Scientific Interaction – Bios

Fernando Chirigati

Fernando Chirigati is currently the chief editor at Nature Computational Science, a multidisciplinary journal that focuses on the development and use of computational techniques and mathematical models, as well as their application to address complex problems across a range of scientific disciplines. Before, he was a Postdoctoral Research Associate at NYU Tandon School of Engineering. Throughout the course of his Postdoc he focused on scientific data management, including provenance management and analytics, large-scale data analytics, urban science, data mining, computational reproducibility, and data visualization. He was one of the original developers of ReproZip, a tool that facilitates reproducibility of existing computational experiments. He has a PhD in Computer Science from New York University.

Fabrizio Gagliardi

Since 2013 Fabrizio Gagliardi is the senior advisor to the Barcelona Supercomputing Centre and Director of the RISC-2 HPC project. He has been consulting on computing and computing policy matters with the Commission of the EU, several government and international bodies. Prior to this and until 2013 he was EMEA and LATAM Director for External Research at Microsoft Research. He joined Microsoft in 2005 after a long career at CERN in Geneva, where he held several technical and senior managerial positions from 1975 onwards. Fabrizio obtained a doctoral degree in computer science from the University of Pisa in 1974. He won several prizes, including the ACM President Award in 2013 and again in 2018.

Gabriele Kotsis

Gabriele Kotsis is full professor in computer science at Johannes Kepler University (JKU), Linz, Austria, leading the Department of Telecommunication and the division of Cooperative Information Systems. Both, her Master Thesis (1991) and her PhD (1995), which she received from the University of Vienna, have been awarded for scientific excellence by the Austrian Computer Society. Her scientific contributions include seminal work in the field of workload characterization for parallel and distributed systems and in performance management of computer systems with a specific focus on mobile and ubiquitous computing environments. Gabriele Kotsis was vice rector for Research at JKU, and longstanding chairwoman of Universities Austria's Policy Committee on Research. She is a distinguished member and former president of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM).

Cerene Rathilal

Cerene Rathilal holds a PhD in Mathematics from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. She specializes in pointfree topology and works in algebra and topology. She currently holds a National Research Foundation Thuthuka grant for early career researchers and is a principal investigator for the Mathematical Structures and Modelling research group at the National Institute for theoretical and computational sciences (NITheCS) Cerene is the editor of the notices of the South African Mathematical Society (SAMS), and the Junior Focus Area Coordinator (JFAC) for Algebra and Topology at the Centre of Excellence for Mathematical and Statistical Sciences (CoE-MaSS). She founded STEM MentHER which supports female students pursue careers in STEM, founded the Future Mathematicians Programme in South Africa with the support of SAMS and runs various outreach programmes. Last year, she was recognized as 1 of the Top 200 Young South Africans by the Mail and Guardian.

Facundo Sapienza

Facundo Sapienza is a PhD candidate in the Statistics department at the University of California, Berkeley. His work focuses on the use of neural differential equations in the modeling of ice flow, where sub-parts of the governing differential equation can be inferred based on remote sensing observations and physical-informed proxies. He is also interested in differentiable programming; the application of machine learning methods in Earth sciences; and the development and communication of open-source tools for scientific computing.

Katharina Schäfer

Katharina Schäfer is the Global Head of University Alliances at SAP. She is responsible for activating academic and research collaborations with high schools, universities and research organizations. Her passion is to bridge the gap between academia and industry and provide high quality education to all students worldwide. After completing her diploma in industrial engineering, she continues her academic career by pursuing her doctoral degree in conceptual aircraft design for sustainability at the RWTH Aachen University.

Efim Zelmanov

Efim Zelmanov received his Ph.D. in Mathematics from Novosibirsk State University in 1980 and his M.S. from Novosibirsk State University in 1977. He is an expert in Algebra and is currently Director of the Shenzhen International Center for Mathematics, Southern University of Science and Technology. From 2002 until 2022, Zelmanov was appointed as the Rita L. Atkinson Chair in Mathematics at University of California in San Diego. Other appointments include Yale University, University of Chicago and KIAS South Korea. He received several Honorary Doctorates and Awards in his career. In 1994, he was awarded with the Fields Medal for his work on group theory.

Moderators

Dietmar Kilian

Dietmar Kilian is working for over more than 20 years in management and leadership positions such as Nixdorf Computers, Digital Equipment and SAP before leaving to the MCI as a professor in process-, project management and digitalization. He has been supporting international companies as a business consultant for many years and is the author of numerous articles, books and is an advisory board member in various organizations and companies.

Susann Kruschel

Susann Kruschel serves as a research assistant at MCI – The Entrepreneurial School. Here, she conducts her research within the field of Digital Transformation. In 2019, she received her Master of Science Degree in Strategic Management from the University of Innsbruck. Before, Susann has gained extensive practical experience in the areas of HR, in particular talent recruiting, and organizational development by working for international corporations and SMEs in the IT sector.

Peter J. Mirski

Peter J. Mirski is head of Department, Studies and Research in Management, Communication & Information Technology and also serves as CIO, Chief Information Officer at the MCI – The Entrepreneurial School in Innsbruck. Peter J. Mirski studied economics at the University of Innsbruck with a specialization in computer science and is the author of numerous articles and books. Throughout his career, he has been the co-founder of successful initiatives and businesses, such as his family business, several top ranked academic degree programs, Trans IT the Development and Transfer Center at the University of Innsbruck.