



Operations Research Society of South Africa



Category IV Recognition Award

(To an upcoming member of ORSSA of age 35 or below for excellence in operations research practice)

Christa de Kock

Citation. By Jan van Vuuren, on behalf of the Executive Committee of ORSSA.

Dr Christa de Kock is an operations research lecturer in the Department of Industrial Engineering at Stellenbosch University, where her area of expertise is agent-based modelling. She has supervised a number of final-year projects and a master's thesis in this area and has received recognition for her work in agent-based humanitarian logistics and disease modelling by being invited to a number of high-profile international workshops and influential panel discussions, such as:

- E Frydenlund, D Brown Cosby, C de Kock, H Haaland, H Wallevik & J Heslup Bah, Reimaging refugee response (Panel discussion), 17th International Association for the Study of Forced Migration Conference, Thessaloniki, Greece, 24–27 July 2018.
- D Douhaibi, R Hashem, E Frydenlund, S Sharma, A Wire Khan, J Dantas & C de Kock, The challenging and evolving nature of methodological approaches to research on forced migration (Roundtable discussion), 17th International Association for the Study of Forced Migration Conference, Thessaloniki, Greece, 24–27 July 2018.
- C de Kock, Workshop on Humanitarian logistics, Eindhoven University, The Netherlands, 30 July 2018.
- C de Kock, Workshop on Forced migration big data, York University, Toronto, Canada, 29 November 2018.
- C de Kock, BJ van Vuuren & JH van Vuuren, A framework for modelling forced migration, Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAF) 9th Annual Young Scientist Conference, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, 28–29 October 2019

Her work has also been accepted for publication in various peer-reviewed conference proceedings as well as in the following book chapter and journal paper:

- E Frydenlund, MY Şener, R Gore, C Boshuijzen-van Burken, E Bozdog & C de Kock, 2019. Characterising the mobile phone use patterns of refugee hosting provinces in Turkey, pp. 419–433 in AA Salah, A Pentland, B Lepri, E Letouzé (Eds), Guide to mobile data analytics in refugee scenarios: The “Data for Refugees Challenge” study, Springer, Cham.
- C de Kock & GP Sutherland, A potential influenza pandemic modelled in Greek refugee camps, Journal of Refugee Studies, To appear.

She is well known in the local operations research community, having attended the annual ORSSA conferences since 2015 when she became a student member of ORSSA. She has recently also started bringing her own students to these conferences where they present their work. In addition to her activities as a lecturer, she has served on the national Executive Committee of ORSSA since 2018 — first as treasurer and now as additional member. She also serves on the Executive Committee of the Western Cape Chapter of ORSSA.

She has been nominated for a Category IV ORSSA in recognition of the excellent service she has rendered to the local profession of operations research in general in her capacity as a lecturer and mentor of a new generation of

operations researchers, and for her dedicated service in various capacities to our Society and its Western Cape Chapter in particular, as well as to encourage her on her path of gaining recognition for her work in agent-based humanitarian logistics and disease modelling.