Sundar). He then showed a sequence of photographs of Mel and others, mostly at past GDN meetings.



Mel Shakun, Winner of the first GDN Section Award, with Marc Kilgour, 2004.

by Marc Kilgour

• **GDN 2027**

27th International Conference on Group Decision and Negotiation – Chengdu, China

The 27th International Conference on Group Decision and Negotiation (GDN 2027) will take place in Chengdu, China, from June 6–9, 2027. The conference will be hosted by Sichuan University, with Dalian University of Technology and Hohai University serving as co-organizers.

Recognized as one of China's leading research universities under the prestigious Double First-Class initiative, Sichuan University provides an outstanding environment for interdisciplinary research and international collaboration. Its strengths in management, decision science, analytics, and related disciplines make it an ideal venue for the GDN community.

Located in Southwest China, Chengdu is an international gateway renowned for its welcoming atmosphere, vibrant culture, and exceptional cuisine. The city offers convenient global connections, modern conference facilities, and a wealth of cultural experiences, from the famous Giant Panda Base and traditional tea houses to UNESCO World Heritage sites such as the Dujiangyan Irrigation System.

We warmly invite the GDN community to join us in Chengdu for four days of stimulating research presentations, engaging discussions, and opportunities to strengthen collaborations while experiencing one of China's most dynamic and distinctive cities. Additional information, including the conference website, call for papers, and registration details, will be announced in the coming months.



North Gate of Sichuan University (Wangjiang Campus), by Kcx36, via Wikimedia Commons, licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0.

by Ginger Ke

Society News and Announcements

• *GDN Cluster at INFORMS 2026 Annual Meeting*

By **Danielle Morais** (dcmorais@insid.org.br)

The INFORMS 2025 Annual Meeting will be held in San Francisco, California, USA, from November 1 to 4. The following invited session is organized by the GDN cluster:

- **Methodology and Applications in Group Decision and Negotiation**

We would like to call on members of our GDN community to organize sessions in the GDN cluster and to submit their research to future INFORMS Annual meetings.



• *Building Public-Interest AI Infrastructure for Conflict Management - Invitation to Collaborate*

By **Remi Smolinski** (remigiusz.smolinski@hhl.de)

Artificial intelligence is already entering conflict management through early-warning systems, mediation support, online dispute resolution, stakeholder analysis, and negotiation-support tools. Yet these applications remain fragmented. Many are proprietary, designed for specific institutional users, or accessible mainly to well-resourced actors. Their governance, neutrality, and accountability are often unclear.

In our recent contribution, [From Tools to Public-Interest Infrastructure: Rethinking AI for Conflict Management](#), published in *Negotiation and Conflict Management Research*, we propose a different direction: AI-based conflict management should be investigated not merely as a collection of individual tools, but as **public-interest infrastructure**.

Such infrastructure could help individuals, organizations, communities, mediators, and public institutions:

- identify and organize signals of emerging conflict;
- map parties, interests, assumptions, and interdependencies;
- incorporate perspectives that are often excluded from formal processes;
- make the longer-term consequences of escalation more visible;
- generate and compare constructive options;
- navigate mediation, legal, and institutional pathways; and
- connect users with qualified conflict-management professionals.

The purpose would not be to automate agreements or transfer decision authority to algorithms. AI should support reflection, analysis, communication, and process navigation while leaving responsibility firmly in human hands. For such a system to be legitimate, it would also require universal and non-discriminatory access wherever offered, transparency and auditability, conflict-sensitive data

governance, protection against institutional capture, and clear prohibitions on coercive or manipulative uses.

An invitation to the GDN community

Moving from this conceptual proposal to a credible research program requires the **expertise of the Group Decision and Negotiation community**. Questions of negotiation-support design, preference and interest elicitation, multi-party participation, behavioral responses to decision support, procedural fairness, legitimacy, facilitation, and human–AI interaction are central to this undertaking.

