

Call for abstracts for the INFORMS annual meeting session

Behavioral topics in facilitated modeling

October 22-25, 2017

Houston, TX, USA

Houston, we solve problems, together with stakeholders.

The emerging stream of 'behavioral operational research' (BOR) revolves around questions as 'what are the consequences of humans being involved in operational research', and 'what is the human impact on the operational research process' (Hämäläinen et al., 2013)? Under the label of BOR, more and more researchers are recognized for contributing to a coherent body of knowledge. Facilitated modeling has the potential to play an important role here, because the involvement of problem owners, experts, and key stakeholders is at the heart of what we do.

Facilitated modeling is the process by which operational research models are created jointly with clients in a facilitated mode, for example in the form of facilitated problem structuring, facilitated system dynamics, or facilitated decision analysis (Franco & Montibeller, 2010). Behavioral topics in facilitated modeling arise in two different ways. Firstly, behavioral mechanisms have important implications for the process, models, and outcomes of our facilitated modeling efforts (e.g. Tavella & Papadopoulos, 2015; White, 2016). Secondly, behavioral mechanisms are one of the elements of the problems that our facilitated modeling efforts aim to solve (e.g. De Gooyert et al., 2016).

The session aims to bring together researchers working on behavioral topics in facilitated modeling. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Behavioral mechanisms influencing facilitated modeling
 - Facilitator skills
 - Cultural effects
 - Role of emotions
 - Strategic behavior in group processes
 - Path dependence in group processes
 - Heuristics and biases of modelers and participants
 - Communication (effects of graphs, scales, etc.)
- Facilitated modeling of human behavior
 - Modeling human behavior/ decision making
 - Modeling biases and heuristics
 - Modeling interacting agents

If you want to submit a contribution, please prepare an abstract of at most 100 words (600 characters) excluding figures and references before **May 2nd, 2017**. At least one of the authors of an accepted abstract is requested to register for the conference and present the paper. The abstract needs to be e-mailed to Vincent de Gooyert (v.degooyert@fm.ru.nl).

Cluster chair Behavioral Operational Research: Prof. Martin Kunc
<http://www.wbs.ac.uk/about/person/Martin-Kunc/>

References

- de Gooyert, V., Rouwette, E., van Kranenburg, H., Freeman, E., & van Breen, H. (2016). Sustainability transition dynamics: Towards overcoming policy resistance. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, *111*, 135-145.
- Franco, L. A., & Montibeller, G. (2010). Facilitated modelling in operational research. *European Journal of Operational Research*, *205*(3), 489-500.
- Hämäläinen, R. P., Luoma, J., & Saarinen, E. (2013). On the importance of behavioral operational research: The case of understanding and communicating about dynamic systems. *European Journal of Operational Research*, *228*(3), 623-634.
- Tavella, E., & Papadopoulos, T. (2015). Expert and novice facilitated modelling: A case of a viable system model workshop in a local food network. *Journal of the Operational Research Society*, *66*(2), 247-264.
- White, L. (2016). Behavioural operational research: Towards a framework for understanding behaviour in OR interventions. *European journal of operational research*, *249*(3), 827-841.