



The Athena SWAN (Scientific Women's Academic Network) Charter was established in 2005 with the aim of "Encouraging and recognising commitment to advancing gender equality" within STEM subjects, i.e., science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The Athena SWAN agenda has grown overtime to promote equality in general. Scan the QR code opposite for more background about Athena SWAN at Heriot-Watt, including guidance and resources.



## 1. Honorary Doctorate of Science (DSc) for Professor Cheri Shakiban



**The School of Mathematical and Computer Sciences Graduation Ceremony on 19 June 2024, Prof. Sara Lombardo (left) Prof. Cheri Shakiban and Prof. Beatrice Pelloni (right)**

Cheri Shakiban has had an extraordinary life and career. She grew up in her native Teheran, where she earned a university place to study mathematics, obtaining her undergraduate degree in 1973, in three rather than the usual four years. After her graduation, her talent and hard work were recognised by a very rare offer to become a special student in a Master's course at Harvard University. After earning her MSc degree, she went on to graduate school at Brown University, where in 1979 she became the first Iranian woman to gain a PhD in Mathematics in the United States. After a number of short-term positions, including at Oxford University, Cheri became the first female tenure-track assistant professor at St Thomas University in Minnesota, where she subsequently worked for 37 years, eventually becoming the first female Full Professor and the first female Chair of her Department. Indeed, she was the first Iranian woman to become a Full Professor of Mathematics anywhere.


Her contributions include important research publications, particularly on the general and fascinating topic of symmetry, but also on interdisciplinary applications including cancer detection, in addition to her influential textbooks and papers on the pedagogy of teaching mathematics. Within her institution, she has raised funding





and organised trailblazing, imaginative meetings to inspire young colleagues and students with titles such as *Short Course, Infinite Possibilities, Mathematics and Engineering of the Incas*, and *Mathematics and Mechanics of the Byzantine, Roman and Islamic Architecture*. Her commitment to social justice, education and the common good has been evident throughout her career as a mathematician and above all, as an inspiring teacher of mathematics. Since retiring from her teaching career, Cheri continues to engage with the themes close to her heart as a senior fellow in the Centre for Common Good at the University of St Thomas.

## 2. Congratulations to Dr Marta Vallejo in Edinburgh!



Back in June, **Dr Marta Vallejo** received a **Research Culture Recognition Award** for her work in championing Diversity and Inclusion in:

**“Computer Science and Robotics through mentorship, Advocacy and Innovation”**

**Congratulations to Marta!**





## 3. Ada Lovelace Day 2024 Events in Dubai and Edinburgh

# Ada Lovelace Day 2024 in Dubai



MACS Dubai are planning an Ada Lovelace Day 2024 event which will take place on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 5-6pm**. Ada Lovelace Day is celebrated every year on the second Tuesday of October month to celebrate the contribution of women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) in the memory of the world's first computer programmer.

Calling on all **MACS Dubai Computer Science students who will be going into Year 4 in September** to step into the spotlight and share your passion, projects, and career goals in a dynamic format using the **PechaKucha presentation** style. Each presenter shows 20 slides, each for 20 seconds of their achievements as a computing student at Heriot-Watt.

Join us for the electrifying **PechaKucha presentations** where creativity knows no bounds! Participate in our event, develop your soft skills and you will receive a presenter certificate that can impress your next employer.

Presenter slots are limited, please get in touch via the email address below to secure a place and showcase your work:

[d.sobnath@hw.ac.uk](mailto:d.sobnath@hw.ac.uk)

Organizers: **Drishty Sobnath** and **Hind Zantout**





## Ada Lovelace Day 2024 In Edinburgh



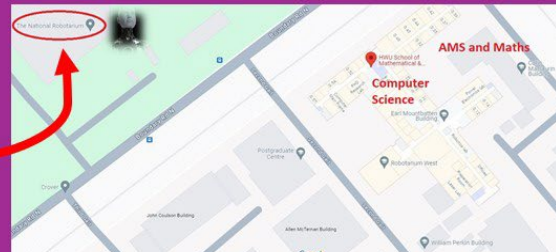
**Register today to avoid  
disappointment!**



The School of Mathematical & Computer Sciences (MACS)  
A Robot Demo + Refreshments to celebrate  
**Ada Lovelace Day 2024**



**1pm Tuesday 8 October (1-hour)  
@ the National Robotarium**



The Amica

**Invitation open to:** All Year 1 Undergraduate students from  
our Departments of Actuarial Mathematics & Statistics,  
Mathematics and Computer Science.



A MACS Athena SWAN  
sponsored event



**Register Today  
and Avoid  
Disappointment!**



Dr Marta Romeo





## 4. New funds available for women in STEM groups

The **HWU STEM Inclusivity Network (IN)** have been allocated funds from the Mary Burton Project as part of the University's 1821 Appeal. These funds are available for groups and societies (students and staff) at HWU to deliver activities for women in STEM. Please submit your request for funds through the **Form** linked to the QR code below. All requests submitted will be considered on a rolling basis.

		
QR code for Form		QR code for STEM IN

Please note the following conditions:

- You must be applying from a society, group, project or initiative with a primary focus on supporting women in STEM.
- Possible use of funds include event catering, speaker fees, and relevant training and development. Funds may not be used for staff time.
- A maximum of £500 may be requested by a single group, per academic year.
- To report to the fund's Governance Group, we are required to report on impact, including number of beneficiaries reached, gender of beneficiaries, number of students from widening access background, etc. You will be expected to share these details after your activity is complete, along with photos if possible.
- We will inform you of the final decision on your application within approximately five weeks.

If you have any questions, contact [STEMinclusivity@hw.ac.uk](mailto:STEMinclusivity@hw.ac.uk)

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If you have suggestions or questions related to Athena SWAN, or an event that you would like to advertise, then please send them to us via [athena-macs@hw.ac.uk](mailto:athena-macs@hw.ac.uk). In addition, if you would like to be part of the MACS Athena SWAN Team (a.k.a. the Self-Assessment Team (SAT)) then please do get in touch.



*Audrey Repetti and Andrew Ireland*  
**(MACS Athena Swan Coordinators)**





# MACS Staff Coffee/Tea Mornings



*Every Monday and Thursday  
at 10am in the MACS Common Room*