We are therefore seeking colleagues interested in developing an interdisciplinary research network around this project. Possible strands of collaboration include:

- defining the functional and technical architecture of public-interest conflict-management infrastructure;
- studying how different users interpret, trust, contest, or rely on AI-generated support;
- designing governance arrangements that protect neutrality and prevent political or commercial capture;
- developing methods for evaluating fairness, usefulness, safety, and conflict sensitivity;
- creating experimental scenarios, simulations, and educational applications;
- identifying suitable organizational, community, or public-sector pilot settings; and
- comparing national, regional, and international institutional models.

We particularly welcome researchers working in negotiation and decision-support systems, online dispute resolution, multi-criteria and multi-party decision-making, behavioral decision research, mediation, artificial intelligence, human–computer interaction, public governance, ethics, and peace and conflict studies. Participation could range from contributing to conceptual and empirical studies to providing cases, methods, technical expertise, institutional partnerships, or pilot environments.

The key question is whether we can collectively design, test, and govern conflict management capabilities so that they strengthen human agency, procedural fairness, and constructive conflict engagement.

Colleagues interested in joining the conversation or helping shape the research agenda are warmly invited to **contact Remi Smolinski** (remigiusz.smolinski@hhl.de). We look forward to building this initiative together with the GDN community!

From the desk of the GDN Journal Editors-in-Chief

In this newsletter, we are happy to share with you a brief report on meeting of the journal's Editorial Board during the GDN Conference in Katowice, Poland, on 30 June 2026.

During the board meeting, we discussed the state of the journal and the current key figures. Clare Kearney, the new executive publisher from Springer who is responsible for GDN, joined the meeting remotely and introduced herself. She showed the top 5 article requests in 2025 both for articles published that year and for articles overall. The journal's 2-year Impact Factor has increased by 0.3 to 2.8, while its 5-year Impact Factor has increased from 2.4 in 2024 to 2.8 as well in 2025. This means that citations have increased in both the 2- and 5-year Impact Factor windows (2023-2024 and 2020-2024, respectively). That is a reason to celebrate!

We are grateful to all our board members, reviewers, and authors whose efforts have facilitated the continued improving performance of our community's premier journal. Thank you all!

We announced a number of changes to the board. The following members retired: Alexander Karpov, Guy Olivier Fauré, João Paulo Costa, Doug Vogel, and Colin Eden. We are immensely grateful for their many years of service to the journal! We also welcomed three new members to the board: Peter Kesting (Aarhus University, Denmark), Jiapeng Liu (Xi'an Jiaotong University, China) and Nariaki Nishino (University of Tokyo, Japan). As usual, we welcome nominations for new board members, especially in areas that are currently underrepresented or attract a lot of submissions such as collaboration processes, MCDM, fuzzy approaches, and AI.

New board members are particularly important since the journal continues to grow. We got about 200-250 submissions per year between 2020 and 2024. In 2025, we had 387 submissions. In the first six months of 2026, we already received 270 submissions which signals a record number of over 500 submissions for this year.

We also invite you to prepare and submit expanded conference papers including those in the conference's Springer proceedings as well as the local proceedings which can be submitted to the GDN journal after an update or expansion of at least 30% (e.g. additional data, expanded literature review, additional case studies). This is a great opportunity for conference participants to improve their research work and submit it for consideration to the journal.

We are happy to discuss potential paper submissions or ideas for a special issue and help you develop them, so please reach out. We love to hear from you!

Best wishes,

Mareike Schoop (schoop@uni-hohenheim.de)
GJ de Vreede (gj@stevens.edu)



Recent Publications

This section presents a short list of recent publications from members of the GDN community who explicitly expressed interest in featuring their work in this newsletter. This list is by no means exhaustive. To include your recent publications in the next issue, please email newsletter@gdnconference.org.

