Saif Benjaafar |

Distinguished McKnight University Professor
Director, Initiative on the Sharing Economy
Faculty Scholar, Center for Transportation Studies

Fellow and affiliated faculty, MIT-SUTD International Design Center, Singapore University of Technology and Design

Professor Benjaafar is an internationally renowned leader in the field of supply chain management. He has published ground breaking research that investigates how complex and global supply chains should be designed and managed. His work on sustainable supply chains introduced innovative ideas for reducing the environmental footprint of supply chains. His recent work on collaborative consumption is among the first to layout the foundation for the economic and environmental analysis of the sharing economy.

He is currently Distinguished McKnight University Professor at the University of Minnesota (one of the highest recognitions for a faculty member at the University of Minnesota). He is Director of the Initiative on the Sharing Economy, a university-wide initiative with participation from faculty in management, engineering, public policy, industrial ecology, and law. He is also Director of the Center for Supply Chain, Professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering, incoming Fellow of the Institute on the Environment, and Faculty Scholar at the Center for Transportation Studies.

He was the founding Head of Pillar (at the rank of Dean) for Engineering Systems and Design at Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD), a new university established in collaboration with MIT (www.sutd.edu.sg). The University, with ambitions of becoming one of the world's leading universities, has a unique focus on technology and design. In his capacity as Head of Pillar, he was part of the senior leadership team developing the university and was involved in all aspects of university governance and institution building including setting direction and vision for the university, budget planning, faculty hiring across the university, student recruitment and admission, facilities and campus development, development of policies for faculty governance, promotion, tenure, and annual reviews, research management and planning, industry and community outreach, and fund raising, among many others.

Under his leadership, the engineering systems and design (ESD) pillar quickly established a worldwide reputation as a serious program with ambitions of becoming one of the world's best. He oversaw the recruitment of 27 new faculty members, hired from the very best schools in the US, Europe, and Asia, with diverse backgrounds in engineering, management, economics, statistics, and public policy, making it one of the largest such programs in the world. He led the development of unique undergraduate and graduate programs with an innovative hands-on approach to learning and an emphasis on design. He provided leadership and oversight over the development of multi-million dollar facilities, including the IDIA Lab, a digital prototyping facility, and the Financial Trading Lab, a state of the art facility with the functionality of a trading floor with nearly 30 Bloomberg terminals. He led the development of a major research effort on next generation smart grid funded by the Singapore National Research Foundation. He

participated in the university-wide fund-raising effort to build an endowment fund from scratch. The endowment fund now stands at over $500 million, including over $200 million in private donations.

Over a period of 15 years, Professor Benjaafar served as Director of the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISyE) at the University of Minnesota (formerly the Program in Industrial and Systems Engineering). Over this period, he led the program through a transformation from a small graduate program into a full-fledged department (only the second such a new department within the college of science and engineering in the past several decades). He oversaw the development of a new undergraduate degree, offering a unique blend of engineering and management with a strong focus on the fundamentals in mathematics, computing, and economics. The new degree has been popular with students, with enrolment growing to over 200 students, making it among the most popular in the college. The degree has been particularly popular with women, with more than 40% of the student population being female. He oversaw the hiring of 8 new faculty members recruited from the very best schools and with a broad mix of backgrounds and nationalities. He led the successful renovation of a new space to house the ISyE department, which has been widely praised for its innovative design and efficient use of space. He was involved in the development of a new MS degree in Systems Engineering. The degree is aimed at working professionals in the high tech industry, with a unique curriculum that combines analytics with systems thinking and management. He was also involved in the development of a combined BS-MS degree.

He was Distinguished Senior Visiting Scientist at Honeywell Laboratories and a Visiting Professor at universities in France, Belgium, Hong Kong, China, and Singapore.

Professor Benjaafar has an extensive research publication record with over 100 technical papers. His research has appeared in the best journals in his field, including the flagship journals *Management Science*, *Operations Research*, and *Manufacturing & Service Operations Management*. His work has been seminal to the study of sustainable supply chains (two of his recent papers have been listed as "highly cited" papers by ISI Thomson Reuters for receiving enough citations to place them in the top 1% of their corresponding academic field). His work is also seminal to the study of collaborative consumption in the sharing economy and has been widely disseminated in both the operations management and economics communities (his very first paper on this subject is among the 10 most downloaded papers on the Social Science Research Network). Over the course of his career, his work has has been recognized by numerous awards, including the prestigious M&SOM Best Paper Award and the Harold H. Kuhn Award and best paper awards from the professional societies INFORMS, IIE, and IEEE. He is Fellow of IIE.

Professor Benjaafar's research has been funded in excess of $US 10 million by government agencies in the US, China, Hong Kong, Qatar, and Singapore. He led large multi-disciplinary research teams on several occasions. He led the establishment of the Center for Supply Chain Research, a university-wide research center with participation from faculty from multiple colleges. He was involved in a multi-university project funded by the Department of Homeland Security on food supply chain protection and defense. He led a large multi-project initiative, funded by NSF, DOT and IREE, on environmental sustainability in supply chain design and transportation. He is currently leading, in collaboration with the Center for Transportation Studies, a university-wide Initiative on the Sharing Economy.

Throughout his career, Professor Benjaafar has worked closely with industry, including on funded projects with Honeywell, 3M, General Mills, Northwest Airlines, the Mayo Clinic, and St Jude Medical, among others. His work with Honeywell on supply chain solutions for process industries was awarded an NSF SBIR grant and was commercialized by Adventium Labs. He has been a consultant to leading

organizations, most recently the Keppel Corporation and the World Bank on issues related to sustainable logistics and green supply chains for the developing world, Stratasys on 3D printing, iCars and Ryde on peer-to-peer car sharing. He was featured on national and international media, including most recently by People Daily, China's largest newspaper. His work with 3M was shortlisted for the INFORMS prestigious Edelman Award.

Professor Benjaafar has extensive teaching experience at both at the undergraduate and graduate levels and professional programs. He has taught courses in Operations Management, Operations Research, and Supply Chain Management. His commitment to teaching has been recognized by the George Taylor Distinguished Teaching Award, one of the highest teaching recognitions at the University of Minnesota. He has been involved in the advising of over 60 graduate students and nearly 20 postdoctoral researchers and visiting scholars. The research of his doctoral students, many of whom are now faculty members at leading universities worldwide, has been recognized by numerous awards, including the prestigious Pritstker Doctoral Dissertation Award and the MSOM Best Student Paper Award. He also served as mentor to many undergraduate students, most recently as part of the University of Minnesota President's Distinguished Faculty Mentor Program.

He has been actively involved in service to the profession. He currently serves on the editorial board of several of the leading journals in the field. He has been extensively involved in conference planning and organization. He recently served as General Chair for the *INFORMS International Meeting*, one of the largest conferences in the field of operations research and management science. He has organized and served as Chair of the *International Symposium on the Sharing Economy,* Chair of the *NSF Symposium on the Low Carbon Supply Chain,* the *NSF Symposium on Supply Chain Management in Process Industries*, and the *NIST Symposium on Supply Chain Management for Medical Devices*.

Professor Benjaafar holds MS and PhD degrees from Purdue University and a BS degree from the University of Texas at Austin. He is a US citizen and a native of Tunisia. He is fluent in English, French and Arabic. He has traveled extensively and lived and worked in Europe, Asia, and Africa. He is married with two children. His daughter is currently a junior in the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. His son is a sophomore at Washburn High School in Minneapolis where he plays on the Varsity soccer team.

Additional information about Professor Benjaafar can be found on his personal website at: https://benjaafar.com.