Editorial

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Welcome to the 2021 volume of the Group Decision and Negotiation journal. For many of us, 2020 was an eventful year. Due to the challenges from the worldwide Covid-19 scare, work practices changed, digitalization efforts were tested, collaborations took a different format, and remote work and videoconferencing were at the forefront. The GDN 2020 Conference in Toronto had to be postponed due to the pandemic and also the GDN 2021 Conference will have to take place virtually.

Last year was also a tragic year for the journal. Gregory Kersten, our Editor-in-Chief, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly in May 2020. He was a leading member of the GDN community and worked effortlessly on improving the journal. As a community we are immensely grateful for his dedication and we will honor his memory.

We were asked to take over the role as interim editors-in-chief after Gregory's passing and we are grateful for the broad support from the GDN community that helped us in keeping the journal on track. We would like to thank the GDN board, the GDN members, and Springer for entrusting us with the journal when we became the permanent Editors-in-Chief in November 2020. We are convinced that working together as a team will benefit the journal.

1 The 2020 Volume and Beyond

The GDN 2020 volume produced a strong collection of submissions and published papers. We received a total of 257 submissions. The 6 issues of the journal published a total of 46 papers. The journal's metrics are also strong: The average time to a first decision dropped from 92 to 52 days, which represents a remarkable improvement.

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The journal's h-index is 55. These metrics are testimony to Gregory's dedication and hard work during his tenure as Editor-in-Chief.

We aim to strengthen these metrics as we move into the 2021 volume. We will endeavor to continue to build on the journal's reputation as a top journal in its area. Specifically, we will invite and welcome review papers and research agenda papers, organize special issues on current topics, and actively share each issue's contents on various listservers and social media.

While the average time to a first decision has dropped considerable, we will continue to improve this metric as well as the overall time it takes to reach a decision. It is an important service to our community that authors will learn about the decision on their manuscript in a timely fashion, regardless of whether it is the initial decision or a decision on a revision of a manuscript. We will aim to improve these metrics by actively monitoring papers' progress and getting support from our editorial board members.

2 The Editorial Board and Reviewers

The Group Decision and Negotiation journal is fortunate to have a committed editorial board and group of reviewers. They work tirelessly to assess the contributions and quality of each submission that is entered into the review process. They assist the authors through constructive criticism to ensure that each published paper makes a significant contribution to the Group Decision and Negotiation body of knowledge.

We are extremely grateful to our current editorial board members, several of whom have carried a heavy load. We truly appreciate their hard work and dedication during the past year. In 2021, there are going to be some changes to our board as a number of board members have indicated their desire to retire. Also, we will invite new colleagues to the board in an effort to optimize the coverage of the journal's various research areas and to pursue diversity on the board in terms of global regions, gender, career stage, and ethnicity. We will report on the changes to the editorial board in a future issue.

We wish to acknowledge the many reviewers for their efforts that made last year's volume possible. In particular, the Editorial Board and us are happy to recognize the following individuals as the "Best GDN Reviewers of 2020" for going above and beyond in their efforts to strengthen the quality of the papers considered for the journal:

- Ulle Endriss
- Alexander Karpov
- Muhammed-Fatih Kaya
- Aleksei Y. Kondratev
- Thomas Alexander O'Neill

Finally, the Editorial Board and us would like recognize all reviewers for the 2020 Volume. Without their commitment to our journal it would not have been possible to produce timely, high quality issues:

Mark Aakhus	Zhor Chergui
Hillie Aaldering	Yeri Cho
Anand Abraham	Jason Choi
Marc Adam	Eileen Chou
Abdelkader Adla	Deborah Cohn
Juan Aguarón	Thomas Connolly
Muhammad Akram	Joao Costa
Emel Aktas	Larry Crump
Naif Alawi	Suzana Daher
Jose Alcalde	Francesca Dal Mas
Jorge Alcalde-Unzu	Mats Danielson
Fuad Aleskerov	Andreas Darmann
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Ryuta Arisaka	William Donohue
Aram Bahrini	Viktor Dörfler
Ying Bao	Bram Driesen
Abul Bashar	Juan Dubra
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Jan Bazan	Gourav Dwivedi
Femke Bekius	Tom Eich
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Christopher Califf	Arindam Garai
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Fieke Harinck	xuemei Li
Luciana Hazin	Bingsheng Liu
Shawei He	Hu-Chen Liu
Carla Henriques	Jinpei Liu
Uta Herbst	Renato Lopes da Costa
Stijn Hoppenbrouwers	Sofia Lundberg
Shih-Cheng Horng	Pasi Luukka
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Daisung Jang	Bilyana Martinovski
Arshad Javed	Nick Mattei
Andrés Jiménez-Losada	Alexander Mayer
Antonio Jiménez-Martín	Jens Mazei
David Johnstone	Marleen McCardle-Keurentjes
Peter Jordan	Paulo Melo
Eric Kamwa	Philipp Melzer
Serguei Kaniovski	Jose M Merigo
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Emin Karagozoglu	Arunodaya Mishra
Konstantinos Katsikopoulos	Alexandra Mislin
Parmjit Kaur	Danielle Morais
Jessica Kennedy	Patricia Moravec
Victoria Kennel	Jose Maria Moreno Jimenez
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Werner Kirsch	Uday Murthy
Usha Kiruthika	Syibrah Naim
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Joaquin Sanchez Soriano	Tung-Hsien Wu
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Jorge Santos	Zhibin Wu
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Rangaraja Sundarraj	Huanren Zhang
Gao Taiguang	Xiaoqin Zhang
Halbana Tarmizi	Zhen Zhang
Andrew Tawfik	Ronghuo Zheng
Oriol Tejada	Wei Zhou

We wish everyone a healthy and successful 2021!