

Engaging in conference - hEART 2022, Leuven, Belgium

hEART is the European Association for Research in Transportation. Its objective is to promote excellence in transportation research in Europe, with a strong emphasis on the promotion of PhD students and young researchers. The main activities of the association are organizing international conferences, including the 10th hEART symposium in Leuven 2022. The goal of the conference is to connect researchers in transport modelling, transport economics, transport engineering and transport policy with advanced practice and state of the art. Bringing together leading experts and promising young researchers, the symposium offers an opportunity for scientific discussion and interaction in relatively small groups.

The conference spanned over three days, each day opened with a keynote presentation, followed by parallel sessions focusing on various topics in the field of transportation. The keynote speakers are leading faculty members from different universities, presenting their current on-going research. The parallel sessions gave the participants a variety of disciplines to choose from, all in the field of transportation.

One of the sessions was in the field of rail management, where my research was presented. The research title is “Passengers Flow Control at Platform in Urban Rail System”, under the supervision of Prof. Jack Haddad (Technion Sustainable Mobility and Robust Transportation). While the discipline of rail management took place in only one session, it included various topics: passengers path choice behavior in rail transit network, analysis of power peak in railway traffic, passengers flow control, and wagon fleet optimization for cargo trains. The discussion with other researchers that have a shared background in the field of rail management, I found questions, insights, and suggestions for my own ongoing research.

While the oral presentation was a major part of participating in the conference, there was a great contribution in listening and discussing with other presenters about their work. Because of the verity of topics, I could attend presentations focusing on my personal interests, such as modeling, control, decision making and optimization, in public transport. Through those sessions I found how different methods can be utilized for many uses, and got encouraged to further expand my own research.

I would like to thank the Israeli Smart Transportation Research Center (ISTRC), and Technion –Israel Institute of Technology for the opportunity to engage in the conference and expanded my impression of the international transportation research.

Yotam Yatziv