

2nd Summit on Gender Equality in Computing (GEC 2020)

June 12, 2020, Athens, Greece

<https://www.ics.forth.gr/gec2020/>



Due to the covid19 pandemic, the 2nd Summit on Gender Equality in Computing, organized by the [Greek ACM-W Chapter](#), took place online on June 12, 2020. The Summit aims at promoting gender-equal access to the computer-related scientific frontiers, encouraging and educating women and men in an equal way to achieve their goals and utilize their potential in digital professions. The goal of the Summit is also to celebrate and disseminate the achievements of computer professionals in a fair and gender-equal way.

Through a series of activities (including invited talks, a workshop, a panel, and an industry session), attendees had the opportunity to become acquainted to current and emerging topics and important achievements in computer science (CS).

The Summit activities began with a **workshop** entitled "Red threads, choices and the 'good' academic life" by Prof. **Geraldine Fitzpatrick**, Head of the Human Computer Interaction Group, TU Wien Informatics, Austria. The workshop aimed at exploring how to make good choices and what powers we have to craft a good academic life/career. It also discussed practical strategies for how to say yes/no strategically in order to achieve our professional goals and potential.



The programme included three keynote talks in cutting edge research topics, delivered by internationally renowned researchers:



- **"ReTINA: Real-Time Intelligent Analytics", Anastasia Ailamaki, Professor of Computer and Communication Sciences, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland**
- **"The periodic table of data structures", Stratos Idreos, Professor of Computer Science, Harvard University, USA**
- **"Adversarial commerce and atomic cross-chain deals", Liuba Shrira, Professor of Computer Science, Brandeis University, USA**

GEC 2020 hosted a stimulating **panel** touching upon different aspects of the impact of AI on people's lives, including issues of AI fairness. Specifically, the panel discussion covered topics such as:

1. AI Benefits, Impact, Real-world Applications

Fields and applications that leverage AI. How can AI help in Education and Culture? How can Europe efficiently unite AI activities to the benefit of European society?

2. Biases-Risks

Is AI biased? What are the different forms of Bias in Data-driven AI Systems and how can it affect us? How could AI affect children and their rights? What is done and what needs to be done further?

3. Human AI – Responsible and Ethical AI

Human intelligence, Artificial Intelligence, Human AI and Humane AI. Responsible AI and how can we achieve it.

4. AI and People

Who are the AI people? Can we find a human somewhere in the mind of an AI? If so, where and who would this human be?



GEC 2019 Panelists

Moderator

- **Georgia Koutrika**, Athena Research and Innovation Center

Members

- **Vicky Charisi**, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- **George Giannakopoulos**, NCSR "Demokritos"
- **Manolis Koubarakis**, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
- **Irene Ntoutsis**, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich

The **industry session** provided GEC attendees the unique opportunity to hear about interesting topics and projects in which the event's industrial sponsors and other stakeholders are involved. The track hosted four interesting talks by women in senior technical positions in the industrial sector, who shared experience and their technical knowledge with the attendees. Their presentations touched upon a wide variety of topics, including

1) Exploring the Benefits of Gender Diversity in Cybersecurity (in particular, the importance of security to practice in IT Roles, how security knowledge and skills enhance IT careers, how women can help fill the cybersecurity skills gap as well as tips for getting ahead, and other topics);

2) Technological trends and innovations in digital security and public safety IT solutions (in particular, recent trends and advancements in methods and tools for next generation security IT solutions, distributed ledger technologies for sensitive data exchanges, federated and machine learning paradigms for threat/anomaly detection, visual analytics for effective situational awareness and decision support);

3) How Artificial Intelligence can transform the way we live (including examples of interconnected devices and applications that are indicative of the current AI/Machine Learning landscape and Google's contribution to this AI era).

In summary, GEC 2020 was a successful event, which we hope had positive impact in several ways.

General Chairs of GEC 2020

- [Panagiota Fatourou](#), Foundation for Research and Technology - Hellas (FORTH) & University of Crete
- [Maria Roussou](#), National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
- [Georgia Koutrika](#), ATHENA Research and Innovation Center

The entire event was live-streamed and has been recorded on the Greek ACM-W Chapter's YouTube channel (video): <https://tinyurl.com/y2hresdk>. Flickr (photos): <https://tinyurl.com/yv8nd3yv>.

GEC 2020 would like to thank its supporters and sponsors, all who contributed to make this event so successful, and of course its attendees for their participation and enthusiasm!

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Speakers at GEC 2020 Industry Session

- **Katerina Kalimeri**, Cloud Security Lead, Oracle
- **Sofia Tsekeridou**, Senior Research and Innovation Manager, INTRASOFT International
- **Ilianna Kollia**, Senior Data Scientist / Cognitive Computing Expert, IBM
- **Marily Nika**, Machine Learning Product Manager, Google

Greek ACM-W Chapter

The **Greek Chapter of the ACM-W (ACM's Council on Women in Computing)** was established in July 2018 with the vision of fostering gender mainstreaming, as well as enhancing and advocating gender balance in **computer-related scientific fields and professional sectors in Greece**.

Its founding members number more than 40 women from academia, research institutions, and the computing industry from all over Greece and abroad. The Chapter's overall member base has exceeded 195 individuals of all genders, in less than a year since its establishment.

The chapter's mission is 1) to equally help women and men be inspired by the world of possibilities that computing opens, follow computing-related professions, and be their best and most creative in computing, and 2) to connect computing professionals to their peers, to the latest developments, and inspire them to advance the profession and make a positive impact on society.

The main activities of the chapter are centered on the following axes:

Axis 1: Reduction of disproportions (in terms of gender) in access to the scientific and research frontiers of our science.

Axis 2: Encourage professionals and specialists in the field (both women and men) to achieve their work goals and use their dynamics and skills in "digital" professions.

Axis 3: Equal and non-racial recognition and dissemination of the achievements of professionals and experts in this field.

Among other activity, the Chapter organizes the Summit on Gender Equality (GEC) every year.

Communication

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URL: <http://acmw-gr.acm.org/>

Twitter Account: <https://twitter.com/GreekAcw>

LinkedIn Account: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8721327/>