

# ELA DOCTORATE WORKSHOP 2023 REPORT

Venue: Técnico Lisboa, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisbon (Portugal)

Date: June 28<sup>th</sup> - July 01<sup>st</sup> 2023

*by Pietro Evangelista*

The call for papers of the twenty-seventh edition of the ELA Doctorate Workshop was sent out by Prof. Hans-Christian Pfohl on behalf of the ELA Research committee on late November 2022. It was disseminated in the local logistics research communities and networks by the committee members with a first deadline fixed on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 that was extend until 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023. On 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023, the ELA Research committee selected 20 students during the committee meeting held online on Zoom platform. One student that declined to participate was subsequently replaced by another student. Here is the distribution of the participating students by the country of their university.

Country	Number of students
Germany	5
Italy	4
Sweden	3
France	2
The Netherlands	2
Poland	1
Finland	1
Belgium	1
USA	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>

In May 2023 three moderators confirmed their attendance to the workshop. Two speakers were also recruited. The academic one was Prof. Pedro Amorim (INESC TEC, Lisbon, Portugal), while the industry speaker was Vítor Figueiredo (CEO of Logifrio and President of Portuguese Association of Logistics Operators - APOL). The team of the workshop 2023 was as follows:

**Chairman:**

- Prof. Dr. Pietro Evangelista (ISMed-CNR, Italy)

**Moderators:**

- Prof. Dr. Pietro Evangelista (ISMed-CNR, Italy)

- Prof. Dr. Susana Relvas (Técnico Lisboa, Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal)

- Prof. Dr. Maja Kiba-Janiak (Wroclaw University of Economics and Business, Poland)

- Prof. Dr. Layla Martin (Eindhoven University of Technology, The Netherlands)

**Keynote speaker:**

- Prof. Dr. Pedro Amorim (INESC TEC, Portugal)

**Dinner speaker:**

- Dr. Vítor Figueiredo (CEO of Logifrio and President of Portuguese Association of Logistics Operators - APOL, Portugal)

I wish to acknowledge Dr. André Kreie from the Kuehne Foundation for his continuous financial support to the workshop. A special thank goes to Prof. Susan Relvas and her team for the excellent support they gave to the organisation of the workshop.

All the 20 students submitted their proposals, and a Dropbox folder was created to share information/documents with students, moderators and committee members. The allocation of the moderators and students over different papers was defined on mid-June 2023 by the chairman. The moderators have been associated to the students considering their own background and the topic of the proposals. This facilitated the provision of appropriate suggestions and comments to the students.

All the 20 students successfully attended the workshop from June 28<sup>th</sup> until July 01<sup>st</sup> 2023. As in the previous year, the time allocated to the discussion after the student's presentation was extended from 10 minutes to 20 minutes and the introductory session was moved to the dinner held on Wednesday evening 28<sup>th</sup> July where the time for chairman and moderators' self-presentation was reduced from 15 to 5 minutes. As in previous editions, the workshop was organised to have a PhD student presentation first and three discussants (one moderator and two other PhD students) immediately after the presentation. Each moderator introduced the session topics in 5 minutes at the beginning of his/her own session.

The academic keynote speaker, Prof. Dr. Pedro Amorim, delivered a very interesting speech entitled "Myths of online delivery: Using data and analytics to unveil what customers truly want" on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

On the same day, the moderators team implemented the "Sharing experience in groups: Bridging the PhD journey and publishing" exercise that was aimed at discussing: i) the use of conferences to establish networks, to prepare publications, and to find academic jobs, etc.; ii) the priorities in the different phases of the PhD project and iii) the challenges in the different phases of the PhD project.

During the final dinner on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June, Dr. Vítor Figueiredo CEO of Logifrio and President of the Portuguese logistics industry association delivered an attractive talk on the main practical challenges that logistics service providers are facing in the current industry and geopolitical scenario. The ELA certificates were handed over to the students by Prof. Dr. Hans-Christian Pfohl. Finally, the student Aïcha Leroy from the Research Group Logistics, Faculty of Business Economics, Hasselt University (Belgium) received the best presentation award for her outstanding presentation entitled "Data-driven warehouse optimization: A focus on maverick picking".

After the workshop, the chairman sent to the students the short questionnaire to understand their level of satisfaction in relation to different aspects of the workshop. The feedback received from students are all very positive. The PhD students were generally very happy about the appropriate feedback received from moderators and the interesting discussion and networking with other students as a result of more time available. The hospitality and the facilities of the hosting organisation were very good and also very much appreciated. Below are summarised the feedback received from the students that participated in our survey.

