

European Lifetime Award in Retail Operations

For the better part of the past 50 years, the retail industry has not only been a significant contributor to the economy but also a leader in the design and development of advanced operational concepts. Operations management and operations research in retailing continues to represent a substantial area of potential research. The continued development of quantitative models, their practical need, and the growing availability of data motivates an increasing number of scientists and practitioners to intensify research on demand and supply-related issues in retail and consumer goods industries.

The EWG Retail Operations establishes a **lifetime career award** to recognize the contributions to retail operations research in Europe, in the broadest sense. Retail Operations is a relatively young field, with the first research in operations management starting in the late 1990s. Given that we have now existed for about 25 years, it is good to recognize researchers affiliated with European universities for their sustained efforts.

Since the community is a group of experts, the award can be presented annually, but also on a lower frequency.

Purpose of the Award

The purpose of the **European Lifetime Award in Retail Operations** is to recognize individuals for their sustained contribution to retail operations research, impact, and/or education over an extended period of time.

Eligibility and Criteria

- The awardee should have an affiliation to an European university
- The awardee must be a regular attendee of the EWG-RO events or EURO conferences
- The awardee must have contributed to research, impact, and/or education over a prolonged period of time
- **Contributions to research** could include, among others:
 - intellectual contributions published in the academic literature
 - new conceptualizations of important research problems or domains
 - new models that characterize important problems
 - new algorithms or solutions techniques for impactful problems in retail operations

- organization of, presentations at, or active participation in academic events, in particular the EURO conferences, EWG events, editorial work or other service functions to the group
- **Contributions to impact** could include, among others:
 - Managerial contributions published in the industry professional literature, on blogs, podcasts, and other outlets
 - Implementations in industry of novel ideas, concepts, models, or algorithms
 - Development of software or other tools that can be implemented in industrial practice
 - Leadership of or active participation in industry initiatives, such as for instance, initiatives by ECR Europe and similar organizations
- **Contribution to education** could include, among others:
 - Development of courses or programs in retail operations, including undergraduate and graduate students, and executives
 - Development of teaching materials, such as textbooks, course notes, teaching games, or teaching cases
 - Leading or teaching in doctoral workshops such as those of the EWG.

Jury

The coordinators of the EWG appoint a jury consisting of three members. Jury members may be reappointed but shall not serve more than two successive times on the jury. The jury will consist of the coordinators and further members that will be nominated after the submission to avoid any conflict of interest.

Process

- The jury issues a call for nominations, including publishing the criteria and any formatting requirements. In all cases, a **nomination should at least include a narrative of 500-1500 words explaining** in detail the reasons why the nominee should receive the award. The jury may actively invite members of the community to prepare nominations.
- **Nominations are confidential to the nominee.** Self-nominations are not considered.
- If nominations are received of candidates where the jury member may have a conflict of interest, the jury decides that either the nomination is disregarded for that year, or the jury may request the EWG coordinators to replace the jury member involved. A conflict of interest includes a direct student/advisor relationship or a direct colleague in the same department. Co-authorship by itself does not constitute a conflict of interest.

- The jury decides on the nominations and must reach **a unanimous decision**. If no unanimous decision is reached, the award shall not be presented in that year.
- In highly exceptional cases, the jury may decide to present two awards in any given year.
- Depending on the number of high-quality nominations, the jury recommends to the coordinators, that the next call for nominations shall be issued in the subsequent year or two or three years later. A call for nominations shall be issued at least once every three years.

Award

The winner of the award is announced at least two months before the EWG RO meeting. The winner of the award is invited (and encouraged) to deliver an honorary speech at the EWG RO annual meeting, where the award is also presented.

The prize consists of a certificate. The award consists of a commemorative plate or commemorative work of art.

Past award winners may be invited to join the jury of subsequent award cycle.

Deadlines

The deadline for submitting applications is **30 April 2025**

Contact

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