

International Association for Travel Behaviour Research – IATBR Annual Meeting



Tuesday, December 21, 2021

16:00 – 17:00 GMT

Online via Zoom, hosted by the University of Leeds

Presiding: Konstadinos (Kostas) Goulias, University of California, Santa Barbara

Attended by 43 people (varied over time), started at 16:05 GMT

Minutes:

1. Welcome/introductions/Report from the Chair (Kostas)

- The meeting started at 16.05 GMT. Kostas opened the meeting and explained to the audience that due to COVID circumstances which will impact many colleagues' ability to attend the 2022 TRB annual meeting, the IATBR annual meeting is being held online.
- Kostas also announced the election results, welcomed the new IATBR Board members, and thanked the outgoing members.
 - Abdul Pinjari will be the Chair of IATBR from 2022 to 2023.
 - Charisma Choudhury was elected as the Vice-Chair from 2022 to 2023.
 - Kara Kockelman and Chiara Calastri were elected as new Regular Board Members from 2022 to 2025 (Thanks to the outgoing member, Ricardo Daziano for his service).
 - Since Charisma Choudhury (the former Secretary and Treasurer) is elected as the Vice-Chair, and elections were not conducted for Secretary & Treasurer posts), Yusak Susilo has been appointed to be the secretary until 2023 December, until he starts as the 2024 (Vienna) conference chair.
 - Charisma Choudhury will continue to serve as the Treasurer until 2023, along with her new role as the Vice-Chair.
 - Taha Rashidi was appointed as a new Board member to handle IATBR website, Newsletter, and social media presence of IATBR.
- Kostas informed the members that the upcoming IATBR conferences will be held in Santiago in 2022 and in Vienna in 2024.

2. Lifetime Achievement Award (Amalia)

- The Chair of the jury of IATBR lifetime achievement (LAA) award, Amalia Polydoropoulou announced that Professor Patricia Mokhtarian was the recipient of the LAA award. Amalia reported the process and the Jury members, and invited all the members to celebrate Pat's achievement and contribution to the society in Chile conference.

3. Eric Pass Dissertation Awards (Tim)

- Tim Schwanen reported the jury process and announced the winner and honorable mention for the Eric Pas dissertation award for 2020. A total of 18 high quality submissions were received. Given the values and the spirit of Eric Pas award, based on 76 independent reviews, the jury recommended the best dissertation award to Stephen Wong (supervised by Susan Shaheen and Joan Walker) and an honorable mention to Ali Najmi (supervised by Taha Rashidi). Tim highlighted the added value and state-of-the-art knowledge that these theses offer and strongly recommended everyone to read the theses.

***First place:* Stephen Wong**, "Compliance, Congestion, and Social Equity: Tackling Critical Evacuation Challenges through the Sharing Economy, Joint Choice Modeling, and Regret" University of California, Berkeley, USA, advisers: Prof. Susan Shaheen and Prof. Joan Walker.

***Honorable mention:* Ali Najmi**, "Interaction of demand and supply in transport planning model systems: a comprehensive revisit" University of New South Wales, Australia, adviser: Prof. Taha Rashidi.

4. Report of the Secretary and Treasurer (Charisma)

- Charisma provided an overview of the financial status of IATBR, as shown below.

Starting balance (in Dec 2020)	50459.20 USD*
Change due to GBP-USD exchange rate	-1782.28 USD
Pending expenditure: Loan to be repaid to previous treasurer	-7,260.40 USD
Pending expenditure: Eric Pas Award to 2019 & 2020 awardees	-1000.00 USD
Pending expenditure: Lifetime Award to 2021 awardee	-1000.00 USD
Lulu Press Revenue	626.38 USD
New membership fees	780.00 USD
Paypal charge	-36.27 USD
Current balance (21 Dec 2021)	40802.76 USD**

* HSBC: 32452.22 GBP = 44,738.31 USD; Paypal: 6397.91 USD; Arrears: -7260.40 USD

**HSBC: 32452.22 GBP = 42956.03 USD; Paypal: 7,768.02 USD; Arrears: -9260.40 USD

- Currently we have 330 active members. She briefly discussed the issue of membership renewal if membership lapses in between conferences (e.g., 2023).

