

INFORMS 2021 Annual Meeting

Anaheim, CA, USA, October 24-27, 2021

I have participated in the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences ([INFORMS](#)) 2021 annual meeting in Anaheim, CA. My participation in the conference was funded by the Israeli Smart Transportation Research Center (ISTRC).

INFORMS is an international society for researchers and professionals in operations research (OR), management science, and analytics. Its main goal is to promote the benefits OR can bring and service society. With over 12,500 members from around the globe, INFORMS is the leading international association for professionals in operations research, analytics, management science, economics, behavioral science, statistics, artificial intelligence, data science, applied mathematics, and other relevant fields such as transportation (which is the most relevant for me). The organization hosts numerous conferences and meetings, yet the annual meeting, usually taking place around November each year in a different city around the United States, is their most significant event.

The INFORMS Annual Meeting lets us network with more than 6,000 INFORMS members, students, prospective employers and employees, and academic and industry experts who compose the INFORMS community. For a near graduation Ph.D. student looking for the next phase in the academic career, the annual meeting is a unique opportunity to connect with potential institutions and professors and look for a future post-doc position.

After the 2020 annual meeting, which was purely virtual, this year's meeting was hybrid, so some of the sessions were utterly virtual, and others were dual, both virtual and in-person. For those who participated in person, such as myself, it required a little more effort as we were required to upload the presentation a month before the conference and in the conference itself, to be present at both the virtual session (which was sometimes in weird hours and seems more fitted to east-coast times) and the in-person session. Moreover, due to the circumstances, I believe about one thousand people were present this year at the conference itself, which is a fraction than usual. Nevertheless, I think the organization of the event was relatively good and considering the situation. I attended many [engaging sessions](#) in the field of transportation and still managed to network with key figures in the field, so all-in-all, I'm delighted I've traveled to the conference and not just settled for the virtual option.

I want to take this opportunity to thank again to the Israeli Smart Transportation Research Center for funding my trip to this important conference, both personally to me and the Israeli research community and society.

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