Association for Constraint Programming

Annual General Meeting
CP 2023 – August 30, 2023

David Bergman, President of the ACP
David.bergman@uconn.edu
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Executive Committee Members

- **David Bergman**
  President

- **Nadjib Lazaar**
  Treasurer

- **Tias Guns**
  Secretary

- **Hélène Verhaeghe**
  Conference Coordinator

- **Zeynep Kiziltan**
  Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Delegate

- **Chris Beck**
  Member, Past president

- **Gilles Pesant**
  Member

- **Ines Lynce**
  Member
What Do We Do? (1/2)

• Find CP organizers and chairs
• Find summer schools organizers
• Coordinate EC elections
• Oversee finances
• Sponsor events, conferences, etc.
• Colocation efforts
What Do We Do? (2/2)

- Set up awards committees
- Publish quarterly reports
- Promote DEI
- Maintain website
- Coordinate with *Constraints* journal
- **Cultivate research connections**
Thanks to CP2023 Organizers!

• Conference Chair
  – Andre Cire

• Program Chair
  – Roland Yap

• Local organization committee, chairs, and program committee
## Agenda

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Upcoming Events

• CPAIOR 2024
• CP 2024
• CP 2025
• CP 2026
CPAIOR 2024 in Uppsala, Sweden

28 to 31 May 2024 in Uppsala, Sweden

- Local Team:
  - María Andreina Francisco Rodríguez,
  - Justin Pearson, and
  - Pierre Flener

- Sponsorship Chair: Thiago Serra (Bucknell University)
- Programme Chair: Bistra Dilkina (University of Southern California)
- Publicity Chair: María Andreina Francisco Rodríguez
28 to 31 May 2024 in Uppsala, Sweden

Uppsala University: (new) Humanities Theatre
28 to 31 May 2024 in Uppsala, Sweden

Uppsala University: (new) Humanities Theatre
Uppsala: Historic Capital of Sweden

Sacred area and burial mounds of pre-Viking times
Uppsala: Former Capital of Sweden

Former royal castle
Uppsala: College Town since 1477

Uppsala University: Gustavianum.
Uppsala: College Town since 1477

Rafting down the river on Walpurgis
Conference Dinner? Fish
Conference Dinner? Fish

Good news/Bad news: There is a shortage of Baltic herring, so no fermented fish.
Conference Dinner? Meat
Conference Dinner: Norrlands Nation
Expected Travel Distance
Expected Travel Distance

Many gazillions of Å ...
Expected Travel Distance

Many gazillions of Å . . .

Anders Ångström, 1814 – 1874, Uppsala University
The Weather? Beautiful!

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**Today 31 May**

- Light clouds move in with cool air in the morning.
- Slight chance of showers in the afternoon.
- Winds remain light and variable throughout the day.
Dates Again

28 to 31 May 2024 in Uppsala, Sweden

- Abstract Deadline: Nov. 28th 2023

Extended abstract track.
Vi ses i Uppsala!
CP in Girona, Catalonia (Spain)
September 2-6 (Monday-Friday) 2024
CP in Girona, Catalonia
September 2-6, 2024
CP in Girona, Catalonia
September 2-6, 2024

PC CHAIR
Paul Shaw, IBM France

CONFERENCE CHAIRS
Miquel Bofill, University of Girona
Mateu Villaret, University of Girona

LOCATION
Girona was founded by the romans as Gerunda in the 1st century B.C.
LOCATION

Girona is a city on a human scale (100,000 inhabitants) with all the charm of a larger city.

Girona is a popular destination for tourists, and film productions have used it as a filming location (e.g., Game of Thrones, and Perfume: The Story of a Murderer).
The Old Quarter of the city is one of the most important medieval monumental ensembles of Catalonia.

The Jewish Quarter is one of the most interesting, emblematic areas in the city of Girona, both in terms of architecture and history.
CP in Girona, Catalonia
September 2-6, 2024

CONFERENCE VENUE
The University of Girona (UdG) has a nice campus in the old town, at walking distance from hotels and restaurants.

