

International Association for Travel Behaviour Research - IATBR  
Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting



Tuesday, January 10, 2017  
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM  
Marriott Marquis, Independence H (M4)

Presiding: Pat Mokhtarian, Georgia Institute of Technology

Attendees from the Executive Board: Pat Mokhtarian, Elisabetta Cherchi, Abdul Pinjari, Yoram Shiftan, Kostas Goulias, and Matt Roorda. Regrets received from Caspar Chorus, Charisma Choudhury, and Junyi Zhang for not being able to attend.

Other attendees: 36 other attendees included members and other enthusiasts of IATBR.

1. Welcome /Self-introductions/Report from the Chair
  
2. Treasurer's report (Abdul Pinjari)
  - The total amount in the bank is 216,407.5 Danish Krone (DKK), equivalent to US\$30,850 at 7.015 DKK per 1 USD. Total amount in the PayPal account = \$4012.
  
  - Currently the IATBR treasury is still in the Nordea bank in Denmark maintained by Elisabetta. The Wells Fargo account in USA was shut down in April 2015. Abdul Pinjari is exploring options to set up a new account in USA again, particularly to find an option that minimizes the transaction fees (foreign transactions) and that is easy to operate when the treasurer changes.
  
3. Membership report (Abdul Pinjari)

Status at December 31, 2016	# of Members
Members as of the Board meeting in June 2015	<b>312</b>
Current members (December 31, 2016)	<b>316</b>
Members until IATBR 2018	<b>282</b>
Members until 2016	<b>5</b>
Members until 2017	<b>3</b>
Members until the end of 2018	<b>26</b>

Membership expired in December 2016 for 5 members. A message has been sent to these members asking them to consider renewing the membership. A reminder will be sent at Jan end or early Feb. By the end of February, the membership expires and the individual is taken off the membership roster.

#### Distribution of the IATBR members among countries

Countries	Period of membership			
	only 2012-	only 2015-	2012-2018	Current (Jan 1, 2017)
Arab Emirates	1			
Australia	7	13	11	26
Austria		1		1
Belgium	5	4		4
Berlin		1		1
Brazil	1		1	2
Canada	24	13	11	24
Chile	2	2	6	8
China	1	4	2	7
Denmark	3	3	4	7
Estonia			1	1
France	6	5	1	6
Germany	4	8	5	13
Greece		3	1	4
Hong Kong		3		3
Ireland	1	2		2
Israel		5	3	8
Italy	4	2	2	4
Japan	11	11	4	15
Korea		1		1
South Korea	1			1
Malaysia	1			
Mexico	1			
Philippines	1			
Portugal	1	2	1	3
Singapore		5	3	8
South Africa	1			
Spain		1	1	2
Sweden	2	8	3	12
Switzerland	13	10	7	17
Taiwan	1	1		1
The Netherlands	13	17	8	25
UK	7	27	13	41
USA	43	35	28	64
NA	2	5		5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>316</b>

#### 4. Secretary's report on other business of the association (Abdul Pinjari)

- Call for nominations for IATBR Lifetime Achievement Award will be issued in June/July 2017
- Elections will be held at the end of 2017 for the Vice Chair/Chair-Elect position and at least one regular member position of the IATBR's Executive Board, due to the following rotations from (and anticipated changes to) the Executive Board for the 2018-2019 term.

- Elisabetta Cherchi will become the Chair of IATBR. Her current position as the Vice Chair will become vacant.
- Yoram Shiftan will rotate off from the position of Past chair and Pat Mokhtarian will move to this position.
- Abdul Pinjari will continue to serve his second term as the Secretary and Treasurer for the 2018-2019 term.
- Caspar Chorus will rotate off from his position as a regular board member. Therefore, one regular member position will become vacant.
- In addition to the above rotations, the Executive Board is discussing a possible change to the Association's Constitution that would affect the number and composition of Board members. After the Board discussion has run its course, if there is general agreement on proposed changes they will be floated to the broader IATBR membership for discussion and a vote.

5. Update on the 2015 IATBR conference (Chiara Calastri for Stephane Hess)

- Plans for publications: The following five peer-reviewed special issues are planned from the papers presented at the 2015 conference, with the aim to publish all special issues in 2017.
  - *European Journal of Infrastructure and Transportation*
  - *Journal of Choice Modelling*
  - *Travel Behaviour and Society*
  - *Transportation*
  - *Transportation Research Part B*