- **New books**

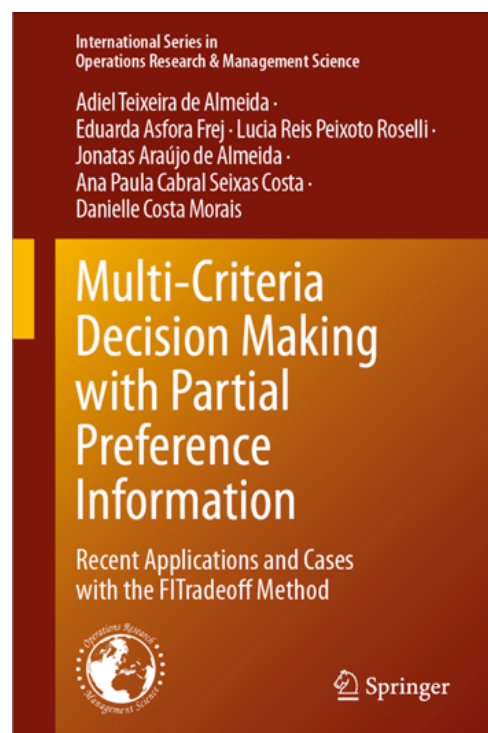
- ***Multi-Criteria Decision Making with Partial Preference Information: Recent Applications and Cases with the FITradeoff Method***

This recently published book presents recent advances in Multi-Criteria Decision Making (MCDM) with partial preference information, including a special focus on contributions related to Group Decision and Negotiation (GDN). By combining methodological developments with real-world applications, the book demonstrates how partial preference information can support decision-making and negotiation processes involving multiple stakeholders.

A dedicated section of the book focuses on group decision-making and negotiation, introducing the main concepts related to group decision with partial preference information, FITradeoff for group decision, FITradeoff for negotiation, Decision Support Systems and practical applications. It discusses methodological foundations, group decision support systems, web-based negotiation platforms, and practical applications that illustrate how these tools contribute to a collaborative decision processes.

Beyond GDN, the book also covers theoretical and applied aspects of MCDM with partial preference information across a wide range of domains, including energy, healthcare, sustainability, security, industrial engineering, supplier selection, and public decision-making. It also explores the evolution of Decision Support Systems (DSS), including insights from behavioral experiments and neuroscience.

Designed for both researchers and practitioners, this volume provides valuable perspectives on integrating partial preference information into decision support, making it a useful resource for those interested in advancing research and practice in Group Decision and Negotiation.



Topics of interest for the GDN community include:

- Group decision-making with partial preference information;
- Preference elicitation and aggregation with partial preference information;
- Negotiation support based on partial information;
- Decision Support Systems for group decision and negotiation;
- Web-based negotiation platforms;
- Applications of FITradeoff in group decision-making and negotiation;
- Behavioral aspects of decision support under incomplete preference information.



Reference: de Almeida, AT; Frej, EA; Roselli, LRP; de Almeida, JA; Costa, APCS; Morais, D.C. (2026) *Multi-Criteria Decision Making with Partial Preference Information: Recent Applications and Cases with the FITradeoff Method. International Series in Operations Research & Management Science. Vol 377. Springer Nature, Switzerland., 534pp.* <https://link.springer.com/book/9783032192837>.

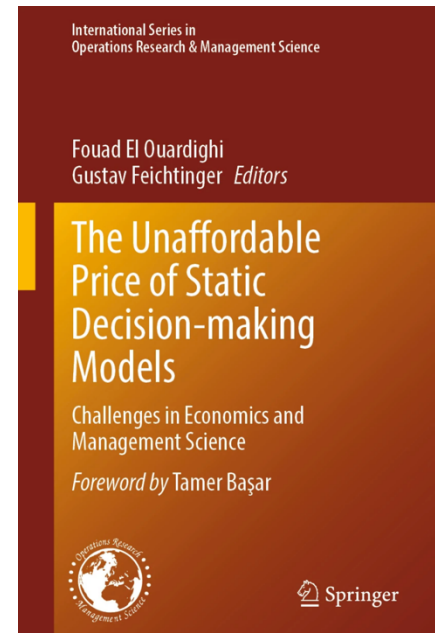
By Adiel de Almeida, Eduarda Frej, Lucia Roselli, Jônatas Almeida, Danielle Morais, Ana Paula Costa.

