

OR Practice Matters

Plenary speaker: Andres Weintraub

The field of OR can be viewed as a continuous arc going from pure methodology to applications. OR Practice can go from solving specific problems to changing the way an industry or organization handles its decision making. We can make a point that OR needs to have an impact in the real world. Besides, often highly interesting methodological challenges arise through solving real problems. The motivation for this talk is to show the work in our group, which has been involved in multiple successful projects in different areas: natural resources (forestry, mining, aquaculture), logistics, sports scheduling, governmental organizations. The talk does not intend to be a short presentation of multiple projects but more to present a view on how to integrate OR, data handling, organizational behavior to get a handle on what the real problems are, how to integrate management in the development of solutions and how to implement systems that have impact. As a showcase, the talk will present parts of presentations of an IFORS OR in Development winner, one Edelman winner and two additional finalists, all in different areas.