6. Update on the 2018 (July 15-20) IATBR conference (Kostas Goulias)

- Save the dates from July 15 to July 20! Following the welcome reception on Sunday (July 15), majority of conference activities will be held from Monday (July 16) to Thursday (July 19) at the University of California Santa Barbara University Center and adjacent facilities.
- Call for papers to be released in mid-2017. Pre- and post-conference workshops are also being planned. Registration to start in Feb 2018. Stay tuned for more announcements
- Registration fee is expected to be approximately \$800.
- On-campus housing packages in the \$500-\$900/person range for 6 days, including meals at the university commons.
  - Santa Rosa dorm (<http://www.housing.ucsb.edu/residences/santa-rosa>)
  - Sierra Madre villages (<http://www.housing.ucsb.edu/residences/sierra-madre-villages>)
  - Details on alternatives will be made available in October 2017

Kay Axhausen suggested it's a good idea to start discussing with journals about potential special issues from the papers presented at the 2018 conference. Since the journal publication dates for papers submitted now are already into 2018, it is not too early to start the discussion now for a timely publication of the conference special issues.

7. Should we move from a triennial to a biennial cycle for the conference? (Caspar Chorus via Pat)

There was a lengthy and useful discussion on the pros and cons of moving the IATBR conferences from a triennial to a biennial cycle. Main points from the discussion are presented below.

Pros:

- The IATBR community has grown over time and so has the intensity and quantity of research in the field. Therefore, we need either larger conferences or more conferences of the same size. The pool of high quality research(ers) in our field is also large enough to accommodate an increase in conference frequency.
- Smaller (and more frequent) conferences better serve our research community for focused interactions etc.
- Technology is moving too fast for a triennial conference to keep up with. For instance, a study on 'mobility as a service' performed in year 't' is likely to be less relevant at year 't+3' when presented at the next IATBR.
- A three- to four-year PhD cycle often makes it difficult for students to attend at least one IATBR conference. Biennial conferences provide more opportunities for students to attend at least once (or more) during their doctoral study.
- People who miss a conference might be able to make up (and reconnect with the community) by attending the next conference within four years in a biennial cycle. With a triennial cycle, however, one would have to wait six years to attend the next conference.
- Biennial conference would be as large as a triennial conference in attendance and size therefore not an issue for financial risk for organizers.
- We've had a healthy number of applications to organize the conference. So, there will likely be sufficient interest in conducting the conference every two years.
- The conference venue typically rotates across the continents. A three-year cycle takes too long for a conference to come back to a continent.

Cons:

- Biennial conference cycle may risk oversupply (too many conferences), scheduling conflicts with other conferences, and potential cannibalization.
- We do not have the institutional capability (such as the IEEE) to support biennial conferences, particularly to assume potential financial risks of lower attendance etc.
- The ISTTT conference series moved from a triennial to a biennial cycle, which apparently led to an increase in the conflicts with other conferences and some cannibalization (for example, a decrease in the importance of the conference).
- The travel behaviour research community has grown over the years, but the membership has been increasing slowly – an indicator for potential risk of lower attendance at biennial conferences.
- People who are regular to the IATBR series might not want to miss a conference. Moving to a biennial cycle can make it difficult for some to attend every conference, due to the need to arrange for funding every two years, etc.
- At the same time, a two-year cycle may make it less compelling to make the effort to attend every time, since it would only be four years instead of six until the next one. Over time, the association could lose some of the cohesive sense of community that it has enjoyed until now.
- Increase in conference frequency can lead to people submitting the same work to multiple conferences.

Straw vote:

- After a useful discussion with multiple viewpoints, a non-binding vote was taken via a quick show-of-hands. 1 attendee voted in favour of moving to a biennial cycle. A majority (around 15 attendees) voted in favour of keeping the current, triennial cycle. Around 5 attendees were indifferent. Since only a small fraction of the membership is able to attend the business meeting,

Pat intends to “take the pulse” of the membership at large on this issue through an electronic straw poll later this year.

Other useful points that came up during this discussion:

- Workshops at IATBR
  - Workshops are a key feature of the IATBR conference
  - Resource papers are important. Explore ways to attract solid resource papers.
  - Try to keep a small size for more focused interactions at the workshops
- Acceptance rate of papers in past IATBR conferences:
  - 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the abstracts submitted were accepted for the conference in Austin (1997)
  - 1/3<sup>rd</sup> for the conference in Lucerne (2003)
  - 40-50% for the conference in Toronto (2012)
- Have short courses before or after the conferences.

8. Should we continue publishing conference books, and (if so) in what form?

Some background first... For the 2003 (Lucerne) conference, Elsevier published the book. In 2008, Elsevier sold its transportation book-list to Emerald, who published the 2006 (Kyoto) conference Book.<sup>1</sup> Books through Elsevier or other well-recognized publishers tend to be expensive compared to other less-known publishers. Therefore, in 2009 (Jaipur) and 2012 (Toronto), we had self-published books through Lulu. The downside of self-publishing, however, is that such books are not captured by Google Scholar and other indexing services. Moreover, revenues from the IATBR conference books have always been modest. Therefore, the financial health of IATBR doesn't depend on the book revenues. More recently, the 2015 (Windsor) conference organizers elected not to have a book, partly because many authors preferred to publish their work in journals as opposed to the book. All of this warranted a discussion on whether we should continue publishing conference books, and (if so) in what form? With what content? Self-publish or go with an established publisher? Hard-copy book or an online e-book? Should we keep the decision on the book as an IATBR policy or leave it to the conference organizers?

