

Invited Session on “Emerging Topics in Humanitarian Supply Chains” for IFAC MIM 2019

IFAC MIM 2019, August 28-30, Berlin, Germany

Session Chair:

- *Prof. Dr. Gina Galindo, Universidad del Norte, COLOMBIA*

This Invited Session focuses on humanitarian supply chains (HSC). These relate to the strategic, tactical and operational activities that are required to manage flows of goods, personnel and information to assist vulnerable populations that become affected by a disaster. In recent years the interest in studying HSC has grown partly due to an increase in the frequency of natural and man-made disasters around the world. Major recent events such as Hurricane Maria in 2017, the Mexican earthquake in 2017, and the California wildfire in 2018, have attracted the attention of media, governments and academics due to their overwhelming consequences.

The ultimate goal of HSC is to alleviate the suffering of the affected populations instead of pursuing economic benefits, as is the general case of commercial supply chains. Additionally, HSC typically operate under particular challenging environments that include lack of reliable data, uncertainty on the conditions of road networks, scarcity of resources, and lack of coordination among the actors. Research in HSC is continually evolving to cope with such challenges. In particular, it is important to identify existing and novel problems, as well as to develop and implement better methodologies in order to build more agile, effective, and equitable humanitarian operations.

The Invited Session explores emerging topics in HSC by highlighting recent developments and unveiling relevant challenges in areas such as location of humanitarian facilities, relief inventory management, and relief distribution, among others. Also, this session welcomes research that explores how new technologies, social networks, and application of new research trends can be explored to improve humanitarian supply chains in benefit of the affected populations.

Session topics:

This session chair invite researchers and decision-makers from academia, industry, and government to contribute theoretical and applied research papers in areas including but not limited to the following topics:

HSC resilience, robust models in HSC, material convergence, optimizing HSC, role of social networks in HSC, equity in HSC, deprivation costs, relief distribution, debris management, humanitarian facility location, relief prepositioning.

Submission

For author guidelines, please refer to www.ifac-control.org. All papers must be submitted electronically using Symposium Manuscript Management System (CMMS). All papers must be prepared in a two-column format in accordance with the IFAC manuscript style. Please use the official IFAC instructions and template to prepare your contribution as full-length draft paper and submit it online by December 15, 2018. Submission details are available on the symposium website. All submissions must be written in English. All papers that conform to submission guidelines will be peer-reviewed by IPC members. The corresponding author submits the paper online (pdf format) as an invited session paper. Several international journals are associated with the MIM 2019 for publication of special issues.

Important dates:

December 15, 2018	Deadline for the submission
February 20, 2019	Notification of acceptance/rejection
March 15, 2019	Deadline for the final submission