

Call for Papers

Special issue on “Metaheuristics”

Guest Editors

Christian Blum^a, Angel A. Juan^b, Helena Ramalhinho^c and Thomas Stützle^d^a*Spanish National Research Council, Spain*^b*Open University of Catalonia, Spain*^c*Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain*^d*Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Belgium*

The Metaheuristics International Conference (MIC) series was established in 1995 and the one in Barcelona in 2017 is its twelfth edition. MIC is a leading academic event focusing on progress in the field of metaheuristics and the resulting applications.

This special issue of the **International Transactions of Operational Research (ITOR)** will be dedicated to significantly extended versions of the best papers presented at MIC 2017 (<http://mic2017.upf.edu/>). However, submission will also be open to papers which were not initially presented at MIC. Papers covering all aspects of metaheuristic research are welcome, including: new algorithmic developments, industrial applications, new research challenges, theoretical developments, implementation issues, in-depth experimental studies, hybrid metaheuristics, and related topics.

A note concerning submissions on nature-inspired metaheuristics: the past has shown that nature can be a rich source of inspiration for algorithms in optimization and control. However, the last years have witnessed an abuse in drawing inspiration from natural phenomena. We require that algorithms (other than well-established ones such as evolutionary algorithms) must be described in metaphor-free language. This facilitates their conceptual comparison to existing algorithms. Moreover, it facilitates highlighting the algorithmic contributions to the literature. Papers on such algorithms will only be published if the provided evidence gives very good reasons to do so.

Tentative schedule:

- October 31, 2017: strict submission deadline
- January 31, 2018: notification of review outcome
- March 31, 2018: submission of revised versions
- June 30, 2018: final notification, immediately followed by online publication

Papers that cannot be accepted after the second round of reviews will (if finally accepted) appear in a regular issue of ITOR in order to not delay the publication of the special issue. Each paper will be peer-reviewed according to the editorial policy of ITOR (<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/118505725/home>), published by the International Federation of Operational Research Societies (IFORS). Papers should be original, unpublished, and not currently under consideration for publication elsewhere. They should be prepared according to the instructions to authors that can be found on the journal homepage. Authors should upload their contributions using the submission site <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/itor>, indicating in their cover letter that the paper is intended for this special issue. Other inquiries should be sent directly to Christian Blum (christian.c.blum@gmail.com).