

Call for Papers

Annals of Operations Research

Special Volume: Policy Analytics

The *Annals of Operations Research* seeks submissions for a special volume on *Policy Analytics*. The deadline for submission is 1 December 2012.

The background to the special issue is as follows. The last few decades have seen rapid growth in the capacity of businesses to exploit IT, OR and statistical modelling to collect and process operational and market data in order to support decisions. As a result, *business analytics* has become a flourishing field for consulting and business education. In contrast, while government decisions are often supported by traditional policy analysis, few government departments and agencies have yet managed to make the systematic use of data, evidence, OR methods and cutting-edge modeling. In this call, we therefore invite papers which apply the methods and ideas of "analytics" to problems arising in the operational management of public services and in policy making.

Submissions could concern policy making or delivery in areas such as healthcare, social or municipal services, national security and border protection, the provision of welfare benefits, the collection of taxation, the protection of the environment or the allocation of natural resources, the administration of the civil or criminal justice system, educational provision, economic regulation, industrial and cultural policy, or any of the other tasks which governments undertake.

This special issue seeks papers presenting both conceptual advances and innovative applications, recognizing that public sector applications must balance the need for robust and convincing analysis with legitimate public expectations about transparency and opportunities for participation. Papers may deal with contributions through different phases of the policy cycle: from issue identification, policy testing, and analysis to policy implementation and evaluation.

Contributions from Decision Theory, Social Choice Theory, Measurement Theory, Welfare Economics, Policy Analysis and related fields are encouraged. Papers which show how recent IT innovations (in social networks, distributed and/or cloud computing, machine learning, knowledge extraction, artificial intelligence, and data mining) and operational research methods (problem structuring, multi-criteria decision analysis, optimization techniques, and evaluation models) have shaped the broad area of policy analytics are also particularly welcome.

Instructions for authors can be found at:

<http://www.springer.com/business/operations+research/journal/10479>

Authors should submit a cover letter and a manuscript by 31 October 2012 via the Journal's online submission site. Manuscripts submitted after the deadline may not be considered for the special volume and may be transferred to a regular volume.

Please see the *Author Instructions* on the web site if you have not yet submitted a paper through Springer's web-based system, Editorial Manager. Be sure to note in the Manuscript Comment text that your work is intended for the special volume and to select the article type "Policy Analytics."

Papers will be subject to a strict review process managed by the Guest Editors and accepted papers will be published online individually, before print publication. The refereeing cycle will take place through 2013 and our target print publication date is 2014.

Guest Editors:

Katherine Daniell, Australian National University
Alec Morton, London School of Economics
David Rios Insua, Royal Academy of Sciences, Spain

