



ISIR NEWSLETTER

June 2005 Vol. 23. No.1.

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EDITORIAL

This issue contains the results of the survey which has been completed among ISIR members in the last few months. The idea came from our newly elected President, Jacob Wijngaard and has proven to be a very successful one. We have not dreamt to receive 63 responses! And it is not only the number, but the quality of the ideas coming up which make us really enthusiastic.

Of course it is a very important addition to our good feelings that the survey results basically confirm that ISIR follows a path which meets the requirements of our members. This is reflected in the vast majority of positive and neutral replies to the questions regarding our basic activities.

But at least as important as the approval of the main line is the large number of suggestions made for further improvement. I find it especially important that our members want us to put more emphasis on the young scholars and their results – this is a proof that our members want to see a long future of the society. This is probably strongly based on the positive view of the quality of our activity: the quality of papers at the Symposium, the Newsletter and the website are all well received (even though not rated excellent) by the members – of course we still have a lot of room for improvement and we are grateful for the suggestions.

We will consider all these suggestions and following an email discussion the most important ones will be put on the agenda of next year's EC and general assembly meeting to make decisions on the possible innovations.

We would be very happy if we received comments on the summary of the survey results published in this Newsletter – that would make our improvement efforts more effective. And yes, we would like to see as many of you as possible at the events of the 14th Symposium next year, where we can discuss the future of the Society (and the Symposium) in full detail.

Attila Chikán



UPDATE ON THE 7TH ISIR SUMMER SCHOOL ON SUPPLY CHAIN INVENTORY MANAGEMENT

**Mannheim Business School,
University of Mannheim, Germany,**

August 14-19, 2005

The seventh ISIR summer school will be organized by the Chair of Logistics, Mannheim Business School at the University of Mannheim in Germany. It takes place from August 14 to 19, 2005, and the general theme is: "Supply Chain Inventory Management".

Objective

Following the successful format of the previous ISIR summer schools, the objective is to bring together junior and senior researchers and to create an atmosphere for intensive discussion on the Ph.D. student's research topics that fit under the general theme. This will be accompanied by tutorial overviews on selected topics. The following scholars have accepted the invitation to give a tutorial in their field of research:

- Charles Corbett (UCLA),
- Moritz Fleischmann (Erasmus University Rotterdam)
- Ton de Kok (TU Eindhoven)
- Edward A. Silver (University of Calgary)

Ph.D. students and senior researchers had to register **before June 15, 2005** (www.bwl.uni-mannheim.de/Minner/isir2005/registrationform.doc). As discussants, one senior and one junior researcher will be assigned to each paper. The assigned papers will be distributed prior to the summer school. Senior researchers willing to contribute to the summer school are kindly requested to contact the organizer as soon as possible.

Region and conference location

Mannheim is located next to the rivers Rhine and Neckar in the south-west of Germany and can be reached from Frankfurt airport within half an hour by fast train. The Rhine-Neckar area is one of the most attractive industrial regions in Germany. The city of Mannheim is situated close to the beautiful Pfalz region which is a landscape both well-known for its large forest area and for its fine wines. There is also a celebrated touristic attraction, the city of Heidelberg with its unique old castle, within easy reach.

The ISIR summer school takes place at the University of Mannheim in the ancient baroque castle (Schloss) in the centre of Mannheim.

Organizer and correspondence

The summer school is organized by
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REPORT ON ISIR RELATED EVENTS

ISIR Session at the Allied Social Science Associations Meetings

January 7-9, 2005, Philadelphia, PA, USA

The ISIR session at the ASSA Meetings in Philadelphia, PA took place on January 7, 2005 and was entitled “*Macro and Firm-Level Studies of Inventories*”. Presiding was **Louis J. Maccini** of Johns Hopkins University. The session was organized by **Valerie Ramey** of the University of California at San Diego. The following papers were presented at the session:

“Strategic Stockouts in Supermarkets” by Victor Aguirregaberia, Boston University.

This paper presents a model where retailers sell multiple brands of a product and compete in prices and inventories (i.e., probabilities of a stockout), and brand manufacturers compete in wholesale prices. The model is estimated using data from the central warehouse of a supermarket chain. The estimated model is used to evaluate the effects of profits and welfare of resale price maintenance (RPM) and manufacturer-managed inventories (MMI). For the products under consideration, RPI does not help to increase profits or welfare, but MMI does.