The conference will take place at the Sant Domène Church, which is part of the historic building of the UdG, and in an adjoining chapel and classrooms.
We will have Coffee Breaks and Finger Lunches at the cloister next to the rooms.
STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

Affordable accommodation is pre-reserved for students at the Monastery of Sant Daniel (Benedictine nuns)

15 min walk from the venue
TRAVEL INFORMATION

By car
The road network around Girona, which follows the ancient Roman roads, includes the main national motorways, connecting with France and the rest of the principality with the motorways AP-7 and A-2.

By train
Girona also has a good rail network, with medium-distance regional trains and high speed trains (AVANT) connecting it with the city of Barcelona in 38 minutes. Likewise, the AVE line connects Girona with different cities in Spain and Europe.
By air

Girona - Costa Brava Airport

Girona - Costa Brava Airport is located just 13 kilometers from Girona city, counting on regular bus and taxi service to the city center. There are many direct flights to Girona from Europe. However, the frequency is quite low.

Barcelona Airport

In the absence of flights to Girona Airport (or excessively time-consuming), traveling to Girona through Barcelona Airport is a good option. Reaching Girona from Barcelona Airport is easy. Terminal 2 of Barcelona Airport counts on a train station (line R2), that directly brings you to Barcelona Sants train station. From Barcelona Sants, high-speed rail can be taken to Girona train station, which takes about 38 min.
CP in Girona, Catalonia
September 2-6, 2024

Hope to see you in Girona next year!
CP 2025

- Glasgow, Scotland, UK
  - Conference Chairs: Ciaran McCreesh and Blair Archibald
  - Program Chair: Maria Garcia de la Banda
CP 2026

- Lisbon, Portugal
  - Part of FLOC 2026
  - Had to make the decision very early

- Main pro: Lots of other communities
- Main con: A bit less flexibility
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ACP Doctoral Research Award

• Committee
  – David Bergman (c), Ozgur Akgun, Hélène Verhaeghe

• Honorable Mention

Gustav Björdal

From Declarative Models to Local Search
ACP Doctoral Research Award

- Committee
  - David Bergman (c), Ozgur Akgun, Hélène Verhaeghe

- Winner

**Stephan Gocht**

Certifying Correctness for Combinatorial Algorithms: by Using Pseudo-Boolean Reasoning

Stephan Gocht receives the ACP Doctoral Research Award for lifting proof logging and certification to pseudo-Boolean reasoning and applying it to subgraph algorithms in combinatorial optimization and constraint programming in general.
ACP Early Career Researcher Award

- Committee
  - Tias Guns (c), Maria Garcia de la Banda, Laurent Michel

- Winner

**Ciaran McCreesh**

*Ciaran McCreesh receives the ACP Early Career Award for ongoing contributions to subgraph isomorphism algorithms, always with a strong CP angle to it, and the development of the Glasgow Subgraph Solver; as well as his recent developments in proof logging systems, and the new proof logging Glasgow Constraint Solver.*
ACP Research Excellence Award

• Committee
  – Tias Guns (c), Jean-Charles Regin, Peter Stuckey, Roland Yap, David Bergman

Mats Carlsson

For his fundamental contribution to CP, in advancing the state of the art in both theory and implementation. Mats is the main author of SICStus Prolog and its foundational clp(FD) constraint solver. He has developed optimization algorithms for a broad scope of topics, including industrial scheduling, sports scheduling, configuration, DNA sequencing, and frequency allocation.
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Financial goals and challenges

• Goal: ~ €50K for emergencies and float

• Challenges
  – Expensive (in-person) conferences reduce participation/accessibility
  – ACP money has to come from somewhere (i.e., conference fees, donations, sponsorship)
Financial update

We take donations: [http://a4cp.org/sponsorships-donations](http://a4cp.org/sponsorships-donations)
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Promote CP