○ ***The Unaffordable Price of Static Decision-making Models: Challenges in Economics and Management Science***

The Unaffordable Price of Static Decision-making Models: Challenges in Economics and Management Science (Springer Nature, 2025), co-edited with Gustav Feichtinger (<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-88638-6>).

The book originated from discussions held during the 15th Viennese Workshop on Optimal Control and Dynamic Games and examines the economic and social costs of relying on static decision-making models. It highlights the advantages of dynamic approaches for addressing long-term challenges in economics and management science and presents recent advances in dynamic modelling and dynamic games.

I believe that several chapters may be of interest to members of the GDN community, particularly those working on negotiation, strategic interactions, dynamic decision-making, and group decision processes.



By Fouad El Ouardighi

• *New papers*

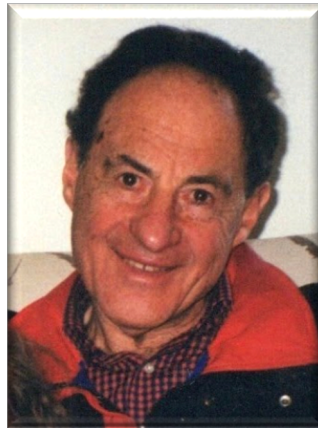
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Imprints

Editor: *Eduarda Asfora Frej* (newsletter@gdnconference.org; eafrej@cdsid.org.br)

We are working on publishing the newsletter of the Group Decision and Negotiation Section of INFORMS twice a year, in July and December. The deadline for contributions to the July issue is June 30; the issue is intended to be published by the end of July. The deadline for the December issue is November 30; the issue is intended to be published by the end of December. Contributions can be sent at any time to the editor at the address above.

In Memoriam



Professor Melvin "Mel" F. Shakun
October 27, 1928 – February 7, 2026

Mel passed away peacefully at 97 years with his family by his side at home in Brattleboro, VT. He leaves behind a legacy of learning, music, love, and connection — along with stories that filled many loving family dinners. A visionary scholar, gifted pianist, caring family man, and spiritual thinker, Mel devoted his life to bridging intellect and heart.

He was born in Brooklyn, New York, to Claire and Frank Shakun, Jewish immigrants from Russia and Poland. Mel grew up with his siblings Elaine and Walter. Their upbringing was shaped by values of resilience, ethics, education, and Jewish culture. He attended Brooklyn Technical High School, where he sang in the glee club and edited the newspaper. Afterwards, he earned degrees from City College of New York and Columbia University. At Columbia, he completed his Ph.D. in Operations Research. Mel met his beloved wife, Norma, over cookies at a social reception there, which was the start of a sweet, 68 year marriage together.

Mel spent many years teaching at New York University's Stern School of Business, later becoming Professor Emeritus. He founded the international journal *Group Decision and Negotiation* (1992), launched a related annual international conference and authored *Evolutionary Systems Design* (1988). His contributions advanced new ways of thinking about decision-making, systemic adaptation, and negotiations rooted in connectedness.

Beyond academia, Mel was a jazz and blues pianist who could turn a living room into a dance hall. He loved poetry, haiku, and he had a gift for transforming everyday moments into stories worth sharing.

Mel and Norma built a marriage rooted in love and shared purpose of tikkun olam. They raised their children, Laura and David, with a deep sense of spirituality, philosophical inquiry, and openness to other peoples and cultures. He was a devoted grandfather to Talea and Rafael, sharing stories and meaningful conversations.

France held a special place in Mel's life, inspired by Norma's love of her French "adopted" family, friends, language, and culture. Their shared passion cultivated lasting friendships, hiking and skiing adventures, and a never ending appreciation for croissants dipped in café au lait.

Mel will be remembered for his warmth, wisdom, and sense of wonder. He was a bridge between generations, cultures, and ideas. A man who sparked inspiration and nudged minds towards new horizons.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Norma; his sister Elaine and husband, Lou; brother-in-law, Paul; his children, Laura and David; and his grandchildren, Talea and Rafael.

By Norma Shakun