Discussant: *Silke Januszewski*, University of California at San Diego

“Prices, Production and Inventories over the Automotive Year” by Adam Copeland, Federal Reserve Board, Wendy Dunn, Federal Reserve Board, and George Hall, Yale University

This paper studies the within-model-year pricing and production of new automobiles. Using new monthly data on U.S. transactions prices, the authors document that for the typical new vehicle, prices typically fall over the model year but sales and inventories are hump-shaped. A market equilibrium model for new automobiles is constructed in which inventory and pricing decisions are made simultaneously. The profit-maximizing pricing and production strategies under a build-to-stock inventory policy imply declining

prices and hump-shaped sales and inventories as observed in the data. Roughly half the price decline is driven by inventory control considerations rather than decreasing demand.

Discussant: *Ana Aizcorbie*, Bureau of Economic Analysis

“Credit Channel, Trade Credit Channel, and Inventory Investment: Evidence from a Panel of UK Firms” by Alessandra Guariglia, University of Nottingham and Simona Matuet, University of Nottingham

This paper uses a panel of 609 UK firms over the period 1980-2000 to test for the existence of a trade credit channel of the transmission of monetary policy, and for whether this channel plays an offsetting effect on the traditional credit channel. The results suggest that both the credit and the trade credit channels operate in the UK, and that the latter channel tends to weaken the former.

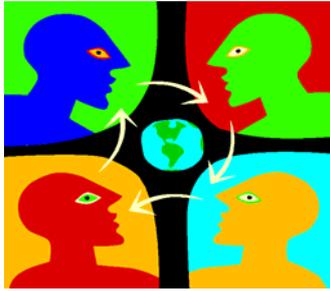
Discussant: *Scott Schuh*, Federal Reserve bank of Boston

“Durable Goods Inventories and the Volatility of Production: Explaining the Less Volatile U.S. Economy” by Yi Wen, Cornell University

This paper provides a simple dynamic optimization model of durable goods inventories. Closed form solutions are derived in a general equilibrium environment with imperfect information and serially correlated shocks. The model is applied to scrutinize some popular conjectures regarding the causes of the volatility reduction of GDP since 1984.

Discussant: *Margaret McConnell*, Federal Reserve Bank of New York

Louis Maccini



NEXT ISIR Session at the Allied Social Science Associations Meetings

January 6-8, 2006, Boston, MA, USA

Session Title: Inventories and the Aggregate Economy

Presiding: Huntley Schaller, Carleton University

Aubhik Khan, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, and Julia K. Thomas, University of Minnesota, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, and NBER -- "*Modeling Inventories over the Business Cycle*"

Matteo Iacoviello, Boston College, Fabio Schiantarelli, Boston College, and Scott Schuh, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston -- "*Input Output Inventories in General Equilibrium*"

Louis Maccini, Johns Hopkins University, Bart Moore, Fordham University, and Huntley Schaller, Carleton University -- "*Monetary Policy and Inventory Investment*"

Discussants:

James Kahn, Federal Reserve Bank of New York

Andreas Hornstein, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond

Martin Eichenbaum, Northwestern University

Expected attendance: 30-40

Presiding: Huntley Schaller

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**CALL
FOR
PAPERS**

14th International Symposium on Inventories

August 21-25, 2006

Budapest, Hungary

The highlights of the International Society for Inventory Research are the traditional biannual symposia. Our aim is to provide an international forum for academics, researchers, practitioners to meet and exchange their views and findings on various aspects of inventories. Papers on macro- and microeconomics, econometrics, economic policy, business management and operational research aspects of inventory problems and related fields (production, logistics, supply chain etc.) are invited.



Preliminary Program

The professional program will start on **August 21, 2006** with plenary sessions to be addressed by internationally acknowledged scholars. On the following days there will be sessions of the three sections of ISIR:

- **Economics of Inventories**
- **Inventory Management**
- **Mathematical Models of Inventories**

Besides the regular paper presentations we plan to have a few special sessions, roundtables and free discussions. We will organize two sessions which proved to be successful in the past:

- **Practitioners' roundtable**
- **Educators meeting**

Further special sessions will be announced in due course – suggestions are most welcome!

ISIR Official Meetings

The **ISIR Executive Committee** will have its meeting on Monday, August 21 evening.