## **ELA DOCTORATE WORKSHOP 2023**

# RESULTS OF THE STUDENTS SATISFACTORY SURVEY

<b>Overall perception and points strength</b>
<p>Scientific usefulness: The ELA Doctoral Workshop was a fantastic experience that helped me grow as a researcher: meeting with colleagues to share our experiences and research ideas offered a broader overview of the themes being studied and the methodologies employed. Thus, offering the opportunity to learn more about logistics research. Regarding my research, I have received valuable comments and hints on how to improve my work further. Furthermore, exchanging ideas with other colleagues has offered new perspectives and points of view to explore.</p> <p>Hospitality and management: Hospitality and management of this event have been excellent, with no negative remarks to highlight.</p> <p>Point of strength: Sharing a few days with colleagues from other European universities is a valuable experience that helps broaden the participants' horizons. The time allocated for each presentation is long enough to properly explain the highlights of one's research and thus receive valuable comments and suggestions.</p>
<p>Scientific usefulness: ELD doctoral workshop proved to be an invaluable experience as it not only allowed me to network with like-minded young Ph.D. researchers, but also exposed me to a wealth of knowledge and expertise. Engaging in discussions and exchanging ideas with fellow researchers and professors sparked new perspectives and enriched my understanding of the field. I made meaningful connections that I believe will be of great value in the future, providing potential collaborative opportunities and access to valuable resources. Attending this workshop has undoubtedly expanded my professional network and equipped me with a broader foundation for my future research endeavours.</p> <p>Hospitality and management: The management of the workshop was commendable. The meticulous attention to detail in the workshop's management contributed significantly to its success, creating an environment that fostered learning, connection, and enjoyment. I must also applaud the fantastic choice of accommodation, both in terms of the city itself and the hotel, which provided a comfortable and conducive environment for networking and relaxation.</p> <p>Point of strength: The workshop presented an exceptional networking opportunity with fellow Ph.D. students, who will become valuable future colleagues and collaborators. Ample time and space were dedicated to networking, with short breaks between sessions and a city tour, fostering meaningful connections and discussions on the topics. In addition, presentation slots and topics were well organized, providing valuable exposure to high-level academic presentations on logistics and supply chain management research.</p>
<p>Scientific usefulness: The workshop greatly expanded my knowledge of logistics research. The presentations were informative, and the discussions that followed each one deepened my understanding. I particularly appreciated the long breaks, which allowed me to connect with other participants. The connections I made during these breaks now hold significant value and have expanded my professional network.</p> <p>Hospitality and management: I found the workshop content to be highly valuable, striking a good balance between work and leisure. While I thoroughly enjoyed the activities included, I must mention that the second day of presentations felt a bit long, making it challenging to maintain focus towards the end of the day. However, aside from that, every activity offered in the workshop was enjoyable. The accommodation was also excellent, having a fantastic location near the university.</p> <p>Point of strength:</p>

I highly appreciated the broad range of logistics topics presented during the workshop. It expanded my logistics research knowledge and taught me different methodologies to tackle research problems.

Scientific usefulness: It is helpful to see a broader scope of Logistics studies, especially the qualitative ones with which I am less familiar. Moreover, I find several engaging presentations and see ranges of different methodologies which may be helpful for my future work. The discussion sessions are valuable as we exchange many ideas and help me reflect on several model assumptions. Fortunately, a few participants are in the same area of research in the combined freight and passenger transportation. This is great as we share our thought on each other work. Apart from the formal presentation, I also discussed with the participants during the day.

Hospitality and management: I think the management is excellent. We have a whole pack of 2 day-programs. The restaurant and hotel and the provided meal are great. I like the city and the university very much and enjoy the provided sightseeing tour.

Point of strength: The scientific activities are great. Thank you to all the participants, moderators and organizers for this event and for providing excellent feedback. I think 15 min presentation is long enough to learn some concepts from one work, and we also have pretty enough discussion time.

Scientific usefulness: I learned a lot from the other PhD students' presentations, especially about all the different research topics related to logistic. It really helped be to broaden my perspective on my research.

Hospitality and management: The management during the workshop and hospitality were excellent.

Point of strength: Interesting presentations by students and from all keynote speakers, and the friendly atmosphere throughout the whole workshop. Also, the time to network and get to know each other was really appreciated.

Scientific usefulness: The workshop was a great opportunity to meet young researchers and professors in my research field. I found out very useful and interesting to attend the other students' presentation: it gave me the opportunity to reflect upon new research ideas (new theories, new research topics and new methodologies). At the same time, I appreciated receiving feedback by both professors and students on my research work path. If I need, in the future I will contact the students and professors that I met during the workshop.

