

Short Biographies of the team

CY. centre for algorithmic transparency

Alan Hartman, University of Haifa, Information Systems

Alan Hartman is a senior lecturer at the University of Haifa, Department of Information Systems and an adjunct professor at the Afeka Academic College of Engineering. He completed his Ph. D. in mathematics at the University of Newcastle, Australia. He joined the IBM Haifa Research Lab in 1983. His industrial research focused on storage technology, mathematical optimization, hardware and software verification, and model based engineering. In parallel, he continued his mathematical research into combinatorics. He spent almost 3 years at the IBM India research lab in Bangalore serving as the Services Science, Management, and Engineering (SSME) focal point for the IBM India Research Laboratory. He has held visiting positions in the Mathematics Department at the University of Toronto and at Telstra Research Labs. He has also coordinated and managed several European Commission research projects. He has published over 70 research papers and book chapters and holds 17 patents.

Tsvi Kuflik, University of Haifa, Information Systems

Prof. Tsvi Kuflik is a Professor and former head of the Department of Information Systems at the University of Haifa, Israel. His main areas of research are Ubiquitous User Modelling and Intelligent User Interfaces. For over than ten years Tsvi is leading a research group at the University of Haifa, focusing on “Active Museum” – applying novel computing and communication technology for supporting museum visitors. Prof. Kuflik is the author of over 200 referred publications in journals and conferences and in addition to being a co-organizer of the series of PACTH workshops during the past seven years. Experience with workshop/conference organization: General co-chair of IUI 2017, 2014, PC co-chair of UMAP 2014, chair of international information systems conferences held in Israel - NGITS 2006 and NGITS 2009, co-organizer of a series of workshops on Ubiquitous User Modeling co-located with ECAI 2006, UM 2007, IUI 2008, and personalization in cultural heritage, co-Organizer of the RecTour workshops series co-located with RecSys over the past three years, workshops co-chair of IUI 2009 and IUI 2010 and a member in the program committee of numerous national and international conferences.

Jahna Otterbacher, Open University of Cyprus, Information Retrieval, Data Science, Human-Computer Interaction

Jahna Otterbacher holds a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, USA is an Assistant Professor at the Open University of Cyprus (OUC), Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences. Jahna also coordinates the Cyprus Center for Algorithmic Transparency (CyCAT) at the OUC. In addition, Jahna holds a concurrent appointment as team leader of the Transparency in Algorithms Group at RISE (Research centre on Interactive media, Smart systems and Emerging technologies), in Nicosia, Cyprus.

Jahna's research has been published in journals such as the ACM Transactions on Internet Technology (ACM TOIT) and Knowledge and Information Systems, as well as in top-tier international conferences such as the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems and the AAAI Conference on Human Computation and Crowdsourcing (HCOMP). She has served as a contributor to the Harvard Business Review, where she writes about the social implications of Big Data practices and analytics.

Loizos Michael, Open University of Cyprus, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Theoretical Computer Science

Loizos Michael holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University, USA is an Associate Professor at Open University of Cyprus, where he founded and directs the Computational Cognition Lab. He is also Pillar Leader for AI at RISE. His research focuses on the principled study of cognitive processes associated with individual or collective intelligence — such as learning, reasoning, sensing, communication, cooperation — and how those are used by humans and other organisms in everyday life. Emphasis is placed on the development of computational models for various aspects of cognitive processes, and the analysis of the formal implications that such models have.

Styliani Kleanthous, Open University of Cyprus, Human Computer Interaction

Styliani Kleanthous holds a Ph.D. from the University of Leeds, UK. She is a senior researcher at CyCAT and the Transparency in Algorithms group at RISE LTD. Styliani's main research interests and expertise are concentrated in the area of User and Community Modelling, Personalization and Adaptive Systems. She specializes in exploiting psychological and social theories for modelling user preferences, for designing intelligent interaction and adaptive user support. She has published over 30 papers in journals and scientific conferences, co-organised a number of international workshops and has given numerous presentations. Since 2004 she has been involved in different UK and EU-funded research projects for establishing requirements, modelling users and providing adaptive support for collaboration, learning, medical data analysis and identifying innovation networks.

Transparency in Algorithms Group, RISE

Pinar Barlas, Research Assistant at Research Center for Interactive Media, Smart Systems, and Emerging Technologies (RISE). Pinar holds a BA in Cultural Studies & Communication and MA in Interaction Design. She creates interactive prototypes and tools to raise awareness and conduct research in the Algorithmic Transparency Multidisciplinary Research Group. Pinar is passionate about creating positive social change through a human-centered design process. Her expertise is in user research, which she has used in website, app, and VR experience designs as well as branding, digital strategy, and service design. She is a strong activist against all kinds of oppression, including but not limited to race and gender.

Kyriakos Kyriakou, holds a BSc Computer Science (University of Cyprus) and he is currently studying for MSc. Computer Science at University of Cyprus. During the last two semesters of his bachelor, he selected Software Engineering as the direction of his studies. Kyriakos' previous research interests focused on Model Driven Engineering as his thesis was related with Model Driven Engineering for Internet of Things Devices using Microprocessor Platforms. He is also involved with entrepreneurship as a co-founder in several startups and ideas. Some of them are the BadFive.com, which is a Tech related News/Media Company and the Subscriber, which is an Android application focused on solving several aspects of the algorithmic bias on the YouTube Platform for small and middle-scale YouTubers of the community. Previously, he worked as a Special Research Scientist in Software Engineering and Internet Technologies (SEIT) Laboratory at University of Cyprus' Computer Science Department. He is currently working as an Associate Researcher at the Transparency in Algorithms (TAG) Group of the Research Centre on Interactive Media Smart Systems and Emerging Technologies (RISE) in Cyprus.