# Specifying Timetabling Problems: An Ongoing Story

**Jeffrey H. Kingston**

**Abstract** The optimization problems found in textbooks are usually easy to specify. The travelling salesman problem, for example, is specified using a simple graph with edge costs. Timetabling problems are much harder to specify precisely, mainly because of the many constraints needed by real-world instances. This tutorial will give a general overview of the specification problem for timetabling: the key issues, some history, the present state of the art, and some thoughts about the future.

Jeffrey H. Kingston
School of Information Technologies
The University of Sydney, Australia
E-mail: jeff@it.usyd.edu.au