

Scientific Interaction – Bios

Moderators

Dietmar Kilian

For more than 20 years, Dietmar Kilian has worked 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, is the author of numerous articles and books and is an advisory board member in various organizations and companies.

Peter 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 as well as Trans IT, the Development and Transfer Center at the University of Innsbruck.

Experts

Enrico Catalano

Enrico Catalano holds a degree in Mathematics and Physics and a PhD, specializing in data analysis for medical applications, particularly nanomedicine. He applies mathematical and statistical methods to complex medical data, focusing on diagnostics and predicting nanotechnology-based therapies. His work bridges theoretical analysis and real-world medical applications, contributing to translational medicine. Enrico is dedicated to improving patient outcomes through data-driven solutions.

Roberta Iseppi

Roberta Iseppi works at the interface between mathematics and physics. She was the first to propose a formulation of the Batalin-Vilkovisky quantization for gauge theories on noncommutative manifolds. After earning her PhD in Mathematics from Radboud University Nijmegen under the supervision of Prof. Walter van Suijlekom, she joined the Max Planck Institute in Bonn as a postdoctoral researcher. Her academic journey continued as a Marie Curie Fellow at the Centre for Quantum Geometry of Moduli Spaces in Denmark, and she is now a postdoc at the University of Göttingen. Roberta has held visiting positions at CalTech, the University of Toronto, the University of Trieste, and the Schrödinger Institute in Vienna, where she won a Research in Teams fellowship. In 2015, she received the Philips Prize for her PhD work. Recently, she initiated the annual "Development in Modern Mathematics" conference, aimed at promoting scientific exchange and gender awareness in academia.

Yukari Ito

Yukari Ito is a Professor of Kavli Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe (IPMU) in the University of Tokyo. Her research subject is Algebraic Geometry in Mathematics. She constructed three-dimensional crepant resolutions and the McKay correspondence. She is also interested in mathematics for the public and has a dream of having a mathematical museum. Moreover, she is also a Professor of Ikebana (Japanese flower arrangement). She is a member of The Science Council of Japan, Women In Science and Engineering (WISE) committee of The Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia (AASSA) and Executive Committee of Asian-Oceanian Women in Mathematics (AOWM).

Matjaz Leonardis

Matjaz Leonardis obtained a B.A. in Mathematics from the University of Oxford, is currently pursuing a PhD in computer science at University at Austin in Texas. He is currently working on a project about the intersection of cryptography and AI about planting undetectable backdoors in machine learning models. He has experience with switching fields and applying for positions with an unconventional background.

Loyiso Nongxa

Professor Loyiso G. Nongxa served as Vice-President of the International Mathematical Union (IMU) from 2019 to 2022 and acted as the liaison between the IMU and the International Science Council. He retired as Ad Hominem Professor of Mathematics at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, in December 2018, after 18 years at the university, including 13 years as Vice-Chancellor and Principal. Currently, he is Professor Emeritus at the University of the Witwatersrand, Honorary Professor at the University of Pretoria, and an Honorary Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford. He also served as Chairperson of the South African National

Research Foundation (NRF) from 2014 to 2018 and was appointed Administrator of the University of Fort Hare from 2019 to 2020. He is a champion of the National Graduate Academy for Mathematical and Statistical Sciences in South Africa.

Johanna Pirker

Johanna Pirker is a computer scientist specializing in game development, research, and education, with a strong focus on the indie development community. With experience at EA and MIT, she has designed and developed games and VR experiences aimed at enhancing learning, collaboration, and problem-solving. She is currently a professor of Media Informatics at Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich and an Associate Professor of Game Development at TU Graz. Her research focuses on AI, HCI, data analysis, and VR technologies. Johanna is a member of the Austrian Research Council FORWIT and co-founded the Interdisciplinary Transformation University Austria. She was named to the Forbes 30 Under 30 list for science professionals.

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.

Otto Schell

Otto Schell is Founder/CEO of the Institute for Global Digital Creativity and Relevance, Are We Relevant Tomorrow and GPerfect, all powered by OS-Enterprise GmbH. As a previous Enterprise Business Architect – Digital Business Lead / Global SAP CCoE in the Automotive Industry and Alumni / former Member of the Board of Directors of the German-Speaking SAP User group (DSAG) he is well connected within cross-industries and SAP ECO System. Next to this, he is engaged as Technology/Megatrends-Cluster Lead at the ZukunftFabrik.2050 (powered by HSG Alumni) and visiting lecturer at the Management Center Innsbruck / Austria, HSRM-Wiesbaden / Germany and FOM-Mannheim / Germany. He also chairs Vision-Rheintal e.V.