The **ISIR General Assembly** meeting will be held on Thursday, August 24 in the afternoon.

Abstract submission

There will be a change in the traditional procedure of accepting papers. If you wish to present a paper please send us an extended abstract (400-500 words) before **March 15, 2006**. Abstracts will undergo a blind review. Executive Committee members will act as reviewers. Decisions regarding acceptance will be made by **April 30, 2006**. The volume of abstracts will be available at the Symposium.

The abstract should not contain the name of the author(s), affiliation, address, telephone, fax and e-mail, these should be placed on a separate page. If the paper has several authors, please indicate the corresponding author. Please also include three keywords. Abstracts can be submitted as an attachment via e-mail at the following address: info@isir.hu.

Proceedings

A selection of the submitted papers will be published in a Special Issue of the respected International Journal of Production Economics. The selection will be based on a refereeing procedure after the symposium. Those who wish to have their papers published will be requested to submit their paper (approximately 25.000 characters) by email before **July 31, 2006**.

Those who wish to present their paper **"in absentia"** should also submit an abstract before March 15, 2006 and if accepted send the full paper (also 25.000 characters) not later than **July 31, 2006**. These papers will be copied and distributed among the participants, and can also be included in the Proceedings.

Symposium Secretariat

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ISIR SURVEY RESULTS



Following the discussion at the ISIR General Assembly at the latest Symposium ISIR President, Professor Jacob Wijngaard had initiated a survey among ISIR members about the organization, the focus of the society, the scope of its activities and the biannual symposia. After several calls the ISIR Secretariat has gathered **63** questionnaires the results of which are summarized in the following. Based on the suggestions the Executive Committee of ISIR decided on the dates and schedule of the 2006 symposia; improvements that should be started right now and topics that should be discussed at the next General Assembly meeting.

MISSION AND ORGANIZATION OF ISIR

1. Should the current focus of the Society be	narrowed?	7	11%
	expanded?	30	47,7%
	Unchanged	22	34,9%
	No answer	4	6,3%

2. Should there be a change in the 3-section structure of the Society?

The majority voted (about 80%) for expanding both by naming new areas (e.g. supply chain management, logistics, information technology in inventory management, industry level – case studies, best practices, cross-disciplinary sections) and by eliminating the traditional structure and grouping papers at the symposium under different topics. These ideas can be easily incorporated in the program of the Symposium.

3. What do you consider the most important distinguishing characteristics of ISIR?

Most contributors consider the cross-disciplinary character of ISIR as its main distinguishing characteristics, besides its (natural) dedicated focus on inventories. As one of the respondents put it: A strict and competent focus on one relevant argument (inventory), but a complete attention to its various facets (e.g., management, theory and practice, economic aspects) and continuous attention to emerging lines of study and investigation (recently, supply chain, in the past, flexible manufacturing, simulation etc.). Others emphasize the informal, small and inspiring community of high level academics and the very international character of meetings.

COMPOSITION OF THE MEMBERSHIP

4. Should the Society attempt to change the composition of its membership?

Yes	21	33,3%
No	18	28,6%
No Answer	24	38,1%

The increase of which membership group should be particularly important:

	Yes	%	No	%	No Answer	%
Economists	26	41,3	11	21,6	26	41,3
Management Scholars	26	41,3	6	11,8	31	49,2
Operational Researchers	15	23,8	10	15,9	38	60,3
Young / PhD scholars	46	73,0	2	3,2	15	23,8
Practitioners	36	57,1	7	11,1	20	31,7
Non-European participants	31	49,2	6	9,5	26	41,3
Other (please specify):	IT/informatics researchers					



There is practically no majority opinion to this question – this also means that only 33,3 % has an opinion about changing the composition. There is a group which is supported by a vast majority: young/PhD students. We have to find ways of increasing their participation.

5. What can you suggest to help attract more members to the Society? Please include recommendations specific to particular membership groups.

There are a lot of ideas how to attract more people and increase the publicity of the Society such as

- Improve and enrich the content of the website;
- Publish the papers more quickly
- Create more publications/journals (e.g. ISIR working paper series)
- PhD workshop and practice oriented tracks at the symposia
- More ISIR streams at various conferences
- „Member get a member” campaign
- Increase the number of hard benefits (e.g. discount on purchasing IJPE)
- More topical workshops besides the summer school
- Announce meetings through other well-known organizations

The Executive Committee will/should examine each suggestions, make a priority list of tasks that are feasible with the current resources and will try to identify further resources where necessary.

