

## Workshop

### **How to write a paper for submission to a refereed scholarly journal**

Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> April at 2:30 pm

Venue: CiSTUP Classroom

**Abstract:** Writing a paper can seem daunting for graduate students. But, by thinking carefully, building a strong motivation, and positioning the research within the context of the extant literature, one can get a good start on a paper. Of course, writing a paper is not a one-shot deal. It is an iterative procedure, where an individual prepares a first draft, reviews it and makes changes to make things flow better, then reviews the second draft and makes changes to prepare a third draft, and so on. At a minimum, this process should be continued at least five times. In each draft, there are many issues to keep in mind, including flow and coherency, tight and crisp writing, appropriate sentence structures, and the use of carefully chosen words to relay the right scholarly tone for the reader. As important is the issue of being meticulous and paying attention to detail: no spelling mistakes, ensuring that all references are listed at the end, designing and preparing the tables and figures to look professional, and coordinating the text with tables/figures. At the same time, writing a technical paper is similar to writing a story; the story should start from the motivation and proceed all the way to the conclusion. In this context, it is the responsibility of the author to hold the reader's hand and take the reader through an interesting journey from beginning to end, by providing context, background, and weaving a compelling narrative.

This seminar/workshop will inform students of the considerations just mentioned, and take students through a series of papers to demonstrate the nuances of writing a good paper.

### **Speaker Information**

Chandra R. Bhat, Ph.D., P.E.

*University Distinguished Teaching Professor*

*Joe J. King Endowed Chair Professor in Engineering*

Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering

The University of Texas at Austin



Dr. Chandra R. Bhat is an expert in the area of transportation and urban policy design, with far reaching implications for public health, energy dependence, greenhouse gas emissions, and societal quality of life. Methodologically, he has been a pioneer in the formulation and use of statistical and econometric methods to analyze human choice behavior. His current research includes the social and environmental aspects of transportation, planning implications of connected and automated smart transportation systems (CASTS), e-commerce and information and communication technology (ICT) impacts on the activity and mobility behaviors of consumers and upstream supply chain providers, and data science and predictive analytics. He is a recipient of many awards, including the 2017 Council of University Transportation Center (CUTC) Lifetime Achievement Award in Transportation Research and Education, the 2015 American Association of Civil Engineering's (ASCE's) Frank Masters Award, and the 2013 German Humboldt Award. He was listed in 2017 as one of the top ten transportation thought leaders in academia by the Eno Foundation. He is a top-cited transportation engineering researcher. He currently serves as the Editor-in-Chief of *Transportation Research – Part B*.