CONFERENCE VENUE
Bergen is the second largest city in Norway. It is an international city with a small-town charm and atmosphere. As a World Heritage City and as The Gateway to the Fjords of Norway is has a wide selection of activities and excursions to offer.

The University of Bergen as the local conference organizer is a medium-sized European university with six faculties covering most of the traditional university disciplines. What differentiates it from other European universities in our context is that it established an international master degree program in system dynamics in 1995 and today hosts a system dynamics group with three permanent faculty. Currently, the System Dynamics Group has a PhD program in SD and two overlapping master programs, the Bergen Master and the Joint European Master Program in System Dynamics (EMSD).

The conference will be held in Scandic Bergen City, a modern hotel in the centre of Bergen situated in easy walking distance to a wide range of hotels and close to all the cultural activities.

CONFERENCE TEAM
PROGRAM CHAIRS
E-mail: progchair@systemdynamics.org
- Sara Metcalf, University at Buffalo
- Brad Morrison, Brandeis University and MIT
- Étienne Rouwette, Radboud University, Nijmegen

WORKSHOP CHAIRS
- Jack Homer, Homer Consulting
- Hazhir Rahmandad, MIT

ORGANIZING CHAIRS
- Birgit Kopainsky, University of Bergen
- Pål I. Davidsen, University of Bergen
- Erling Moxnes, University of Bergen

VP MEETINGS
- Leonard Malczynski, University of New Mexico

CONFERENCE MANAGER
- Donna Johnson, System Dynamics Society

DEADLINES AND KEY DATES
January 27, 2020 Opening for submissions
March 2, 2020 Submission deadline
May 4, 2020 Notification of acceptance
May 18, 2020 Presenter registration deadline
May 26, 2020 Tentative program schedule available
June 9, 2020 Registration fee increases
July 14-17, 2020 System Dynamics Summer School
July 19, 2020 System Dynamics Colloquium Policy Council Meeting
July 20, 2020 Conference Opening!

CALL FOR PAPERS, WORKSHOPS & SESSIONS
The 38th International Conference of the System Dynamics Society
HINDSIGHT IN 2020: Learning from the Past to Inspire the Future

CONFERENCE SPONSOR
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To learn more about becoming a Society Sponsor or to support the 2020 conference, please contact the Society Office at +1(518) 580-4071 or office@systemdynamics.org.

For updated details, please visit: systemdynamics.org/conference

JULY 19 - 23, 2020
BERGEN, NORWAY
OVERVIEW
We invite you to join us in Bergen, Norway for the 38th International Conference of the System Dynamics Society. Our 2020 conference will honor the 20th anniversary of the 2000 Bergen conference and the long history of system dynamics in Norway, including as host of the inaugural 1976 conference. Whether you are new to the practice of system dynamics or already an expert, we welcome you to Bergen in 2020, where you may contribute your original work and learn from leaders in the field about the state of the art in system dynamics. Submissions are encouraged on all topics relating to the theory and practical application of system dynamics modeling.

PROGRAM
The annual System Dynamics conference brings together people from around the world to share important research and application results. The conference program consists of plenary presentations that showcase important work in the field, parallel and poster sessions that present advanced research and applications, and a full day of skill-building workshops covering topics from basic software use to advanced analysis techniques. Panel discussions, special interest group sessions, student colloquia, a modeling assistance workshop, vendor exhibits, and demonstrations round out the program. The conference schedule provides time for social and professional interaction. An innovation for the 2020 conference is that we will pilot a virtual conference feature for plenary sessions to promote engagement for those who are interested in the conference but unable to attend in person.

CONFERENCE THEME
The conference theme is “Hindsight in 2020: learning from the past to inspire the future.” The saying that “hindsight is 20/20” implies that it’s easy in retrospect to “see” why events unfolded as they did, but it’s much harder to accurately anticipate the outcome in advance. In the scientific practice of system dynamics, concern about such “hindsight bias” compels us to formalize behavioral expectations a priori, before testing dynamic hypotheses of feedback mechanisms, so that the value of a model for producing new insights can be established relative to these expectations. But after building models, subjecting them to rigorous analysis, and discovering robust model-based policies, a different and deeper kind of hindsight can develop over time. It is this kind of hindsight that we wish to hone in 2020, by asking how what we know now could inform the practice of system dynamics and inspire alternative models that address the challenges our society must face today and tomorrow.

In the spirit of this theme, the 2020 conference provides an opportunity to look back at prior models and their evolution in light of recent developments to see how they may inspire future directions for the next generation of models. We particularly encourage reflections on methodological developments related to system dynamics that have arisen thus far in the new millennium. Submissions oriented to the conference theme may offer fresh perspectives on contributors’ own prior work or other computational models that have been developed in system dynamics and related fields. Original contributions may be made by conducting new experiments with existing models, modifying those models to leverage advances in computational methods that have emerged in recent years, or demonstrating innovative model applications that address adaptability and robustness to context. By taking stock of the rich legacy of system dynamics, hindsight can help to build the collective memory of our system dynamics community and thereby inspire strategic directions for the field going forward.

ORGANIZED SESSIONS
The 2020 conference program will include invited as well as contributed sessions. Special proposals for plenary or parallel sessions, panel discussions, roundtables, and other pre- or post-conference activities are encouraged. Proposals for workshops and tutorials are also welcome. If you have ideas for sessions and workshops focused on addressing practical issues in specific commercial or scientific fields, please contact us. Proposals should be sent to progchair@systemdynamics.org.

SUBMISSIONS
We welcome all research and documented consulting activities in system dynamics, including applications of the methodology to solve real-world problems, new technical and software developments, and productive integration of complementary methodologies. The conference schedule is organized by thread to create coherent topics for presentation. Planned threads for 2020 include:

- Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics (new)
- Business
- Economics
- Environment
- Health
- Human Behavior
- Information and Knowledge
- Learning and Teaching
- Methodology
- Operations
- Public Policy
- Resources
- Security
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Strategy

Submissions are welcomed on all topics pertaining to system dynamics, regardless of whether they easily fit within one or more of these threads. Questions about submissions may be directed to progchair@systemdynamics.org. Authors should visit the conference website for full submission instructions and details: systemdynamics.org/conference

SUMMER SCHOOL
Held the week prior to the conference, the System Dynamics Summer School provides a unique opportunity to learn (or review) the basics of system dynamics, get exposed to real-world applications of the method, and delve into advanced topics. The 2020 Summer School will include group activities with all attendees as well as sessions specifically designed for beginners and intermediate/advanced practitioners.

COLLOQUIUM
The System Dynamics Colloquium is a one-day opportunity for students to present and discuss their research with peers and other interested colloquium attendees. The colloquium consists of dynamic presentations, a poster session, and interaction with experts. Participants will benefit from meeting others with shared research interests. The colloquium provides a wonderful chance to get feedback from peers, experienced practitioners, and educators in the field.