

Women in Data Science Greater Lafayette at Purdue Conference 2020: Speaker Biographies

Fatiha Anouar

Fatiha earned her math degrees and Masters in Statistics at the University of Paris Sud, then her PhD in Machine Learning at CNAM in Paris, France. She is an accomplished data scientist with 19 years of industrial experience. Fatiha has wealth of knowledge in real world applications of data science in the manufacturing field, and has authored 15 patents and 12 peer reviewed publications. Prior to joining Cummins Inc. as Chief Data Scientist in January 2020, Fatiha served as Director of Data Science at Crane Payment Innovations, Malvern PA, where she was responsible for the full cycle of data science products from initial concept, through approval and design, and finally deployment.

The Business Intelligence Competency Center at Purdue

The Business Intelligence Competency Center (BICC) is part of ITaP and serves as the central hub equipping Purdue's information producers with data, tools, services, and expertise. They are helping build an effective and efficient BI community, so together they can empower Purdue's decision makers and staff with high quality information.

Sharon Christ

Sharon Christ is an Associate Professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies and the Department of Statistics. She is a quantitative methodologist and developmental scientist whose research includes applications in the social, behavioral, and health sciences, especially statistical models applicable to human development processes. Her quantitative foci are structural equation modeling (SEM) with latent variables, multilevel (mixed effects) models, longitudinal modeling, analysis of complex sample data using a design based (marginal, population average) modeling approach, and sampling design. Measurement of social and health constructs, missing data, and selection problems are also foci of her work. She collaborates broadly on applied work that involves the analysis of existing large nationally representative data sets as well as data collected using observation and experimental designs. She and her graduate students study the contexts and consequences of child maltreatment exposures in adolescence, especially the impacts of abuse and neglect on well-being.

Elizabeth Conzo-Kershner

Liz Conzo has been working in or leading analytics teams for 15 years in both manufacturing and sales & marketing functions. She helped to develop and inject predictive modeling into sales and operations planning processes and led the establishment of processes and models to support inventory optimization. She's had the opportunity to apply her passion for analytics across functions and across the world.

Faithe Day

Faithe Day is a CLIR Postdoctoral Fellow in African & African American Data Curation at Purdue University. She has a PhD in Communication Studies from the University of Michigan and a BA in English and Digital Humanities from Wesleyan College. Her research focuses on Black, queer, and femme identity, social media and television platforms, as well as the analysis of online comments sections.

Anita Griffin

Anita Griffin is director of strategy and data analytics for Consumers Energy, Michigan's largest utility and the nation's fourth largest electric and natural gas utility. As part of Consumers Energy's strategy and data analytics team, Griffin leads customer strategy and data analytics. She is responsible for long-term planning, operational strategy and analyzing and transforming customer data into actionable strategies and tactics that improve the service and value Consumers Energy provides its customers.

Griffin possesses more than 15 years of utility and customer operations experience. Before joining Consumers Energy, she served in leadership roles supporting coal power plant operations, renewable energy development and continuous improvement deployment at DTE Energy, an electric and natural gas utility serving 2.2 million electric customers in southeast Michigan and 1.3 million natural gas customers in Michigan.

In her spare time, Griffin manages her two sons' hockey team in the southeast Michigan community of Brighton. She holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Michigan State University.

Sarah Huber

Sarah Huber is an assistant professor and engineering technology information specialist for the physical sciences, engineering, and technology division of the Purdue libraries. She is the liaison to the Purdue Polytechnic Institute (PPI), which includes the engineering technology and computer graphics technology programs, among others. In this position, she collaborates with the PPI faculty and students in the areas of information literacy, scholarly communication, data management, and research collaboration. Sarah's area of research includes new systems of organization and discovery within libraries.

Institutional Data Analytics + Assessment (IDA+A)

Institutional Data Analytics + Assessment (IDA+A) performs research, statistical and predictive analysis, and reporting for campus leaders and decision makers in support of evidence-based planning, evaluation, and assessment. We participate in ensuring well defined, quality data are available. As part of the Provost Office, we directly support the academic enterprise as well as the campus at-large.

Norma Estela Palomino

Norma has more than 20 years of experience developing technical and data strategies for organizations in the public and private sector. Her international experience spans three countries (Argentina, Canada and the US) in multicultural settings. She earned a MSIS from the University of Texas at Austin and a DPS from Syracuse University, with dissertation work on computational linguistics and artificial intelligence. Currently as Analytics and Artificial Intelligence Director for Cummins Inc, Norma partners with the Vice-Presidency of Quality to develop intelligence solutions that detect and solve quality issues in products faster and more effectively.

Jane Kinkus Yacilla

Jane Yacilla, MLS, is an associate professor and Health and Life Sciences Information Specialist at Purdue University Libraries and School of Information Studies, and serves as the Libraries liaison to the

College of Veterinary Medicine, the School of Health Sciences, and the Department of Psychological Sciences. Her research extends library and information science methodologies to other disciplines, and her current scholarship includes bibliometric analyses of puberty research and human-animal studies research; a citation context analysis applied to education research; and a content analysis applied to an intersection of One Health and human-animal studies research publications.

