

NEWS



TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

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News Release

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2011 FRED BURGGRAF PAPER AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Transportation Research Board's Fred Burggraf Award, which recognizes excellence in transportation research by researchers 35 years of age or under, will be presented to the authors of two award-winning papers on January 24, 2011, at the Thomas B. Deen Distinguished Lecture and Presentation of Outstanding Paper Awards during the Board's 90th Annual Meeting. The recipients are James Fox and Stephane Hess, for "*Review of Evidence for Temporal Transferability of Mode-Destination Models*," and Yu Zhang and Nagesh Nayak, for "*A Macroscopic Tool for Measuring Delay Performance in the National Airspace System*."

The Burggraf Award, which includes a cash prize, was established in 1966 to stimulate and encourage young researchers to contribute to the advancement of knowledge in the field of transportation. The award was named in honor of Fred Burggraf, who served as TRB's Executive Director from 1951 until his retirement in 1964. Both award-winning papers have been published in the *Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board*, No. 2175.

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The authors of the first of the award-winning paper note that the idea of model transferability, the concept of developing travel behavior models that can forecast future levels of transportation demand up to to 30 years, seems to have been largely forgotten recently because of a focus in the research community on the development of ever more advanced models that better explain current behavior. The authors produced the paper with the goal of trying to bring the notion of transferability of travel demand models back as a major component of modeling research. The paper explores the issue of transferability, highlights existing work in the field, and examines future research needs in the area of transferability.

James Fox is a Research Leader in the Choice Modelling and Valuation Team and the Deputy Quality Assurance Manager at RAND Europe. He is a doctoral student in model transferability at the Institute for Transport Studies, University of Leeds. Fox holds an M.Sc. degree in transport from the University of London and an M.Eng. degree in civil engineering from the Imperial College London.

Stephane Hess is a Reader in Choice Modelling and the Research Group Leader for Transport Modelling in the Institute for Transport Studies, University of Leeds. He holds a Ph.D. in transport demand modelling from Imperial College London, and an M.Phil. degree in statistical science from Cambridge University. Hess' main research interest is the use of advanced discrete choice models for the analysis of travel behavior. He received the 2005 Eric Pas Dissertation Prize for the best Ph.D. thesis in the area of travel behavior modelling, and the Association for European Transport's 2004 Neil Mansfield award.

The goal of the second award-winning paper was to explore solutions for reducing airline delays by understanding the factors that cause flight delays and the network impact of delay at a single airport in the National Airspace System. The authors developed a set of multi-variate equations to model daily average arrival delay at both a single airport and the National Airspace System. The end result was a powerful decision support tool for stakeholders to make the best possible decision to allocate resources optimally and to reduce delays in the future.

Yu Zhang is an Assistant Professor with the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of South Florida. Her research area includes air transportation, transportation network modeling, system analysis, and transportation safety. Zhang holds Ph.D. and master of science degrees from the University of California-Berkeley. She is active in TRB, the Women's Transportation Seminar, Institute of Transportation Engineers, and INFORMS.

Nagesh Nayak is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in civil engineering at the University of South Florida. He holds a B.E. degree in civil engineering from the University of Mumbai, India. Nayak's research interests include airport management, air traffic flow management, and transportation network modeling. He is a recipient of a Graduate Research Award from the TRB-managed Airport Cooperative Research Program for the 2009-2010 academic year.

More than 10,000 policy makers, administrators, practitioners, researchers, and representatives of government, industry, and academic institutions are expected to attend the Transportation Research Board (TRB) 90th Annual Meeting, in Washington, DC, January 23-27, 2011. The meeting, held at the Marriott Wardman Park, Omni Shoreham, and Hilton Washington hotels, includes more than 4,000 presentations in 650 sessions and workshops covering all aspects of transportation.

The mission of the Transportation Research Board is to provide leadership in transportation innovation and progress through research and information exchange, conducted within a setting that is objective, interdisciplinary, and multimodal. TRB facilitates the sharing of information on transportation practice and policy by researchers and practitioners; stimulates research and offers research management services that promote technical excellence; provides expert advice on transportation policy and programs; and disseminates research results broadly and encourages their implementation. A major focal point of TRB's activities, the Annual Meeting provides an opportunity for transportation professionals from all over the world to exchange information of common interest.

Organized in 1920, TRB is a division of the National Academies, which include the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, Institute of Medicine, and National Research Council. The nation turns to the National Academies for independent, objective advice on issues that affect people's lives worldwide.

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