Number of members in January 2020	323 (including 7 LAA members)
New 3-year member	4
New 2-year member	2*
New 1-year member	4
Current number of members	330

5. Report on IATBR online webinars (Charisma)

- Charisma also provided a report about IATBR online webinars, an initiative undertaken during 2021 to fill the gap due to the postponement of the Chile conference. So far 3 seminars from previous Eric Pas and Lifetime Achievement Award awardees have been organized. Charisma thanked Giovanni and the UC Davis team for support in hosting the webinars. The seminars were well attended, with anywhere from 110 to 140 participants from about 30 countries. The recordings of the seminars are available on IATBR's Youtube channel.

Seminar 1: 'Travel behaviour modelling at the interface between econometrics and mathematical psychology' by Dr Thomas Hancock followed by a discussion by Prof Tommy Garling <https://youtu.be/K6NDo8pwZvo>

222 signed up registrants, with 141 registrants tuning-in for the live webinar, and 30 countries were represented, 155 views.

Seminar 2: 'Checking models in statistics, machine learning, and discrete choice: a perspective to bind us all' by Dr Timothy Brathwaite followed by a discussion by Professor Eric Miller <https://youtu.be/pLFplCT22xg>

263 signed up registrants, with 139 registrants tuning-in for the live webinar, and 32 countries were represented, 144 views.

Seminar 3: 'Deep Neural Networks for Choice Analysis' by Dr Shenhao Wang followed by a discussion by Professor Juan de Dios Ortuzar <https://youtu.be/95AJNRRnmoY>

233 signed up registrants, with 113 registrants tuning-in for the live webinar, and 29 countries were represented, 48 views.

6. 2022-IATBR conference in Chile (Sebastian)

- Sebastian provided a brief update of the 2022 IATBR conference in Chile. The deadline for abstract submission is March 2022. Chile is leading in vaccination rates, so Sebastian is optimistic about the conference in December. Both Sebastian and Kostas encouraged everybody to submit abstracts.

7. Election 2021 outcome, new appointments, thanks to outgoing Board members (Kostas)

- Kostas introduced Abdul Pinjari as the new Chair of IATBR (for the years 2022 and 2023) and other new Board members in his Welcome address.

8. Discussion on amendments to the Constitution (Kostas and Abdul)

- Abdul discussed a few possible modifications to the Constitution, i.e.:
 - Increase the maximum number of years a person can serve on the Board from 10 years to 12 years (to allow one to grow in ranks from a Regular Board Member to the Chair of IATBR – 4 years as Regular Board Member, 4 years as Secretary/Treasurer, 2 years as Vice Chair and 2 years as Chair).
 - Limit the number of individuals from a single institution on the Board to two. Jonas de Vos, via chat, also highlighted that only a maximum of 2 persons from one institution should be on the IATBR Board, which was also supported by Juan de Dios Ortuzar.
 - Include clauses to allow a current Board member or Elected Officer who has not completed their term to run for another post, while also ensuring continuity in the current role of the Board member.
 - Scope for the Board to appoint a member or an officer, in case a vacancy arises before/after an election. For example, the Board appointed Yusak who stepped forward to serve as the Secretary, after Charisma got elected as the Vice Chair.
- Chandra Bhat highlighted the need to consider geographic diversity, particularly to engage with regions that have typically been under-represented in IATBR. Kostas echoed this point and indicated that the Board can consider appointing additional members from regions such as Africa (this was echoed by Khandker Nurul Habib).

9. IATBR initiatives for 2022 and 2023 (Abdul)

- Abdul expressed his intention to increase IATBR's efforts to reach out to a wider audience, particularly to increase engagement with the regions of the world that are typically under-represented in IATBR. Juan de Dios was not sure whether we

- needed to do anything else. Charisma said we can encourage our alumni in less represented countries to help increase participation in IATBR activities.
- Abdul suggested that we can do a few online webinars (continuing the series that Charisma started), with a focus on regions that are not typically well-represented in IATBR. Since many researchers and students from less developed regions may not have funding to attend the IATBR's flagship conferences, they might benefit from attending the online events. Kostas mentioned that although the online events might seem to compete with other such online webinar series and the IATBR conference, it would be a good way to attract more diverse participation in IATBR conferences.
 - Yusak asked members whether they think it is a good idea to utilize the webinars as a way to stimulate travel behavior research in each region (which can be considered as our proactive initiative to reach out to specific regions). Charisma also supported the idea.
 - Abdul mentioned that we will start the IATBR newsletter. Taha will lead the effort as the Chief Editor of the newsletter.

10. Other announcements and business

Adjourn

(Kostas closed the meeting at 17:07 GMT)