



Fellow of the Operations Research Society of South Africa



Stephanus Esterhuyse Visagie

Citation. By Isabelle Nieuwoudt,
on behalf of the Executive Committee of ORSSA

Stephanus Esterhuyse Visagie was born in the small Karoo town of Middelpos on 5 September 1972. He matriculated in Calvinia in 1990 and, after completing his military service, enrolled for a BSc-degree in Agriculture at Stellenbosch University, but later changed to a general BSc-degree in the mathematical sciences. He obtained his bachelor's degree with majors in physics and applied mathematics in 1995. Thereafter, he enrolled for a master's degree in applied mathematics in 1996, obtaining this degree in December 1997. In January 1998, he was appointed as lecturer in the Department of Logistics at Stellenbosch University where he also obtained an MPhil-degree in transport and logistics in 2002. He obtained his PhD in operations research in March 2007.

He is currently professor of operations research and head of operations research and quantitative management within the Department of Logistics at Stellenbosch University. He is an inspirational lecturer who is well-loved by his students — both on undergraduate and on graduate levels. He was awarded the Rector's Award for Excellent Teaching at Stellenbosch University in 2001. He has also supervised more than seventy students on honours, masters and doctoral levels, where he is always willing to go the extra mile for his students.

Stephan's research interests and expertise include methods for solving non-linear knapsack problems and the application of mathematical programming and metaheuristic techniques to fields as diverse as agriculture, retailing, production, logistics and scheduling. Stephan is a National Research Foundation-rated researcher. Stephan is a prolific author and co-author of scientific papers and has published many papers nationally and internationally. He is also a Tom Rozwadowski Medal and ORSSA Category II Recognition Award recipient. In addition, he has presented numerous papers at national and international conferences.

Stephan is a valued member of ORSSA. He has a long history of involvement in and service to our Society. He has been involved in the management of the journal ORION for the past fifteen years, the last seven years as editor. This is a significant contribution. He has also served in different roles on the Executive Committee of ORSSA, including as treasurer, before becoming involved in the management of ORION.

For his services to and ambassadorship of operations research in general, his services to ORSSA in particular, and his nurturing of a new generation of operations researchers at Stellenbosch University over many years, Stephanus Esterhuyse Visagie is duly inducted as Fellow of the Operations Research Society of South Africa on this 12th day of September 2017. I now invite all the Fellows and Honorary Members of our Society to join me in conferring ORSSA Fellowship on Stephanus Esterhuyse Visagie.