Aug 28, 2023 5:09 PM
Robert Fourer

In the upcoming Fall 2023 issue, *OR/MS Today* will publish an updated survey and directory of optimization software. Participants in the previous survey (2021) have already been sent instructions for filling out the online questionnaire for the 2023 edition. If you would like to add your software to the survey (or need another copy of this year's invitation), please write to Kara Tucker (ktucker@informs.org) for instructions. Surveys such as this provide a valuable service to the *OR/MS Today* readership, which includes upward of 30,000 operations researchers, high-end analytics professionals, business managers and C-level executives. At the same time, surveys give developers an opportunity to provide key information about their software to an interested audience. Both open-source and commercial packages are welcome, and all listings are free. The deadline for submissions is this Friday, September 1, but an extension to next week can be requested.

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Robert Fourer
AMPL Optimization Inc.
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Making stronger digital content

- Updating website (both back-end and front-end)
- ACP YouTube channel
- ACP summer school recordings are available (playlist)
Teaching Constraint Programming

- Create a comprehensive repository of teaching materials for constraint programming
- We can leverage existing material
  - Online material
  - Existing university courses
  - Etc.
- Helmut Simonis has tentatively agreed to spearhead an effort to consolidate material and expand
  - Workshop at CP 2023: https://hsimonis.github.io/WTCP2023/
  - Survey still open: https://forms.gle/v54HUsbSXcyHmfME9?
  - helmut.simonis@insight-centre.org
- I nominate Jimmy Lee to join the effort 😊
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

Positions
- DEI Delegate on ACP EC: Zeynep Kiziltan
- DEI Chairs, CP 2023: Maria Andreina Francisco Rodriguez and Andrea Rendl

Efforts
- DEI Event at Conference
- Two surveys: (1) CP Diversity and (2) CP Equity and Inclusion
- DEI Scholarship winner: Séverine Fetgo
- Pronoun options on badges
Let’s collaborate!

- Only ~16% of attendees from CP 2019 are here today
- Let’s make next year ~90%!

Challenge for Next Year – CP+1!

- Publish at CP2024 with a new collaborator who is here at CP 2023
- Get a free shirt with the CP+1 logo!

Author network (1)

- 243 papers by 501 authors
  - 11 (4.5%) papers written by a single author
  - 7 (1.4%) authors did not co-write with others
  - 3.4 authors per paper on average
- Low density (0.008)
  - Suggests opportunity for new collaboration patterns

Lana Ali “Co-Authorship Network Analysis in Constraint Programming Research” Uppsala University, 2023
Ideas for future conference

• “Second track”
  • Posters or talks from papers on the border
• SAT, AI conference Fast Tracks
  • If rejected, we can review and consider
• We welcome any and all suggestions
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Constraints Journal

Report from EiC Mark Wallace
Constraints Journal Statistics

- 2021
  - 3 papers
- 2022
  - 3 issues, 17 papers published
- 2023
  - 8 papers published thus far

Performance Snapshot:
  Activity in Last 12 Months: ~100 submissions
  Submission Types: 10 PhD abstracts, 50 summary rejects
  Review Article Absence: No review articles submitted
  Social Media Presence: No noteworthy updates
Challenges

- Majority of Submissions: Solicited from authors of accepted CP and CPAIOR papers
- Many submissions to other AI journals
  - AIJ, JAIR
- Commitment from CP community
  - Authors, editors, reviewers
- Perceived by some to be insular
Path forward

• Continue Journal
  • Requires strong dedication from everyone
• Emphasize other directions
  • What can we do?

• Note: We aren’t making any decisions today; simply want comments / thoughts from CP community
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Other Topics

• Ideas for growing the community?
  • Summer school had 91 participants!
  • We have great attendance from doctoral students (40% of attendees). Why are you here? What excites the research community?

• What can we do differently that would excite the community?
• What is CP’s role in the AI / OR world?
• Other things!