Proceedings of the 2024 Winter Simulation Conference
H. Lam, E. Azar, D. Batur, S. Gao, W. Xie, S. R. Hunter, and M. D. Rossetti, eds.

CHASING AMBULANCES AND COVID: STORIES AND LESSONS

Shane G. Henderson[1]

[1]School of Operations Research and Information Engineering, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA

ABSTRACT

Despite being a confirmed academic nerd, Shane has had the good fortune to be involved in quite a few projects with real impact. In this talk, he'll highlight two projects where simulation played a central role. In the first project, some simulation analysis he performed for an ambulance service provider was used in a consequential court case. In the second project, he was a member of a modeling team at Cornell University that played a central role in Cornell's decision to reopen its Ithaca campus for in-person instruction in the fall of 2020, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. The team further advised Cornell throughout the pandemic on essentially all major decisions. It was a wild ride. He'll tell these stories and draw lessons from them that he hopes will be useful and thought-provoking, whether you work in academia, industry, government or elsewhere.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

SHANE G. HENDERSON holds the Charles W. Lake, Jr. Chair in Productivity in the School of Operations Research and Information Engineering (ORIE) at Cornell University. His research interests include discrete-event simulation, simulation optimization, emergency services planning and transportation. He is an INFORMS Fellow and a co-recipient of the INFORMS Wagner Prize for his work on bike-sharing programs. He has served as the editor in chief of the open-access journal Stochastic Systems, as chair of the INFORMS Applied Probability Society, as simulation area editor for Operations Research and as the Director of the School of ORIE. He likes cats, climbing walls, biking, Harry Potter and being a Dad. His email address is sgh9@cornell.edu.