Hospitality and management: The management of the workshop was excellent. According to me, the workshop program was very well constructed with the right division of the daily program between scientific and leisure activities. The organisation of the scientific activities with the sessions, keynote speeches and final group work was very good. Leisure activities (dinners and city tours) were also very well organised enjoyable. The accommodation (the city and the hotel) was fantastic.

Point of strength: According to me, the main points of strength of the workshop are:

1) the program. As I said, I really appreciate the organization of the workshop including both scientific and leisure activities; 2) internationality. Meeting students from university in and extra Europe was a good opportunity to understand similarities and differences among the research approaches, the research topics, and the structure of the PhD programs; 3) heterogeneity of research topics. Although within the same research stream, the topics addressed by the students were quite different. This gave me the opportunity to know more about the existence of multiple research topics in field of logistics and supply chain.

Scientific usefulness: It was extremely useful to have a broad overview of the research in logistics. This was especially interesting for me because I work on a project which aims at making new data available for researchers in logistics, and industrial actors, but my personal technical work is not directly related to logistics. Therefore, the different presentations, the feedback, and the discussions (after the presentations and during breaks) will obviously give me some ideas to adapt the focus of my work. I also strongly believe that meeting other PhD students and professors in a friendly / kind environment as in this workshop might be useful for the future.

Hospitality and management: Great location, accommodation and management!

Point of strength: High diversity of research projects & High-level presentations; Kind & Friendly environment; Excellent idea to propose leisure activities, it is great and helps to know each other. From a professional point of view, I would say it also helps for networking; Industry & Academic guest speakers.

<b>Point of weaknesses and suggestions for improving the workshop</b>
<p>Point of weaknesses: The schedule felt a little tight at times.</p> <p>Suggestions for improving further editions of the workshop: I would suggest extending the doctoral workshop by one additional day, in order to more easily manage and spread the presentations of the 20 participants.</p>
<p>Point of weaknesses: None</p> <p>Suggestions for improving further editions of the workshop: None</p>
<p>Point of weaknesses: I found no point of weaknesses</p> <p>Suggestions for improving further editions of the workshop: Please keep up the good work!</p>
<p>Point of weaknesses: None</p> <p>Suggestions for improving further editions of the workshop: Do not make too many changes as it was a very useful and fun workshop.</p>
<p>Point of weaknesses: The allocation for student discussion can be improved. I think it is better to match the participants to those who adopt similar approaches to have more profound technical comments. I like guest speakers from academia and industry; however, they only have short sessions, especially the industry speaker. It would be better if they were given more time and if they could participate in our presentation. This may even give broader and more practical feedback for our research.</p> <p>Suggestions for improving further editions of the workshop: I think it would be better to add another half or one day to the program. We can then split the program and give more time for the participants to know each other. Also, one of the moderators may come from the industry to provide more comprehensive feedback. I also enjoy the Phd session at the end; however, it is too short.</p>
<p>Point of weaknesses: Maybe the daily program was a bit intense, because there was a lot to take in and the day started very early, so the attention span went down by the end of the day.</p> <p>Suggestions for improving further editions of the workshop: None, I really enjoyed the workshop!</p>
<p>Point of weaknesses: There could have been a bit more time for discussions amongst the PhD students and professors. Most of the time was packed with presentations which didn't leave so much time left.</p> <p>Suggestions for improving further editions of the workshop: It was so great! Maybe you could include a bit more time for open discussions on topics</p>

Point of weaknesses: I don't see any point of weaknesses.

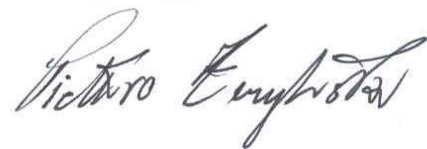
Suggestions for improving further editions of the workshop: I want just to suggest keeping the organization and the structure of the workshop good as it was. I would introduce maybe, during the first day another keynote speech at lunch time. I think that the keynote speech of professor Pedro Amorim was really useful and I would have liked to have another one.

Point of weaknesses: Maybe not enough sessions for non-PhD student speakers. It's too short!

Suggestions for improving further editions of the workshop: Maybe a longer workshop to have more guest speakers, or presentations / speaks from the professors of the team, or a longer discussion about the PhD process at the end. Maybe give more insight on how the organization of this kind of workshop is made? Maybe a more detailed presentation of Kuehne Foundation and ELA? Make it bigger: transform this 2-day workshop into a 1-week summer school. Maybe Kuehne + Nagel is not the only company interested in financing a part of this kind of event?

Naples, 04.11.2023

Pietro Evangelista

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Pietro Evangelista". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some capital letters.