

EURO WISDOM Forum

Workshop: A Gender Lens on OR Research

Sunday 22nd June 14.00 - 16.30 (preceded by light lunch)

Venue: (Room TBC), Leeds University, England

The OR community has had considerable success modelling and solving important real world problems across many application areas. The EURO WISDOM Forum aims to support, empower and encourage the participation of all genders in OR and does this through its events and research. The WISDOM Research subcommittee aims to:

- 1) Specify gender equality research questions of interest to, or answerable by the broadest definition of the OR discipline;
- 2) Identify / gather data sources in line with all GDPR and relevant ethics guidelines;
- 3) Identify academic and other publication opportunities.

EURO 2025 WISDOM Workshop Objectives:

The workshop goal is to make progress on WISDOM research plans by specifying some WISDOM and OR research topics with the workshop participants, and to create visibility of the research agenda by connecting with members of the OR community. We're aiming to run this as a goal-oriented session with senior members of WISDOM and the OR community acting as facilitators advising as subject matter experts for OR sub-disciplines, and/or "clients" to pose problems through a gender lens. We plan to explore OR problems in specific application areas through a gender lens to uncover possible gender dimensions. We aim to:

1. Identify and specify OR research projects that include a gender lens;
2. Identify topics for research into issues that impact on women's experiences as OR professionals;
3. Explore the role of OR in addressing gender dimensions of global challenges.

Methodology

We will use a "brainstorming" approach to explore the gender dimension of OR application areas such as Disaster Management, Health care, transport, clean energy etc..

We will cluster participants into groups by application area/topic interest from pre-submitted expressions of interest in a Google registration form.

We will appoint a co-facilitator and senior/subject matter expert/problem posers for each group.

Each group will select a raconteur and document their ideas in a Google document.

Expected outputs from each group are a short technical report including:

- Draft gender/OR problem statement;
- Potential data and solution approach;
- High level plan of next steps;

The workshop facilitators will synthesise the ideas and plan for a joint women in OR networks event at IFORS 2026



Workshop programme

1. Welcome & Introductions (Paula Carroll, 5 minutes)
2. Workshop objectives and approach & topic overviews (~15 minutes)
 - a. How workshop works, Sibel Salman;
 - b. Topic areas, Co-facilitators, ~3 topics;
3. Activity 1: Examining OR problem statements through a gender lens (Co-facilitators lead, appoint rapporteur at start, ~45 minutes):
 - a. The lead for each topic highlights opportunities/challenges for that topic and explains Brainstorming Activity 1 which poses a series of questions to the subgroup, ~5 minutes;
 - b. Each subgroup guided by co-facilitator with inputs from subject matter expert does a "sprint" through Activity 1 questions, ~30 minutes;
 - c. Group members document discussion highlights, ~10 minutes;
4. Rapporteurs report to Workshop (~3 topic rapporteurs ~10 minutes);
5. Senior researchers in the room provide quickfire responses, ~5 minutes;
6. Short break ~5 minutes
7. Activity 2: Reframe an OR problem statement to include a gender dimension (Co-facilitators lead, ~45 minutes)
 - a. Each subgroup does "sprints" to refine an OR problem statement through a gender lens, see Brainstorming Activity 2 aiming to identify:
 - i. Suitable OR methodology;
 - ii. Potential data sources;
 - iii. Document research project outline and next steps.
8. Rapporteurs report to Workshop (~3 topic rapporteurs ~10 minutes);
9. Workshop wrap up (Paula Carroll)
 - a. Senior researchers/subject matter expert quick fire responses;
 - b. Thanks/acknowledgement, EURO 2025 YW4OR special sessions

Application Areas may include:

1. Disaster management
2. Healthcare
3. Transport
4. Impact observatory
5. Gender/OR Nexus in Practice (collaboration with ORS WORAN/Ruth)
6. Balancing work-life commitments: Challenges and solutions for women in OR.
7. Other/self-proposed: Behavioral OR