CALL FOR PAPERS
FLEXIBLE SERVICES AND MANUFACTURING JOURNAL SPECIAL ISSUE ON
“SIMULATION-OPTIMIZATION IN MANUFACTURING AND SERVICES”

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 31, 2018

Simulation-optimization is an active field of research and is also increasingly being used in practical simulation applications and incorporated into simulation software packages. This Special Issue is devoted to report the recent advancements in simulation-optimization techniques for manufacturing and services systems and how they are applied in practice. Many systems in several areas of manufacturing and service management are too complex to be studied analytically. Computer simulation has long been a useful tool for evaluating the performance of such systems. However, a simple evaluation of performance is often insufficient. A deeper exploratory process may be provided by simulation-optimization, which is the process of finding the combination of decision variables corresponding to the best performance of a system, evaluated through the output of a simulation model of this system.

There has been a great deal of work on simulation-optimization in the research literature, and optimization routines have been recently incorporated into several commercial simulation software tools. Methods for simulation-optimization vary greatly depending on the problem setting and how the possible uncertainties are considered. There also appears to be a significant gap between those techniques that have been extensively studied in the research literature and those that are commonly used in practice. Indeed, this difference is widely recognized, and this Special Issue aims to help bridging this gap.

Papers for the Special Issue must provide a substantial novel contribution, and authors must carefully situate their work with regard to the relevant scientific literature. They must clearly address research issues linked to simulation-optimization, and how it can contribute to solve a real/realistic problem. Topics should cover methods and applications of simulation-optimization to manufacturing and services systems. Application oriented articles should also bring a scientific contribution, highlighting the underlying theoretical issues in a suited way, and explaining the concrete benefits obtained in the application.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:
Please submit your paper online via http://www.editorialmanager.com/flex/ and use “SIM_OPT” as article type in the on-line submission process. The target print publication date is June 15, 2019. The submitted papers should not have been previously published or be under consideration for publication elsewhere. All papers will be reviewed according to the standards of the FSM journal (Springer). We will adopt a rapid and fair review process in order to meet the target publication date. Please feel free to contact the editors with any questions.

IMPORTANT DATES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper submission deadline</th>
<th>Paper revision due</th>
<th>Camera-ready submission deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 31, 2018</td>
<td>December 15, 2018</td>
<td>March 15, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reviews to authors</td>
<td>Final notification of acceptance</td>
<td>Expected publication of the SI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 30, 2018</td>
<td>February 15, 2019</td>
<td>June 15, 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SPECIAL ISSUE EDITORS:

Carlo MELONI
Politecnico di Bari
Bari - Italy
carlo.meloni@poliba.it

Giulia PEDRIELLI
Arizona State University
Tempe - USA
giulia.pedrielli@asu.edu

Inneke VAN NIEUWENHUYSE
Universiteit Hasselt
Hasselt – Belgium
inneke.vannieuwenhuyse@uhasselt.be

Jie XU
George Mason University
Fairfax - USA
jxu13@gmu.edu

Flexible Services and Manufacturing Journal
Editor-in-Chief: Andrea Matta
ISSN: 1936-6582 (print version)   ISSN: 1936-6590 (electronic version)
Impact Factor 2016: 1.980 (Journal Citation Reports®)