6. Should the Society focus particularly on attracting junior researchers as participants in its activities? If yes, please include specific ideas and recommendations which would help increase this segment of the membership.

There is a general agreement that we should help the participation of young (PhD) researchers. The main proposal are through supervisors/senior researchers, with organizing a special workshop, some award (best paper), creating a „club” of young researchers for networking, running their subpage on ISIR website and lower participation and membership fees.

There is also an opposite view; saying that ISIR is not attractive enough for young researchers because the symposia are expensive, it „cannot provide the size and infrastructure of other American members”.

THE BIENNIAL SYMPOSIUM

7. Please comment on these aspects of the Symposium

a.) Frequency (now biannual)

Agree	57	90,5 %
Change	0	0,0 %
No Answer	6	9,5 %

Over 90% of the respondents want to keep the Symposium biannual, only a few people suggest an annual meeting.

b.) Location (now Budapest)

Agree	31	49,2 %
Change	6	25,4 %
No Answer	16	25,4 %

About half of the people would keep the Symposium in Budapest, one quarter would change it, one quarter did not answer. Those who suggest change are practically equally distributed among:

- 1) Having it in another European city
- 2) Having every other year in Budapest
- 3) Have it biannually at any location but Budapest.

There are a few „others”.



c.) Timing (now late August)

Agree	19	30,2 %
Change	21	33,3 %
No Answer	23	36,5 %

A little less than one third suggests no change in timing, a little more than one third does not answer. One third wants to change: the largest subgroup of them (11 respondents) said that earlier in August would be more appropriate. Six people wants to have it late Spring or early in the Summer and five wants a later time (September). For the next year we have asked the EC to decide on the dates of the Symposium and the majority voted for August 21-25.

d.) Structure (now 2 days of meetings, a day's excursion, 2 days of meetings)

Agree	31	49,2 %
Change	13	20,6 %
No Answer	19	30,2 %

As far as the structure of the Symposium is concerned half of the respondents want to have it unchanged, 30% do not answer. Most of the remaining 20% want a shorter meeting: 2.5-3.5 days.

e.) The full day excursion is essential

Agree	26	41,3 %
Change	20	31,7 %
No Answer	17	27,0 %

Almost half of the people agree with the concept of the full day excursion, underlying its social and networking importance. One third of the respondents would either shorten it to half day and/or have it at the end of the Symposium or prefer it to be optional. Only 5 colleagues want to drop it entirely.

f.)-g.) Registration Fee (in 2004 Eur 450-560 / Overall Cost (including hotel and travel)

Agree	15	23,8 %	Agree	18	28,6 %
Change	23	36,5 %	Change	20	31,7 %
No Answer	25	39,7 %	No Answer	25	39,7 %

About 40% did not answer the question about the registration fee. 36.5% says it is too high mainly for PhD students. The proportions are about the same regarding the overall cost of the meeting. The main suggestions (though each represented by a few people only) are to cut on 1) meals 2) excursion 3) length of the conference.

8. Compared with your experiences at other conferences, are you satisfied with the quality of the papers and sessions at the Biannual Symposium? If not, please provide suggestions for improvement.

Suggestions:

	Yes	%	No	%	No Answer	%
A programme committee is necessary	41	65,1	12	19,0	10	15,9
More special sessions labeled by topics	32	50,8	23	36,5	8	12,7
Special session for PhD students	32	50,8	21	33,3	10	15,9
Keep the possibility of "in absentia" papers	31	49,2	24	38,1	8	12,7



Comparison with the quality of papers and sessions (basically the professional contents) of the Symposium came at **3.4** and **3.5**, which means slightly but definitely above the average. Most respondents find it useful to have a programme committee (65.2%) the majority would support having more special sessions and a PhD session. The majority of respondents wants to keep the possibility of „in absentia” papers. Inviting famous keynote speakers may attract more participants to the Symposium.

THE SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES

9. Are there current ISIR activities should be eliminated?

Very few comments arrived about the elimination of ISIR activities – it seems that most of our colleagues are either happy about what we do or have very little information about it.

