

Doctoral Award Winner 2015 Announced

GAVIN BLACKETT, SECRETARY & GENERAL MANAGER



I am delighted to announce Çağrı Koç as the 2015 winner of the Society's Doctoral Award for his thesis *Heterogeneous Location and Pollution-Routing Problems*. Çağrı,


who studied at the University of Southampton, will receive a cheque for £1500, a presentation plaque and his name engraved on the George Paterson shield. Çağrı will also be invited to speak as 'the warm-up act' for the 2018 Beale Lecture in February next year.

Two runners-up were also selected. They are (in alphabetical order): Johanna Garzon-Rozo (University of Edinburgh) and Chris Smith (Aston/Warwick, now at the University of Manchester). They each receive £500 in prize money.

Çağrı's thesis proposes new operational research models and algorithms for problems featuring vehicle routing, locational and environmental dimensions. Such problems are central to the fields of green transportation and city logistics, and are also highly relevant to environmental engineering and transport economics.

From a methodological point of view, the thesis proposes new powerful and robust metaheuristics that outperform previous results on related problems. It provides new syntheses and managerial insights that can help logistics practitioners guide some of their policies. For example, in the context of city logistics, one finding of the thesis is that it is beneficial to locate distribution centres in the outskirts of cities. It had already been observed that such decisions were justified on the basis of land cost. What the thesis demonstrates is that they are also justified from an environmental point of view.

Overall the thesis is substantial and advances the state-of-the-art significantly in the development of practical algorithms for an important class of convex optimization problems. The external examiner commented that "Dr Koç clearly demonstrates his ability to develop new conceptual and mathematical models, suitable for advanced analysis. Additionally, outstanding new metaheuristics solution techniques are presented." There are already five papers in high-ranking journals resulting from the thesis.

Çağrı is now a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at HEC Montréal, at the CIRRELT, and a Canada Research Chair in Distribution Management. 

ENTRIES NOW OPEN: 2016 OR SOCIETY DOCTORAL AWARD CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN PHD RESEARCH By Gavin Blackett, Secretary & General Manager

Nominations for the 'Most Distinguished Body of Research leading to the Award of a Doctorate in the field of O.R.' is now open, with the annual award being made at the OR Society's Blackett lecture in November 2017.

The thesis being submitted for consideration must have been examined at a UK University in 2016. The qualifying period is the calendar year in which the PhD or DPhil is defended or approved. Further details are available on the OR Society webpages at www.theorsociety.com/Pages/Awards/PHD.aspx

The winner receives a cash prize of £1500 and has their name engraved on the George Paterson, and up to two runners-up each receive £500. The successful candidates are expected to present their work at the annual conference of the OR Society. A significant contribution towards to cost of the conference is available to all prize winners.

The deadline for submissions is 30 April 2017 and should be sent to Gavin Blackett, OR Society Secretary & General Manager (gavin.blackett@theorsociety.com).

The winner and runners-up for this award will be announced during October.