

Dana Meadows Award Presentation
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Co-ordinator of the Dana Meadows Award Committee

The Dana Meadows Award is given for the best paper, *by a student*, presented at the Annual Conference. The Award was first presented at the Atlanta Conference, in 2001, to honor the life and work of Dana Meadows, who died in February of that year, after a long and brilliant career in education and research focussed on a systems approach to social and environmental issues. From her contributions to *Limits to Growth* to her later writings in *The Global Citizen*, Dana was an inspiration to generations of students and researchers in System Dynamics.

The Award is instituted by the Society to bring recognition to the very best student work and thereby, to inspire students to contribute to the growing body of theory and applications of System Dynamics- inspiration that Dana demonstrated throughout her career.

The Dana Meadows Award is funded through an endowment established by the Society, initially by a generous donation from Jane and Allen Boorstein to found the Award in 2001, and by many subsequent donors whose support the Society gratefully acknowledges.

The members of the selection committee for the 2012 Award are Richard Dudley, Andy Ford, John Morecroft, Krystyna Stave, John Sterman and Erich Zahn.

Out of the 40 student papers submitted for this year's awards, two were regarded as very good papers and worthy contributions to System Dynamics.

The Committee chose to name two papers and their authors as co-winners of the Dana Meadows Award for 2012.

In alphabetical order they are:

*David Keith, System Dynamics Group, Sloan School, MIT for the paper "Understanding Spatiotemporal Patterns of Hybrid-Electric Vehicle Adoption in the United States".

-A well-written paper that, by using the case of the Prius, contributes to understanding of spatial adoption patterns in the US market. The heart of the paper is a discrete choice model used in an empirical study to 'test' three different models of adoption: social contagion, intrinsic heterogeneity and homophily.

-The paper is an incredible piece of work to estimate coefficients in the market choice model.

-A rigorous treatment of data gathered by sometimes ingenious means and applied to a solid model. It certainly requires and largely repays a very close reading.

The other co-winner is:

*András Kóvári of Delft University of Technology for the paper "Prostitution and Human Trafficking: A model-based exploration and policy analysis".

-This paper describes an exploratory model of the connections between modern slavery and prostitution and the use of the model to examine a set of policy interventions. The problem investigated is the criminality associated with prostitution

The paper is well-written and supported. It nicely explains the problem context, development of the causal structure, and the stock and flow model. The paper describes the analysis of the different policies. The model is straightforward and, as the author states, one of several possible formulations.

-A good example of using system dynamics as a first cut evaluation of an important social problem and issue. The situation is clearly described and an engaging model is developed, based on plausible assumptions and judgemental parameter estimates. The model is used to explore a variety of practical policy options that one can imagine would interest policy makers.

The vivid case material and model can also be used in teaching, as the appendix demonstrates.

The authors are to be congratulated for their efforts and their success in analyzing and providing insight into significant dynamic issues.