10. Which ISIR activities should definitely be continued (perhaps with some modifications)?

According to the respondents most activities should be continued. There are three activities which come out frequently: symposium (28x), Summer School (21x), Newsletter (12x) and ISIR sessions at the ASSA meetings and other joint sessions (7x). These seem to be those activities which our members mostly identify ISIR with.

11. What new activities should the Society undertake?

There are many suggestions for further activities:

Publications – ISIR should create its own journal. Ideas range from its being a scientific one through a semi-academic journal on applications of inventory research to a bi-annual practitioner oriented journal with selected work written in plain language for the practitioners to understand. On the other hand ISIR activities should be reported in publications of other societies or in scientific journals.

Web – 1) An on-line inventory bibliography of all published and working papers related to inventories should be added (put URL links and abstract on ISIR web site - papers at authors' web sites.). 2) More networking opportunities: all members have to be listed and their contacts should be available for other members. 3) Chat via internet.

Events – 1) Doctoral seminars; encouraging an international network of PhD courses 2) Organization of smaller events through its members in their respective institutions (local meetings with researchers, guest lectures) 3) Other topical workshops, smaller conferences (practice of supply chain management, APS in supply chain management etc.) 4) Regional meetings could be held in regions where membership is desired. 5) Try to get sessions in more professional societies meetings.

New Prizes and awards - More emphasis should be placed on young researchers in award mechanisms (paper competition)

Research – 1) EU sponsored project (Socrates or other) of network in inventory research. 2) Joint research projects of ISIR members. 3) If a related institute could be started the Society could try to sell its services to other institutions (e.g. international or national research groups, European Commission, national governments) by writing an annual report on the state of industrial organization and policy, management and labor issues, business cycle and macroeconomic performance in a number of countries. 4) Help to search for partner researchers in projects, provide information from members about realized joint research projects 5) More emphasis on applied research (best practice).

These will be studied one by one by the EC.

12. How do you rate

	Average %
The Newsletter:	3.8
The website:	3.4



Both are satisfactory. Suggestions came to improve the look and content of the homepage (more links, members only sections, more links to research and working papers, information about other conferences, have a more fancy and better structured look, it should be regularly updated) – they will be considered.

13. Please make suggestions on

a) How to increase financial resources of ISIR?

Suggestions regarding the improvement of ISIR's financial position are mostly focusing on
 1) corporate sponsorship
 2) larger membership
 3) EU grants.

b) How to improve information flow among members?

Improvement of information flow can be reached by
 1) using the website more frequently
 2) publishing a membership list
 3) regular email updates (every two months).

c) At which conferences we should attempt to have ISIR sessions?

Those conferences at which we should have joint sessions with the organizing institution are (mentioned more than once):

- APICS (American Production and Inventory Control Society)
- ASSA (Allied Social Sciences Association)
- DSI (Decision Sciences Institute)
- EEA (European Economic Association)
- EURO (The Association of European Operational Research Societies) – www.euro-online.org
- EUROMA (European Operations Management Association)
- IFORS (International Federation of Operational Research Societies)
- IGLS Seminars on production economics
- INFORMS (Institute for Operations for Operations Research and the Management Sciences)
- POMS (Production and Operations Management Society)

According to several respondents, no such sessions are needed.



This year the annual EUROMA conference was organized in Budapest with 310 participants, hosted by the Hungarian Association of Logistics, Purchasing and Inventory Management. The theme of the conference was Operations and Global Competitiveness, which called discussing the challenges that Europe is facing today. The 310 participants arrived from 31 countries and they could listen to more than 230 papers in 13 parallel sessions.

The presentations were organized around 14 topics as follows (presentations are in brackets):

- Global operations and supply chains (31)
- International operations management (9)
- Operations and supply chain performance management (20)
- Co-design and new product development (15)
- Operations strategy (31)
- Cultural and human issues in SCM (12)
- Environmental and technology management (7)
- Inventory management (10)
- Logistics and physical distribution (15)
- Operations planning and control (9)
- Production and manufacturing management (20)
- Purchasing and supply management (20)
- Service operations management (30)
- Teaching issues in Operations Management (7)

For you information we have picked up a few inventory related papers:

Boute, R. N., Disney, S. M., Lambrecht, M. R., Van der Velde, W. and Van Houdt, B.: Bullwhip reduction and win-win strategies

The paper considers a two echelon supply chain with a single retailer and a single manufacturer. The authors focus on an inventory replenishment rule that reduces the variation of upstream orders and generates a smooth ordering pattern.



