

WSC 2067: WHAT ARE THE CHANCES?

Barry L. Nelson

Northwestern University
Department of Industrial Engineering & Management Sciences
McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science
2145 Sheridan Road, Room M326
Evanston, IL 60208-3119

ABSTRACT

At the November 1967 “Conference on the Applications of Simulation Using GPSS” it seems unlikely that anyone was wondering if the conference would still be occupying a big hotel in 2017. Conferences persist for many reasons, but a technical conference like WSC has to remain relevant to users, vendors, researchers and consumers (not just hotels) to survive. If our kind of simulation vanished, then so (eventually) would WSC. What is required for simulation to “remain relevant” for the next 50 years? Without fear of having to answer for my crimes in 2067, I boldly speculate on what SHOULD matter for the next 10-20 years, if not the next 50, with a focus on our strength: dealing with uncertainty.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

BARRY L. NELSON is the Walter P. Murphy Professor of the Department of Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences at Northwestern University and a Distinguished Visiting Scholar at Lancaster University in England. His research focus is on the design and analysis of computer simulation experiments on models of discrete-event, stochastic systems, including methodology for simulation optimization, quantifying and reducing model risk, variance reduction, output analysis, metamodeling and multivariate input modeling. His application areas are manufacturing, services, financial engineering and transportation. He has published numerous papers and three books, including *Foundations and Methods of Stochastic Simulation: A First Course* (Springer, 2013). Nelson is a Fellow of INFORMS and IIE. In 2006, 2013 and 2015 he received the Outstanding Simulation Publication Award from the INFORMS Simulation Society, and in 2009, 2011 and 2015 he was awarded the Best Paper–Operations Award from IIE Transactions. His teaching has been acknowledged by a Northwestern University Alumni Association Excellence in Teaching Award, a McCormick School of Engineering & Applied Science Teacher of the Year Award, and the IIE Operations Research Division Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Operations Research. Further information, including a complete CV, can be found at <http://www.iems.northwestern.edu/~nelsonb/>. His email address is nelsonb@northwestern.edu.