



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)

Berndt Gerald Lindner

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

Berndt Gerald Lindner, known to us as Bernie, was born in Pretoria on July 29th, 1988. After living for periods in Zimbabwe and in the Western Cape, he matriculated from Piketberg High School in 2006. Thereafter, he enrolled for a bachelor's degree in wood science at Stellenbosch University in 2007. Upon obtaining this degree in 2010 and having in the meantime discovered a passion for quantitative analysis, he enrolled for a post-graduate diploma in industrial engineering at Stellenbosch during the period 2011–2012. Based on this qualification, he was admitted to the master's programme in industrial engineering at the same university in 2013, with a research specialisation in operations research. Based on a thesis titled *Determining optimal primary sawing and ripping machine settings in the wood manufacturing chain*, he obtained a master's degree in industrial engineering *cum laude* from Stellenbosch University in 2014. His work earned him the prize for the best master's thesis in the Department of Industrial Engineering at Stellenbosch University in 2014. He followed up his master's degree with a doctorate in industrial engineering (again specialising in operations research), conferred on him by Stellenbosch University in 2017 and based on a dissertation titled *Bi-objective generator maintenance scheduling for a national power utility*.

In 2017, Bernie started working as an analytics developer at Pivot sciences, an OPSI Systems company and a leader in prescriptive analytics in South Africa within the realm of vehicle routing and facility location. At Pivot, Bernie worked on a project for a large South African cement producer, analysing and optimising its facility location and sourcing strategies. In another Pivot project, he created a web application for a large local medical insurer. This application was aimed at helping field force customer relationship managers plan daily appointments, taking into account the traffic conditions on the road network, and utilising an interactive travelling salesman model with time windows. In May this year, Bernie was appointed as a data engineer at Spatial Edge, a start-up company that helps its customers integrate and manage their data at scale with a view to facilitate intelligent and objective decision making. There his responsibilities include big data ingestion, secure data flows, data quality assurance and data monitoring.

Bernie is passionate about contributing towards community upliftment in his spare time. During the period 2012–2013, for example, he volunteered to take part in the Peter Project, where he played games, interacted and built relationships with 10–16 year old children at Lindelani Place of Safety, a juvenile centre just outside Stellenbosch. In 2012, he furthermore took part in the Funda Fundisa Project where he tutored mathematics to matric pupils at Kayamandi High School in Stellenbosch. During the period 2009–2015 he also tutored mathematics in various capacities to first-year engineering students at Stellenbosch University.

Bernie is well known in the local operations research community, having attended all the annual ORSSA conferences since 2012 when he became a student member of ORSSA. At these conferences he is known for presenting his work in a clear and articulate fashion. In fact, he won the prize for the best presentation by a master's student at the 43rd Annual ORSSA Conference held at Stonehenge in Africa, Parys in 2012, and two years later he won the prize for the best presentation by a doctoral student at the 45th Annual ORSSA Conference held at Lanzerac Wine Estate in Stellenbosch. In addition, he has served on the Executive Committee of ORSSA since 2015 — first as editor of the ORSSA Newsletter during the period 2015–2016, and since 2017 as business manager of the same newsletter. He currently also serves on the Executive Committee of the newly formed African Federation of Operations Research Societies — or AFROS — in the capacity of secretary.

In recognition of the excellent service rendered to the local profession of operations research in general in his capacity as an analyst and data scientist, first at Pivot Sciences and now at Spatial Edge, and his dedicated service in various capacities to our Society and to AFROS in particular, Berndt Gerald Lindner is, on this 18th day of September 2018, duly awarded a Category IV ORSSA Recognition Award. I call on the President to confer the award.