



ACADEMIC SEMINAR

Prof Mahmut Parlar

Distinguished University Professor &
Professor of Management Science
DeGroote School of Business
McMaster University

Life in the Academia: 47 Years of Fun and Games (and Hard Work)

Abstract: This talk reflects on nearly fifty years of my academic life, offering personal insights into the rewards, challenges, and realities of a career in academia. Drawing on experiences from graduate study through tenure and long-term scholarly engagement, I discuss life as a PhD student, the academic job market, early-career pressures, and the continuing demands of research, teaching, and service. Emphasis is placed on developing research ideas, writing and publishing quality work, dealing constructively with referees, securing grants, and maintaining focus and integrity. The talk also highlights the importance of good teaching, collegiality, balance, physical well-being, and ethical conduct, concluding with reflections on lifelong learning and the cautious use of AI in academic work.

About the Speaker

Mahmut Parlar is a Distinguished University Professor and Professor of Management Science at the DeGroote School of Business, McMaster University. His research focuses on stochastic modeling, dynamic optimization, and game-theoretic applications in supply chain management. He has published more than 130 refereed journal articles in leading outlets such as *Operations Research*, *Management Science*, and *Manufacturing & Service Operations Management*. His work has been continuously supported by NSERC research grants since 1981 and has received over 9,000 citations (h-index 44, i10-index 92).

Dr. Parlar is the author of *Interactive Operations Research with Maple* (Birkhäuser) and the recipient of numerous research, teaching, and service awards, including the Canadian Operational Research Society's Award of Merit. He is listed in **Stanford University's Top 2% Scientists** dataset and was appointed Adjunct Professor at Lingnan University in 2024.

- **Date:** 22 April 2026 (Wednesday)
- **Time:** 14:30 - 16:00
- **Venue:** SEK210
- **Moderator:** Prof. Liang Liping
Professor of Operations Management and Director of Hong Kong Institute of Business Studies

All are welcome

Contact: For any inquiries, please contact us at hkibs@ln.edu.hk or call us at 2616-8374.