Dellaert, N. P., Flapper, S. D. P. And Tan, T.: Integral capacity and inventory decision making in a simple production system

The paper deals with the integral acquisition of capacity and material in a situation with uncertain demand, with non zero lead times for the supply of both materials and capacity. Authors use dynamic programming formulation for this purpose. The final objective is to derive characteristics of the optimal strategy.

Gaalman, G. and Disney, S.: Investigation of an order-up-to policy with conditional expectation forecasting and arbitrary lead-times

Authors study the bullwhip and inventory variance problem in a single echelon of a supply chain with arbitrary lead times. They assume three types of demand: uncorrelated white noise demand, autoregressive demand and autoregressive moving average demand.

Goentzel, J. D.: Characterization of inventory as proportional to throughput with implications for supply chain network design

Empirical data often shows that distribution center inventory is much closer to a linear relationship with throughput than EOQ based theory would suggest. This paper examines this situation using data from a network design project with Ford Customer Service Division in North America. It turns out that the linear approximation is reasonably valid across a fairly wide range of coefficient of variation of demand.

Holweg, M. and Disney, S. M.: The evolving frontiers of the bullwhip problem

The paper shows why the demand amplification problem still presents new challenges to researchers. On the basis of historical review the authors identify three distinct research domains that have addressed the problem: discrete time, continuous time and frequency domain approaches. They examine the interactions of these domains over time.

Niemi, P. and Huiskonen, J.: Differentiating inventory policies according to regularities in irregular demand

The authors present an approach aimed at disaggregating customers in order to achieve savings in inventory costs. They illustrate their approach by a case study.

Jonsson, Patrik: Operational strategies for achieving material planning efficiency

The paper studies the impact of how different planning parameters are determined, their review frequencies and their planning frequencies on the performance of five material planning methods.

Lehtinen, U. and Romppainen, H.: Economic order quantity model as a tool for component purchasing

The paper presents a tool developed for EOQ determination collecting the purchasing cost elements required for the EOQ calculations. A case shows the applicability of the model.

Mustaffa, N. H. and Disney, S. M.: Approaches to solving the inventory routing problem

The paper presents an initial investigation into the inventory routing problem. Authors develop a simple "toy" simulation for the problem concentrating on inventory and transportation costs.

Skintzi, G., Ioannou, G. and Prastacos, G.: Flexible warehousing policies

The paper focus on warehouse decisions and investigates three different warehousing policies and ownership structures of the warehousing facilities: investing in warehouse, outsource activity, and flexible outsourcing.

Xie, Y. and Petrovic, D.: Fuzzy logic based decision making system for stock allocation in a distribution supply chain

The paper examines the problem when multiple retailers place orders at the same time on a warehouse and the warehouse does not hold enough stock, thus the warehouse has to determine quantities delivered to each retailer. The objective of the stock allocation is to achieve target fill rates at acceptable holding costs or target holding cost at acceptable fill rates.

Zanoni, S. Ferretti, I. and Zavanella, L.: A new periodic review inventory policy for hybrid manufacturing/remanufacturing systems

The paper examines a reverse logistics system with simulation. Authors study the well known (R, S)-push periodic system review and a new policy defined (R, s, S)-pull periodic review. The objective of the papers is to highlight the costs for the two alternatives.

The CD containing each paper presented at the conference is available for EUR 32 (incl.p&p).



(You can order it through the ISIR Secretariat. If you are interested in the full list of papers visit the conference website at www.euroma2005.hu.)

Concerning the social part of the conference we had a wonderful evening on the Europe boat which took us on the Danube there and back. Besides enjoying the beauties of Budapest we could see an

excellent folk dance performance and an unbelievable sand animation about the birth of mankind.

The next conference will take place in Glasgow, Scotland, between June 18-21, 2006.

Krisztina Demeter
Co-chair EurOMA Conference 2005

■ ■ ■ N E W ■ ■ ■ International Journal of Inventory Research (IJIR)



ISSN (Online): 1746-6970 - ISSN (Print): 1746-6962

Published in 4 issues per year

The *IJIR* publishes contemporary, cutting-edge research on all aspects of inventory theory to foster discussion among researchers, practitioners, and educators on the management and control of inventories.

