



# *international journal of forecasting*

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*Published on behalf of the International Institute of Forecasters by Elsevier*

## Call for papers

### Eliciting, structuring and evaluating expert judgment for use in forecasting and planning systems

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Expert judgment is frequently used in forecasting and is the main input to anticipating the future in scenario planning. Judgment is utilized either on its own or in combination with statistical procedures. Sometimes judgment is necessary simply because more objective sources of data are not available. Judgment can also complement statistical forecasting methods; for instance, where there is reason to believe that there will be important discontinuous structural change that cannot easily be modeled. Judgment may be required both for the forecast entities themselves and also to express the uncertainty surrounding these judgments, most usually as subjective probabilities.

Psychological research has shown that unaided expert judgement in general — and associated subjective probabilities, in particular — can be biased. As a result, methods have been developed for eliciting knowledge from experts to reduce or remove bias — so-called expert knowledge elicitation. Also, as the quality of individual expert's judgments may vary it is usual to elicit the expertise of several individuals. But such activity can lead to further issues and problems, due to bias that can be inherent in particular small group processes.

Once judgments are elicited these will usually require structuring before being used in forecasting and planning techniques. For example, the quantitative judgments of several experts may need to be combined to produce a point-estimate, prediction interval, or other characteristic of the forecast distribution. Alternatively, a jointly-agreed, qualitative causal storyline is often the focus of development within scenario methods. Addressing this variety in combinations of expert judgments is not straightforward.

Finally, the quality of expert judgment can often be evaluated, post-hoc, and used to improve the elicitation and structuring processes; for instance in methods for pre-selecting experts or

weighting their judgments for aggregation.

In summary, our Special Section is focussed on the elicitation, structuring and evaluation of expert knowledge and we welcome papers providing new knowledge on the following topics (the list is not exhaustive):

**Elicitation:** structured methods for problem formulation, expert selection, and use of expert knowledge elicitation methodology both for groups (e.g. Delphi) and for individuals (e.g. Classical method); multi-method approaches, such as utilizing Delphi-like processes to identify driving forces in the initial stage of scenario development methods.

**Structuring:** methods for combining and aggregating expert judgments; weighting of opinions; combination of judgment with statistical forecasting methods; developing scenario logics from individually-identified driving forces; using system dynamics modeling to develop insights into the inter-relationships of driving forces.

**Evaluation:** examining the replacement of statistical forecasts by expert judgment; examining judgmental adjustments to statistical forecasts; assessing the reliability and validity of subjective probability judgments; using reliability and validity measurements to refine the elicitation and structuring of judgments.

**Submission deadline:** 31 March 2015. Manuscripts should be submitted via the standard IJF electronic submission process at [mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ijf](http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ijf). A covering letter should be included that indicates that the paper is to be considered for inclusion in the Special Section. The editors are happy to give pre-submission guidance by e-mail as to whether a paper's content is, in principle, appropriate for the Special Section.