

Control and Cybernetics

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Preface to this issue – from the Editors

Even though this particular issue is not anyhow a “special issue” of the journal, nor even an issue with a “special section”, of which – both special issues and the special sections – we have had a lot in the past, we would like to draw the attention of the Readers to some specific features of this issue. It contains, namely, a couple of papers, originating from the conference BOS 2016 of the Polish Operational and Systems Research Society. The BOS conferences are a bi-annual platform of exchange and discussion for the Polish, but also, to an increasing degree, international OR and systems community. The series of these conferences, which started in the middle of the 1980s, brings each time a wide choice of papers, devoted to both methodological and applied issues. These conferences are organised by the Society in close cooperation with the Systems Research Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the publisher of this journal.

The papers from the BOS 2016 conference, which appear in this issue, have been selected on the basis of their domains of application, namely their primary association with economic and social issues. The group of selected papers have gone through additional reviewing and got final acceptance just in time to be qualified to the present issue of the journal. It is, actually, possible that some more papers from this group shall yet be published in *Control & Cybernetics*, but this will depend upon the outcome from the reviewing process and the timing of modifications, done by the respective authors.

An attentive Reader of our journal shall certainly note that these papers, originating from BOS 2016, slightly differ in their character from the mainstream articles, which appear in our journal, whose main emphasis is predominantly on the theoretical and methodological developments, with numerical examples serving to prove the feasibility or quality of these new developments. The papers from BOS 2016 are, however, quite typical for the OR community, where methods and techniques find their applications in various domains, whether of direct practical significance (like in the case of enterprise modelling, supporting strategic decision making in a company), or of more cognitive orientation (like in the case of modelling of the spread of popularity of songs), even though also in the latter case the field of applications appears to be quite evident (e.g. cultural policy making). This, of course, does not exclude the use and the proposals of the new methods or techniques, this being often the case for the studies, in which such new methods or techniques are closely related to the subject domain of application. In any case, the papers, originating from the BOS 2016 conference, contained in this issue, represent a choice of interesting applications with, indeed, quite inspiring interpretations.

We sincerely hope that this broadening of the scope of the journal by inclusion of the papers that deal more explicitly with application of known methodologies, bringing in the results that are often highly interesting in their substantive content, is not only acceptable to our Readers, but also presents a new value.

The Editors