A related discussion item was in the context of the 2009 (and 2012) conference books, which can now be purchased through Lulu for \$80-90. Should one or both self-published books be made freely available on the IATBR website for a wider dissemination? Will it offend those who spent the money to buy the book? More importantly, will it set a precedent where people simply wait until the books become freely available, instead of buying them?

There was no consensus among the attendees on which way to go (nor was the aim to arrive at a quick consensus), but the discussion led to useful viewpoints listed below; in no specific order.

Matt, Kay, Kostas and several other attendees supported having the 2009 and 2012 books available online (at the IATBR website) for free. There is value in greater dissemination of the books. Also, some funding sources require open-access for the research results. [Note from Pat: Hearing no objections, we will proceed in that direction for those two books.]

Matt Roorda (co-editor of the Toronto book) mentioned that self-publishing is a large effort on the part of the conference organizers. And only 40-50 books were sold from the 2012 conference, in addition to author copies. Abdul mentioned, from his earlier discussion with Ram, that the 2009 conference book didn't yield substantial revenues as well. Publishing houses, on the other hand, are

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<sup>1</sup> More recently, Chris Pringle from Elsevier noted, via email, that Elsevier is back to publishing transportation books and that they are interested in publishing the IATBR books.

well-positioned to publish conference books as well as provide the visibility necessary for wider dissemination and be captured in citation indexes.

Karthik, Ahsan, and other attendees highlighted the importance of having the book in a citation-indexed place, for tenure and promotion needs of junior faculty and for students' need to publish in indexed avenues.

Ahsan and a few other attendees preferred a hard-copy and hard-bound book for continuing the tradition and for maintaining the importance of IATBR books. This was accompanied with the discussion that workshop resource papers and post-workshop reports can be important material for the books. Also, having a book (in one form or the other) can help attract authoritative resource papers from top scholars in the field.

Kay suggested Amazon print-on-demand books as a potential avenue for a free online e-book while also allowing those who prefer a printed book to buy one.

Another approach is to publish the book in *Procedia* (of, for example, Elsevier) and selected papers in special issues. This is similar to the model ISTTT follows.

Publishing houses such as Elsevier might charge about \$6000 on top of publishing fees for open access books; this could be built into the conference registration fee (e.g. \$20/person x 300 people).

Eric suggested to keep the decisions regarding the book under the purview of IATBR (of course, with input from the conference organizers) rather than to leave it fully to the conference organizers.

9. Should IATBR be doing more between conferences?

There have been a few requests to discuss if we can do more activities between the triennial conferences. Such activities include, for example, webinars, TRB sessions on travel behaviour research in international contexts (of course, in cooperation with the TRB's parent committee, ADB10). This item was left for future discussion as we were short of time; however, Pat welcomes volunteers who would be interested in taking on a specific program of action.

10. Should we change our Board composition rules? *Preliminary discussion*

Pat is proposing a few changes in IATBR's board composition rules. This item will be first discussed among the current Executive Board members and then floated for discussion/vote by the boarder IATBR membership.

11. Eric Pas prize 2015

Regrets for absence received from the Chair of the Jury Veronique Van Acker.

19 Ph.D. dissertations were submitted for the Eric Pas Award. Jury comprised Antonio Paez (McMaster University) and Donggen Wang (Hong Kong Baptist University) along with Veronique Van Acker.

*The First prize was awarded to:*

**Michael Maness** (University of Maryland), "*Choice modeling perspectives on social networks, social influence, and social capital in activity and travel behavior*" (advisor: Prof. Cinzia Cirillo)

*Two Honorable Mentions were awarded to:*

**(1) Jonas De Vos** (Ghent University) "*Travel satisfaction: Analysing the link between travel behaviour, residential location choice and well-being*" (advisors: Prof. Dr. Frank Witlox, Dr. Tim Schwanen, Dr. Veronique Van Acker)

**(2) André Carrel** (UC Berkeley) "*Travel satisfaction surveys meet mobile phone and vehicle tracking: Linking individual experiences to travel habit changes with panel data*" (advisor: Prof. Joan Walker)

12. Other announcements and business: Beware the fraudulent "International Conference on Travel Behavior Research"

<https://www.waset.org/conference/2017/05/london/ICTBR>