



IFORS/Elsevier

Sustainability Analytics and Modeling

Special Issue:

Sustainability in Retail Supply Chains

Making a better world in retailing from sourcing to consumption

Call for Papers

1. AIMS AND SCOPE

Retail supply chain management has emerged as a substantial area of research in recent years. Retailing is a significant sector of the economy in which changes in markets, firms, processes and products occur rapidly. The retail industry has been a thought leader in the development and design of advanced operations concepts and processes since the 1990s. Many different retailers from grocery to fashion retailing and consumer electronics have developed operational innovations, many of which have been adopted in other industries. However, still many sustainability issues remain in global retail supply chains. For example, less than 1% of retail revenues is paid to workers in production factories and some workers in retail supply chains are exposed to modern slavery. Other issues arise from the waste streams in retail. About one third of produced food goes uneaten. Less than 10% of plastic waste from retail is currently expected to be recycled. Increasing energy, traffic congestion and CO₂ emissions from home delivery, and raw material needs, along with ongoing product proliferation, calls for more sustainable retail supply chains.

Analytics and modeling has the potential to enhance the economic, environmental and social sustainability in retail supply chains. The objective of this special issue is to accelerate the development and application of quantitative approaches for problem-solving and decision-making to further develop sustainable retail operations. The primary aim of this special issue is to create an outlet for such research efforts. Methods should include operations research, quantitative modeling and/or analytical approaches that fit the scope of the journal. Topics should be based on industry background of retail or consumer goods and can include concepts from production to consumption.

2. TOPICS COVERED

Sustainability Analytics and Modeling publishes articles that develop and apply quantitative methods of analytics and operations research to take on global sustainability challenges. These challenges are many and broad in scope. They involve poverty, hunger, health, well-being, education, equality, water, sanitation, energy, economies, industry, infrastructure systems, smart communities, consumption and production, climate, peace, and justice, among other topics, all of which are targeted by the 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) of the United Nations (<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/envision2030.html>). Topics that are of interest for this special issue include, but are not limited to:

- Combining social, environmental and economic perspectives in retail supply chains;
- Options to reduce food losses and waste along the supply chain;
- Concepts of circular economy in retailing (e.g., in consumer electronics and fashion);
- Advanced inventory management in retail supply chains to reduce losses and overstocking;

- Social and environmental impact of retail digitalization, omni-channel retailing and new business models in retail services (e.g., food services);
- New strategies for product launches and product proliferation;
- Increasing transparency in international supply chains and manufacturer-retailer cooperation;
- Innovative distribution concepts (e.g., omnichannel retailing) and its impact on sustainability;
- Last mile delivery concepts and their environmental impacts;
- Pandemic impact on retail operations and supply chains; and
- Interface of retail operations with other functions such as finance, human resources, marketing, and strategy to increase company sustainability.

3. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The APC (Article Publishing Charge) will be covered by IFORS for all papers submitted by 31st December 2022. Submitted papers should be original works and should not have been previously published or currently considered for publication elsewhere. The manuscripts should be prepared according to the Guide for Authors available at:

<https://www.elsevier.com/journals/sustainability-analytics-and-modeling/2667-2596/guide-for-authors>.

All manuscripts should be submitted electronically using the journal's online manuscript submission system at: <https://www.editorialmanager.com/samod/default.aspx> when prompted for the article type, please select, "**VSI: Retail Supply Chains**".

On the Attach Files screen, please submit the Manuscript, Highlights, Cover Letter summarizing the contributions of the paper, and Conflict of Interest Declaration (template available at https://service.elsevier.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/286/supporthub/publishing).

At the Review Preferences screen, you may suggest potential reviewers for this submission and provide specific reasons for your suggestion in the comments box for each person.

Manuscripts submitted after the deadline may not be considered for the special issue and may be transferred, if accepted, to a regular issue.

4. IMPORTANT DATES

Eligible submissions will be quickly submitted to the peer review process by the guest editors. The guest editors will work to ensure a maximum time of three months for the initial peer review process. Accepted papers will be published online quickly after acceptance, so that papers submitted early will also be published well ahead of the special issue's scheduled publication date.

Beginning of submissions: January 1, 2022

Deadline for submissions: July 1, 2022

Targeted closure of first peer review process: September 30, 2022

Publication: Early 2023

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