<http://www.inderscience.com/browse/index.php?journalID=178>

Objectives

The objective of *IJIR* is to promote and stimulate innovative inventory research and its application for improving the productivity, customer satisfaction and competitiveness of manufacturing firms, retailers, logistics providers and all organisations that manage inventories. Although the journal will maintain a focus on inventory theory, it will deal with operational as well as strategic issues, with specific inventory models as well as with general supply chain issues, with firm-level as well as macroeconomic perspectives.

Contents

IJIR publishes original, high-quality research. Normative and methodological research, empirical studies, as well as innovative applications, are appropriate for *IJIR* provided there is practical managerial relevance. State-of-the-art review papers that examine and evaluate recent streams of inventory research will also be considered. Special issues devoted to important topics in inventory research will occasionally be published.

All papers are refereed through a double blind process. A guide for authors, sample copies and other relevant information for submitting papers are available on <http://www.inderscience.com/browse/index.php?journalID=178>

Subject Coverage

Submissions are encouraged on all aspects of inventory research including, but not limited to:

- Modelling inventory systems (deterministic/stochastic, single/multi-echelon, static/dynamic, etc.)
- Empirical research
- Supply chain management
- Retail inventory management
- Revenue management
- Supplier partnerships, including vendor-managed inventory, quick response, etc.
- Enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems
- Supply contracts
- Transportation inventory networks
- Lean systems
- Macroeconomic aspects of inventories

Research that integrates inventory theory with other areas (marketing, quality control, finance, etc.) is also encouraged.

Editor: Prof. Timothy L. Urban

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NEWS FROM MEMBERS



Prof. dr. W.H.M. Zijm

was elected to serve as the new Rector Magnificus of the University of Twente starting January 1, 2005 for a period of four years. He was unanimously nominated to this position by the Deans and Scientific Directors of the University of Twente and appointed by the Supervisory Committee installed by the Dutch Minister of Education.

Sven Axsater

recipient of the 2005 Harold Larnder Memorial Prize

Sven Axsater, President of ISIR 1996-1998, has received the 2005 Harold Larnder Memorial Prize for distinguished international achievement in Operational Research. The Harold Larnder Memorial Prize was established in 1986 by the Canadian Operational Research Society (CORS). Sven Axsater got the prize in May 2005 in connection with the National Conference of the Canadian Operational Research Society in Halifax.

CONGRATULATIONS!



CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Global Manufacturing Research Group meeting

August 3-5, 2005, Phoenix, Arizona, USA

The Global Manufacturing Research Group (GMRG) is a multi-national community of researchers dedicated to the study and improvement of manufacturing practices worldwide. Through systematic study and research throughout the world, the GMRG aims to improve manufacturing practice through the development of theory and dissemination of results. By sharing ideas, results, and concepts with research colleagues and manufacturing executives around the globe, the GMRG serves to strengthen the linkage between research and practice.

The next GMRG workshop will focus on academic research developed from the questionnaire. Jack Wacker is the coordinator and the program theme is "**International Manufacturing Research.**"

This meeting's primary purpose is to discuss each optional module and for module developers to give a summary and overview of the research in each specific area. There will be an overview of the current questionnaire. Each module developer will present their module and discuss the related literature.

Information is available from
Jack Wacker (j.wacker@cox.net) or
the website: <http://cibs.tamu.edu/gmr/>.



6th International Conference on Operations and Quantitative Management

August 9-11, 2005, Indore, India

Venue: Indian Institute of Management (IIM)

Theme: Intelligent Decision Making: Emerging Strategy for Global Winners

In addition to the main theme, scholars are encouraged to submit abstracts on topics related with any area of management such as operations, quantitative methods, information technology, marketing, management, finance, economics, etc.

Please visit www.aims-international.org/icoqm6 for the conference brochure and other details on the conference.

Omprakash K. Gupta, Ph.D.

ICOQM6 Co-chair

Email: icoqm6@aims-international.org

14th International Working Seminar on Production Economics

February 20-24, 2006, Congress und Messe Innsbruck, Austria

The purpose of this seminar is to provide an opportunity for research scientists and practitioners to meet, present and develop their ideas on subjects within the field of Production Economics. Papers submitted will be distributed to all participants in advance. A discussant will be appointed for each paper. The intention is, that models and methods presented, and the discussion of them, will result in concrete ideas for future research and developments in this area. Participants of the Seminar are expected to act as discussants within their field of expertise.