Robyn Levine

Robyn Levine, with her Master's in Data Science, is a previous Senior Strategy and Analytics Consultant, recently promoted to Developmental Assignment position to lead Supply Chain Data Science for Duke Energy Corporation. Robyn has been working in Supply Chain Analytics for the last three years, utilizing her technical skills and strategic mindset to enable Duke Energy to make faster and smarter decisions. She specializes in reversing the entropy effects on data, or creating value from disorder. Robyn is passionate about leveraging these skills to transform data driven problems into solutions that create value, increase efficiency and transform Supply Chain and the greater Duke Energy.

Beth McNeil

Beth McNeil joined Purdue University as Dean of Libraries and School of Information Science and Esther Ellis Professor of library science in 2019. Prior to joining Purdue, she was Dean of Library Services at Iowa State University (2015-2019), held associate dean positions in the libraries at Purdue University (2007-2015) and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (1996-2007), and began her career as an assistant professor and reference librarian (1989-1996) at Bradley University in Peoria, IL.

McNeil is conference chair for ACRL 2021: Ascending into an Open Future. She has served as chair of the Association of Research Libraries' (ARL) Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and is a past board member of HathiTrust, the Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA), Western Regional Storage Trust (WEST), the Rosemont Shared Print Alliance, and the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). She is the author of Fundamentals of Library Supervision (2017, 2010, and 2005) and Core Competencies (2002), and co-author of Advocacy, Outreach and the Nations Libraries: A Call for Action (2010) and Patron Behavior in Libraries: A Handbook of Positive Approaches to Negative Situations (1996), and several journal articles on library management, supervision, and human resources-related topics.

Ankita Raturi

Ankita Raturi is an assistant professor working on agricultural informatics, in particular, human-centered design, information modeling, and software engineering, for increased resilience in food and agricultural systems. Previously, she was a postdoc at the Sustainable Agricultural Systems Lab at USDA ARS in collaboration with NC State, where she began her work on cover crop decision support tools and development of an information ecology for sustainable agriculture. Ankita's current work includes: the development of modular, open source, decision support tools; designing a reconfigurable data pipeline for on-farm participatory research; and information modeling for the development of domain-relevant data services.

Alissa Russ-Jara

Alissa L. Russ-Jara, PhD, is an Assistant Professor and human factors expert with the College of Pharmacy, Department of Pharmacy Practice at Purdue University. Her expertise includes health informatics, usability, electronic health records, computerized provider order entry, and computerized clinical decision support, with a focus on medication safety. For over 12 years, Dr. Russ has conducted federally-funded research on a variety of topics including medication alerts (e.g., drug-drug interaction warnings), medication reconciliation, and decision-making during medication safety incidents. Dr. Russ has given 30 invited presentations and has published in top journals in informatics, medicine, and patient safety, including the Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association, The American Journal of Medicine, and BMJ Quality & Safety, respectively. Her long-term career goal is to improve health systems to support clinicians' work and to enhance medication safety for patients.

Kathryn Seigfried-Spellar

Dr. Kathryn Seigfried-Spellar is an Associate Professor in the Department of Computer and Information Technology (CIT) at Purdue University. Dr. Seigfried-Spellar studies the "who and why" of cybercrime, specifically the personality characteristics and socio-legal factors associated with cybercriminal behavior, including internet crimes against children, cyberbullying, and online trolling. She is a Fellow of the Digital and Multimedia Sciences section of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) and a Member of the International Association of Law Enforcement Intelligence Analysts (IALEIA) and the American Psychological Association (APA). She is also a deputized Special Investigator (Tippecanoe Prosecutor's Office) and member of the Tippecanoe High Tech Crime Unit (HTCU).

Hsin-Yi Weng

Originally from Taiwan, Dr. Hsin-Yi Weng came to United States in 1997 to pursue a Master in Public Health (MPH) degree from Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana and then a PhD in Epidemiology from University of California at Davis. Dr. Weng's research interests are in applying epidemiologic methods to studies promoting animal health and welfare, human-animal interactions, and public health. Her current research projects focus on developing risk assessment models for animal disease emergence by utilizing existing databases. Because these databases are collected via different methodology and have various structures and data formats, novel algorithms for data processing and analysis must be developed.

Wei Zakharov

Wei Zakharov is an Assistant Professor of Library Science and Engineering Information Specialist in the Purdue University Libraries and School of Information Studies. Dr. Zakharov is the faculty liaison to Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering, Aviation and Transportation Technology, Electrical and

Computer Engineering and Engineering Education. Her research centers around online learning, and data and information literacy education.

Fengqing Maggie Zhu

Fengqing Maggie Zhu is an Assistant Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. Dr. Zhu received the B.S.E.E. (with highest distinction), M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Purdue University in 2004, 2006 and 2011, respectively. Her research interests include image processing and analysis, video compression and computer vision. Prior to joining Purdue in 2015, she was a Staff Researcher at Futurewei Technologies (USA), where she received a Certification of Recognition for Core Technology Contribution in 2012. She is the recipient of an NSF CISE Research Initiation Initiative (CRII) award in 2017, and a Google Faculty Research Award in 2019.

Carla Zoltowski

Carla B. Zoltowski is an assistant professor of engineering practice in the Schools of Electrical and Computer Engineering and (by courtesy) Engineering Education, and Director of the Vertically Integrated Projects (VIP) Program within the College of Engineering at Purdue. Prior to her appointment in ECE, Dr. Zoltowski was Co-Director of the EPICS Program. She holds a B.S.E.E., M.S.E.E., and Ph.D. in Engineering Education, all from Purdue. Her research interests include the professional formation of engineers, diversity, inclusion, and equity in engineering, human-centered design, engineering ethics, and leadership.