

Dismantling the Barriers for Women in Computing Internationally

Panel Moderator

Tracy Camp

The Colorado School of Mines, USA

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Tracy is an Associate Professor of computer science. Her research into the plight of women in computing has been widely published. She is past co-chair of the ACM's Committee on Women in Computing.

Panel Members

AUSTRALIA - Annemieke Craig*

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Annemieke is a lecturer at the School of Information Systems. Her research interests include gender and computing, web design and learning technologies.

AUSTRIA- Margit Pohl

University of Technology Vienna

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Margit is senior lecturer at the Institute for Design and Assessment of Technology at the University of Technology. Her main research areas are Human-Computer Interaction, e-learning and gender and computing.

GERMANY - Veronika Oechtering*

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Veronica is the chair of IFIP – Working Group 9.8 on *Women and Information Technology* and a researcher in women and computing.

INDIA - M. Suriya*

Annamalai University

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M.Suriya is a Professor and Head of the department of Library and Information Science. She is a driving force behind the Women in IT conferences in India.

PAKISTAN - Jehan Ara*

Enabling Technologies

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Jehan is CEO of Enabling Technologies, has been involved in Media and Communication for the last 23 years. She was one of the early adopters of New Media as it took the communication world by storm

SOUTH AFRICA - Vashti Galpin*

University of the Witwatersrand

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Vashti is a lecturer in the School of Computer Science. Her research interests are women and computing, computer science education and concurrency.

SWEDEN - Christina Bjorkman

Blekinge Institute of Technology

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Christina is a lecturer in Computer Science. She is currently writing her PhD within IT and gender research.

TURKEY - Reyhan Ayfer*

Bilkent University

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Reyhan is the Chair of Department of Computer Technology and Programming Director, Office of Publications.

UNITED KINGDOM - Ursula Martin*

Queen Mary University of London and University of Cambridge

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Ursula is a Professor of Computer Science at Queen Mary University of London, and heads the Women@CL project in the Computer Laboratory in the University of Cambridge. She is also the Chair of the ACM's Committee on Women in Computing.

UNITED STATES of AMERICA - Denise Gürer

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Denise is a computer scientist, author, and independent consultant. She is a member of ACM Council, and Past co-chair of the ACM's Committee on Women in Computing.

* Each of these women is the ACM-W Ambassador for her country.

Objectives of the panel

- to raise the awareness of the issues women in computing face in different parts of the world;
- to identify the critical issues that prevent a better gender balance in the computer profession globally;
- to facilitate interaction about ways to address these issues;
- to develop a number of strategies which can be implemented to improve the situation.

Topics to be covered

It is a well known fact that in many countries women are severely under-represented in computing education and the computing profession. However, the issues surrounding women in computing are not the same in all parts of the world.

Each of the 10 panel members will present a brief introduction to the country they represent to broaden the understanding of the status of the women in the different countries and to put the discussion into context;

- trends within their educational system of women in computing courses
- life for women in the workforce;
 - % in the workforce
 - what are some of the areas that women dominate in?
 - where are they not?
 - salary comparisons
 - what about the computing profession (trends?)

Each panelist will conclude their presentation with the 2 or 3 major barriers to improving the recruitment and retention of women in computing in their country, specifically in recent years.

Looking at the critical issues that are reoccurring within these countries a discussion will then ensue about what strategies can be used to enable the dismantling of these barriers around the globe. The focus will be on how can we move forward? We know there is no simple answer but we also know that without intervention the problem will only get worse.

Who should attend the panel?

There are no restrictions on attendance - anyone interested in the issues is welcome and no prior knowledge is required. Women from other countries, not represented by the speakers, would be especially encouraged to attend.

Proposed session length

As this is a large panel a time slot of one and a half hours is requested. (10 presenters @ 5 minutes each and then 40 minutes of discussion)

Written Materials

Attendees will be provided with a short written summary of each of the presenter's presentation.