Participants, who wish to present papers, are requested to send an abstract not exceeding 250 words by **November 1, 2005** at the latest (either electronically to rwg@ipe.liu.se, or hard copy).

Acceptance of abstracts will be notified to authors by ca December 1, 2005.

The number of participants will be limited. By submitting an abstract authors implicitly agree to have their paper published in the Seminar Proceedings, which means that their paper has not

been published nor is intended to be published elsewhere.

Full papers should be submitted by **January 15, 2006**, in order to be included in the Pre-Prints. Papers presented will be reviewed after the seminar. Accepted papers will be printed in proceedings issues of the International Journal of Production Economics by Elsevier, Amsterdam.

The sessions will cover the six main areas:

- Production and Inventory Control
- Investment and Financial Planning in Production
- Manufacturing Strategy
- Supply Chain Management
- Productivity Measurement and Analysis
- Innovation and Technology Management

Official mailing address: Organisation Committee

Att: Dr Janerik Lundquist

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e-mail: rwg@ipe.liu.se

<http://www.ipe.liu.se/wg/igls/igls.htm>

INFORMS International Meeting

June 25-28, 2006, Hong Kong

Next summer, the INFORMS meeting will take place at the Sheraton Hong Kong Hotel and Towers from June 25-28. Nesim Erkip is organizing a cluster of sessions on "**Operations Management**". If you would like to organize an invited session on a particular theme within this area, please let him know.

Submission deadline is **January 15, 2006**.

Nesim Erkip

Middle East Technical University

Department of Industrial Engineering

e-mail: erkipn@metu.edu.tr

<http://www.informs.org/Conf/Hongkong06/>



CALL FOR PAPERS

International Journal of Production Economics Special Issue: Operations Management in China

World attention is increasingly focused on the rapid growth of the Chinese economy and trade. The management of manufacturing, services, and distribution operations is a critical element of this sustained expansion, but is poorly understood, at least outside of China. Much of the extant literature has quickly dated with the rapid development and events such as WTO accession.

This special issue of the International Journal of Production Economics provides a focused and timely forum for researchers to explore issues concerning the management of manufacturing and services operations management in China. In line with the objectives of the journal we seek papers that will improve decision making and practice of enterprises with operations in China, or dealing with operations in China. A wide variety of papers in conceptual and strategic theories, empirical research, case studies and analytical models focusing on the key issues of the theme of this special issue will be considered for publication. Papers that are interdisciplinary in nature in terms of content or in terms of research methodologies are particularly encouraged.

Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

1. Internal Operations Management Issues in China

- capacity planning, enterprise systems, inventory management, outsourcing, process improvement, production planning and scheduling, productivity and performance measurement, project management, quality management, services operations, technology management, and their relationship with corporate strategy

2. Inter-organizational Operations issues in China

- distribution systems, information exchange, logistics management, purchasing, supplier relationships, third party logistics

3. Interfaces between Operations and other functional areas in China

- customer relationship management, engineering, environmental management, finance, foreign investment, human resources, international trade, marketing, organizational design, product development, research and development

Manuscript Preparation and Submission

In preparing their manuscript, authors are asked to closely follow the "Instructions to Authors" presented at the back of any recent issue of the International Journal of Production Economics. Manuscripts will be refereed according to the standards of the Journal. Completed papers should be sent to the Guest Editor before **31 December, 2005**. Send your submission as a single attachment file to an email to **David Robb**, The University of Auckland (d.robb@auckland.ac.nz). In your email, please include (1) the full title, (2) abstract, (3) three key words of your paper, and (4) full name and postal address, including email and fax, of all authors. Manuscript (the attachment file) should be prepared in English, to ensure that:

1. The first page should include the title and abstract only. The text starts from the second page, including the title. No author identification information should be included to facilitate anonymous review process. Acknowledgements can be added after the paper is accepted for publication.
2. When saving the file, any author identifying information has been removed from the attachment.
3. The manuscript is doubled spaced, with all pages numbered, and formatted correctly in the form of a Word file, using Word 2000 (or an earlier version), or in PDF format.
4. The length is limited to 30 double-spaced pages including text, references, tables and figures.
5. The file prints out correctly (check especially to be sure imported figures and tables print, as you want them to!).

Publication Schedule - Manuscript submission 31 December, 2005

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