

## RETURNING TO IN-PERSON OR CONFERENCES IN LATIN-AMERICA: XXI LATIN-IBEROAMERICAN CONFERENCE ON OPERATIONS RESEARCH - CLAIO 2022

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The *Latin-Iberoamerican Conference on Operations Research* takes place biennially since 1982 and is sponsored by the *Association of Latin-Iberoamerican Operational Research Societies (ALIO)*. The main goals of this conference are to further the exchange of experiences, to establish and deepen ties between researchers and practitioners in the region, and to help young undergraduate and graduate students in their professional development.

The *XXI edition* of CLAIO took place in Buenos Aires City, between December 12th and December 15th, 2022, after the unfortunate cancellation of CLAIO 2020 due to the Covid pandemic. This edition was special since it marked the 40th anniversary of the first CLAIO, which was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1982.

In this 2022 edition we celebrated the contributions of Latin-American legends of OR, including *Hugo Scolnik* (University of Buenos Aires, Argentina), *Nelson Maculan* (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), *Jayme Swarcfiter* (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), and *Andrés Weintraub* (Universidad de Chile, Chile). We are grateful for their work and their contributions to our discipline, and it was an honour for us to host them in CLAIO 2022. A special session celebrating these four giants of OR was held during the conference, featuring speeches by *Rafael Epstein*, *José Mario Martínez*, *Celina de Figueiredo*, and *Rosiane de Freitas*.



▲ CLAIO 2022: Prof. Dr. Anna Nagurney (IFORS Distinguished Speaker) receiving a recognition from Prof. Dr. Antonio Mauttone (IFORS regional Vice President).

The conference also hosted plenary talks by *José Mario Martínez* (Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Brazil), *Anna Nagurney* (University of Massachusetts, USA, acting as IFORS Distinguished Lecturer), *Emma Hart* (Edinburgh Napier University, UK, acting as EURO Distinguished Lecturer), *Antonio Alonso Ayuso* (Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, Spain), *Valentina Gutiérrez* (Universidad del Valle, Colombia), and *Ramon Faganello Fachini* (Mercado Libre, Argentina + Brazil + Chile). On behalf of the organizing committee, I would like to express our gratitude towards IFORS for the invitation of *Anna Nagurney* as *IFORS Distinguished Lecturer*, and our gratitude towards EURO for the invitation of *Emma Hart* as *EURO Distinguished Lecturer* for CLAIO 2022.

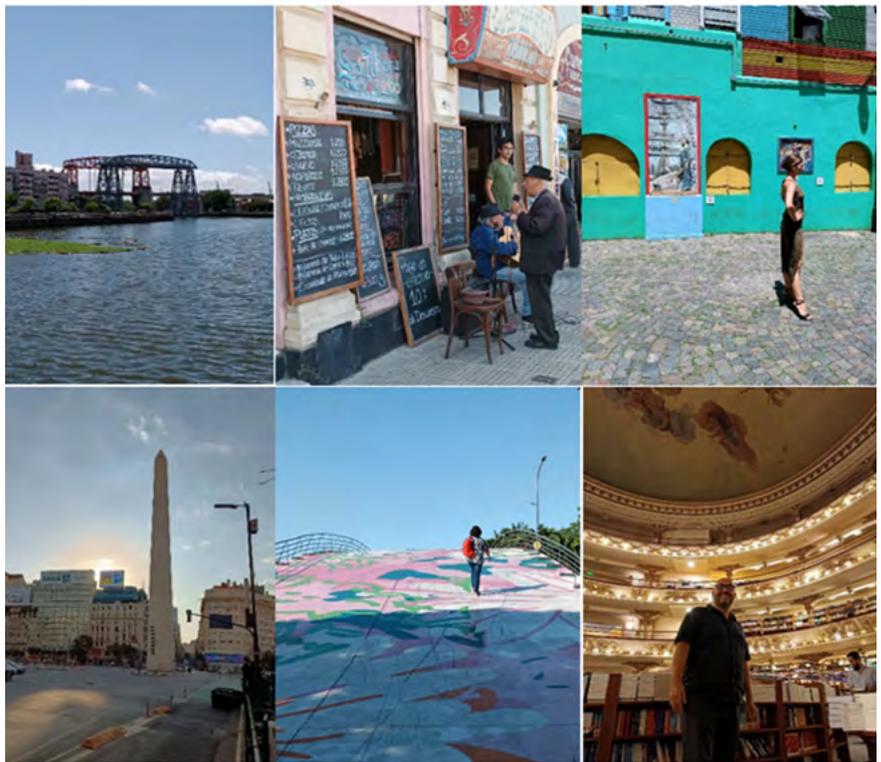
The scientific program of CLAIO 2022 also included 341 contributed presentations organized in 92 parallel sessions. The conference hosted the "X Encuentro de la Red Iberoamericana de Evaluación y Decisión Multicriterio (RED-M)", a special track on "OR in Health and Healthcare Services", and a special track on the *Routing and Spectrum Allocation Problem*. Finally, CLAIO 2022 also hosted the annual meeting of ALIO representatives. A total of 420 people attended the conference.



▲ CLAIO 2022: in the *Special Session* honouring four Latin-American OR legends (from left to right): Prof. Dr. Jayme Swarcfiter, Prof. Dr. Nelson Maculan, Prof. Dr. Andrés Weintraub, and Prof. Dr. Hugo Scolnik.



▲ CLAIO 2022: Gathering around the coffee break.



▲ CLAIO 2022: impressions of Buenos Aires by and with conference participant Prof. Dr. Emilio Carrizosa, gratefully acknowledged.

CLAIO 2022 marked the return to in-person conferences by ALIO, and it was exciting to meet colleagues and friends in Buenos Aires. Let's meet again at CLAIO 2024 in Mexico!

Both the CLAIO 2022 full program and the abstract book can be downloaded at <https://clai02022.dc.uba.ar> 🌐

## DATA ENVELOPMENT ANALYSIS AND STOCHASTIC FRONTIER ANALYSIS: ANNUAL COURSE WORKSHOPS

**Emmanuel Thanassoulis** <[e.thanassoulis@aston.ac.uk](mailto:e.thanassoulis@aston.ac.uk)>

Most recent Pre-COVID19 runs: Post COVID19 runs - online: 2017, 2018, 2019 (February and November),

Post COVID19 runs - online: 2021(June and November), 2022 (July)

Forthcoming on line run: DEA 2-4 July 2023, SFA 9-11 July 2023 <https://dataenvelopment.com/course/>

The *DEA* and *SFA* workshops began as courses in 2002 at the University of Aston, Birmingham, England, UK. In their initial format they were an integral part of an MSc degree programme while at the same time also being available as training courses for persons from other universities and non-academic organisations, interested in cutting edge methods for empirically assessing and managing efficiency and productivity.

The need for the use of the methodologies covered in the courses has become progressively more important, as the effective use of resources and improved productivity, both in the public and private sector, is ever more pressing. One particular impetus for the use of DEA and SFA and other econometric methods for efficiency analysis, covered in our courses, is due to the privatisation of utilities such as water, gas, electricity, railways, etc., in a large number of countries. Such utilities present monopolistic features and therefore countries have put regulatory systems



▲ Aston University, Birmingham, UK.

in place to protect consumers. Regulators use the methods our courses cover to assess the scope for efficiency savings to be demanded of service providers and so protect consumers (e.g., see sample references 1 - 5).