

Editorial Preface

Making Risky Decisions in Manufacturing and Education Industries

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In the first paper “Reducing the Risk of Wrong Choice in Group Decision Making By Optimal Weight Allocating to Decision Makers”, Mohammad Azadfallah develops a multi-criteria decision making model that reduces the uncertainty and risk of bias. To accomplish that he uses a variation of simplex tableau programming based on the Analytical Hierarchy Process. In this approach, a matrix of weights are developed based on importance priorities established by stakeholders that are normalized using eigens. He calls his approach a Multiple Attribute Group Decision Making model. This is a truly useful approach for reducing bias risk in decision making where emotions and other factors will influence decision maker judgment. He integrates the correlation-based approach which makes it unique from the AHP technique. He provides a conceptual case as an example for demonstrating the feasibility of his model. His article is an excellent example of how to examine uncertainty using a pragmatic approach grounded in mathematical operations research techniques.

In the second paper “Socio-Economic and Environmental Impacts of Poor Paper Management at Higher Education Institutions” Ethiopia” Akalewold Mohammed, Abdurahaman Ibrahim and Degwale Belay examine university practices for paper using at universities in a developing country and how that impacts environmental risks. The base their research on paper usage practices across the 34 universities in Ethiopia. Their goal was to assess the socio-economic and environmental risks of poor paper management practices at Ethiopian higher education institutions. They found that one university used a total of 94,025 reams of paper during the 2015-2016 academic year which resulted in a large waste and it created unpleasant working environment due to the piles of paper in offices. Incineration was the only means to eliminate the waste paper which subsequently created environmental pollution and health risks to the community. Moreover, the storage and waste disposal cost the university a significant amount of money which would have been gained through selling to paper recycling industries. This is an interesting benchmark article for illustrating how environmental conservation risk can be studied in our journal.

The third paper “VESP: A Conceptual Model of Supply Chain Vulnerability” by Arij Lahmar, Habib Chabchoub, Galasso François and Jacques Lamothe examines how to develop and apply a risk assessment model for a just-in-time inventory replenishment in the manufacturing industry. For example, a supply chain inventory model typically calculates the optimum reorder size and time to order based on performance such as fluctuations in lead time, inventory quantity used per cycle, costs and customer service demand. Their model integrates additional factors such as backorder frequency, and mean transport throughput time. In this way they advance the state of the art in dynamic supply chain inventory management models. Their article is a great example of how to quantify uncertainty in the upstream supply chain into a practical decision-making model for inventory replenishment. More studies of this nature in the supply chain management industry are needed in IJRCM.

In the fourth paper, “Socio-Economic and Psychological Risks of Unemployed Youth in a Developing Country”, Degwale Belay and Getu Rob examine the underlying factors of millennium generation unemployment in Ethiopia. They focus their case study on Hawassa which is a major in Ethiopia and also a location with many unemployed young. They used a mixed method research design which included quantitative and qualitative techniques. They collected data from 157 unemployed young adults in Hawassa to quantify the underlying factors that increased unemployment risks. They found that the key psychological risks of unemployment includes lower dignity, lower self-esteem, lower social status, lower education, along with others. Their article was an excellent addition to IJRCM because it illustrated the use of a mixed method design and it addressed the very important problem of youth unemployment and psychological risks in a developing country. We would like to see more articles that explore the behavioral uncertainties in society from multiple cultural (country) perspectives.

We close our issue with a commentary and a book review. The commentary “Terrorism, Risk and Self Defense” was included because IJRCM Associate Editor Dr. Maximiliano Korstanje presents some possible answers to explain why global terrorism has increased. He found among other factors that terrorists have been successfully meeting their objectives of spreading the fear of terrorism in the last decade. The fear of terrorism as negatively impacted developed societies around the world more than the physical destruction and fatalities did years ago. We featured a pivotal article explaining this in our previous issue, but that was focused only on the USA. The fear of terrorism has led to a reduction of human rights and a return to hardline government security policies. The reason we included these two reviews in this issue was to motivate more research. We also wanted to share that we published a new edited book that included several innovative articles exploring global terrorism and other worldwide risks. Look for this book to be released by IGI Global in parallel with this issue. The book review “Terror in Global Narrative: Representations of 9/11 in the Age of Late-Capitalism” by Dr. Korstanje, brings us back to the start of the global terror paradigm which occurred in the USA. This major event changed the way countries and citizens around the world view and fear terrorists. It is highly recommended reading for scholars intending to collect risk related terrorism data or to analyze the results. We encourage scholars to consider submitting manuscripts about the socio-political uncertainty, risk and contingency best-practices for addressing the new age of global and domestic terrorism.

We close with a thank you to all IJRCM Board of Director Reviewers and Associate Editors who completed their tasks to allow us to finish our journal issue on time again this quarter. We invite readers to review our multi-year call-for-papers at <http://ijrcm.multinations.org/> to see ideas for completing additional research. Please forward our call-for-paper topics to your research social network. We are actively looking for papers across numerous topics in our field of uncertainty, risk and contingency management.

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