Natural or man-made disasters, humanitarian crises, pandemics and other emergency situations confront governmental institutions and humanitarian organizations with enormous challenges. Fast decisions under uncertainty have to be made, often under scarce resources, while well-being and lives of humans are at stake. Humanitarian operations can be supported by traditional techniques of engineering, information technology and logistics management, but these approaches frequently turn out to be insufficient in disaster environments. The use of new technologies, or an innovative use of state-of-the-art technologies, promises to overcome some of the limitations of current humanitarian aid. The special issue aims at contributions investigating the application of novel approaches, either on the side of technologies or analytics, to the area of disaster management and humanitarian operations. Topics of interest for this special issue include but are not limited to:

- Artificial intelligence for disaster response
- Disaster management and the Internet
- Disasters and social networks
- Social media in humanitarian operations
- Big data and humanitarian operations
- Prescriptive analytics in humanitarian operations
- Machine learning and disaster management
- Resilient system design in humanitarian relief
- Robots in rescue and emergency response
- Unmanned aerial vehicles in humanitarian operations
- Decisions under uncertainty in humanitarian operations
- Ethics of automated technology for disaster response
- Innovative forecasting methods for disasters
- Early warning systems for natural disasters

**Submission Guidelines and Review Process:** Papers must be submitted at http://www.editorialmanager.com/orsp/ under the category “S.I. Innovative Use of Technology and Analytics for Humanitarian Operations” by November 30th, 2018. All papers submitted to this special issue should report original work and make a contribution to the journal OR Spectrum by using a quantitative research paradigm and OR methodologies. According to the aims of OR Spectrum, high quality papers are wanted that match the scope of the journal, show rigor in applying state-of-the-art OR techniques, and promise to have an impact on future work of the OR community.

Moreover, the submissions are required to present relevant and original work in humanitarian aid. To fit the mission of the special issue, the papers should have a clear motivation in real problems and applications and a solid practical foundation. Submissions are supposed to be well-grounded in realistic applications.

Each paper will be screened by the Editor-in-Chief and one special issue editor. If the paper is deemed to be of sufficient quality, it will be reviewed according to the standards of OR Spectrum by at least two experienced reviewers. We will adopt a rapid and fair review process striving to provide reviews within three months of submission. Accepted papers will be available online prior to the publication of the special issue.

**Special Issue Editors**

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