

Biography:

Abdellah Salhi has studied at **Centre Universitaire de Sétif, Algeria**. He was one of the very first students of that institution. He continued his studies in Computing/Operational Research at Université de Constantine, Algeria. He undertook his postgraduate studies (MSc/PhD) at the University of Aston in Birmingham, UK. He returned to Algeria for a short period of time, before returning to the UK.

He is currently a Professor of Operational Research in the School of Mathematics, Statistics and Actuarial Science, formerly the Department of Mathematical Sciences, at the University of Essex, United Kingdom. He is an expert in mathematical programming, optimisation and algorithm design. He has interests in data analytics, numerical analysis and computational mathematics, and their applications in business and other contexts.

He has previously worked as a Lecturer or Research Fellow at different universities, on a number of funded projects such as Decision Making under Partial Information (University of Leeds), Implementation of the Revised Simplex Algorithm on Massively Parallel Computers (University of Edinburgh), and Data-mining Electricity Market Data (University of Southampton) to help National Power estimate favourable bid prices for trading in electricity.

Prof Salhi has recently led (as Principal Investigator) or contributed (as Co-Investigator) on a number of funded research projects such as Optimal Design by Data Analysis with Visualisation and Interaction (jointly with University College London), Labour scheduling within the Port of Felixstowe, the largest container port in the UK, Data Driven Analytics to Support decision Making at MSX international, an automotive warranty company, Green Logistics and Optimisation of the Last Mile Distribution at Ocado, a major online retailer based in the UK, to name a few. He is currently working on the Detection and Localisation of Dark Ships at High Seas with PoleStar, a US company that specialises in tracking ships that engage in illegal activity in maritime environments. His projects attracted funding in excess of £1M, over the years.

He is also a member of the Business and Local Government Data Research Centre (BLG-DRC), a multi-million-pound ESRC-funded project hosted by the University of Essex. His role is to generate new methodologies for big data analytics especially in the context of smart town centres.

He has introduced the Plant Propagation Algorithm (PPA) for global optimisation, a process inspired by the way plants, and in particular the strawberry plant, propagate. He has a patent for an algorithm on efficient distribution of goods. He has invented the foldable beehive, Origami style.

He has successfully supervised 17 PhD students from a dozen countries and published extensively in refereed journals such as the Journal of the Operational Research Society, Annals of Operations Research, IEEE Transactions on Evolutionary Computation, Operations Research Letter, Applied Soft Computing and others. He participates regularly as a plenary and keynote speaker in a number of international conferences. He was Head of the Department of Mathematical Sciences at Essex University from 2010 to 2016.



At a PhD Viva in Groningen, Holland, 2018