

Keynote 1: Toward Robust ML-based Malware Detection Against Elusive Actions

Prof. Ernesto Damiani, University of Milan, Italy and Khalifa University, UAE



Biography:

Ernesto Damiani is Full Professor at Università degli Studi di Milano, Director of Center for Cyber Physical Systems (C2PS) within the Khalifa University, leader of the Big Data area at Etisalat British Telecom Innovation Center, and President of the Consortium of Italian Computer Science Universities (CINI). He is also part of the ENISA Ad-Hoc Working Group on Artificial Intelligence Cybersecurity, where he serves as Rapporteur.

According to DBLP (January 2021), Ernesto Damiani has authored 137 journal papers, 336 refereed articles in proceedings of international conferences, and published 57 books and chapters as an author or editor. According to Google Scholar, Ernesto's work has been cited more than 18,200 times and his h-index is 57; 291 of his papers have at least 10 citations. On Scopus he has 616 documents and more than 7,100 total citations by more than 5,600 documents. His Scopus h-index is 36. With 542 publications listed on DBLP, he is considered among the most prolific European computer scientists.

His areas of interest include cyber-physical systems, Big Data Analytics, Edge/Cloud security and performance, Artificial Intelligence, and Machine Learning. Ernesto Damiani has pioneered model-driven data analytics. Ernesto has been a recipient of the Stephen Yau Award from the Service Society, of the Outstanding contributions Award from IFIP TC2, of the Chester-Sall Award from IEEE IES, and of a doctorate honoris causa from INSA - Lyon (France) for his contribution to Big Data teaching and research.

Keynote 2: When Multimedia Quality of Experience Meets Artificial Intelligence

Prof. Mohamed Deriche, Ajman University, UAE



Biography:

Mohamed Deriche received his B.Sc. degree in electrical engineering from the National Polytechnic School, Algeria, and his Ph.D. degree in signal processing from the University of Minnesota in 1994. He worked at Queensland University of Technology, Australia, before joining King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM) in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, where he led the signal processing group. He has published more than 300 papers in multimedia signal and image processing. In 2021, he joined Ajman University to promote the AIRC center and the new Masters in AI within the College of Eng and IT. He delivered numerous invited talks and chaired several conferences including Global SIP-MPSP, IEEE Gulf (GCC), Image Processing Tools and Applications, and TENCON (a Region 10 conference). He has supervised more than 50 M.Sc. and Ph.D. students and is the recipient of the IEEE Third Millennium Medal. He also received the Shauman Best Researcher Award, and both the Excellence in Research and Excellence in Teaching Awards while at KFUPM and at Ajman University. He is ranked in the top 0.5% scientists according to the GPS Scholar ranking and in the top 80 achieved scientists in UAE. His research interests cover signal and image processing spanning from theory to models to diverse applications in multimedia, biomedical, seismics, to language processing.

Keynote 3: Visible Light Communications for Next Generation Wireless Networks

Prof. Murat Uysal, NYU Abu Dhabi, UAE



Biography:

Murat Uysal received BSc and MSc degrees in electronics and communication engineering from Istanbul Technical University, Turkey, in 1995 and 1998, respectively, and his PhD degree in electrical engineering from Texas A&M University, College Station, USA, in 2001. Dr. Uysal began his academic career as an Assistant Professor at the University of Waterloo, Canada in 2002 and was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2007. In 2011, he joined Ozyegin University, Turkey where he served as the Department Chair of Electrical and Electronics Engineering and the Founding Director of Center of Excellence in Optical Wireless Communication Technologies (OKATEM). In September 2023, he joined New York University Abu Dhabi as a Professor of Electrical Engineering. Dr. Uysal's research interests are in the broad area of communication theory with a particular emphasis on the physical layer aspects of wireless communication systems in radio and optical frequency bands. On these topics, he has authored some 450 journal and conference papers and received more than 22.000 citations with an h-index of 66. Uysal is an IEEE Fellow and the former Chair of the IEEE Turkey Section. He currently serves as an Area Editor for IEEE Transactions on Communications. Previously, he served as an Editor for IEEE Transactions on Communications, IEEE Transactions on Wireless Communications, IEEE Transactions on Vehicular Technology, and IEEE Communications Letters. He was involved in the organization of several IEEE conferences at various levels. In particular, he served as the Technical Program Committee Chair of major IEEE conferences, including WCNC 2014, PIMRC 2019, and VTC-Fall 2019. Between 2011 and 2015, he was the Chair of EU COST Action OPTICWISE, a high-profile consolidated European scientific platform that brought together more than 150 researchers in the research area of optical wireless communication. Dr. Uysal's major distinctions include NSERC Discovery Accelerator Award in 2008, University of Waterloo Engineering Research Excellence Award in 2010, Turkish Academy of Sciences Distinguished Young Scientist Award in 2011, Ozyegin University Outstanding Researcher Award in 2014, National Instruments Engineering Impact Award in 2017, Elginkan Foundation Technology Award in 2018, IEEE Communications Society Best Survey Paper Award in 2019, IEEE Turkey Section Outstanding Service Award in 2021, Mustafa Prize and Tubitak Science Award in 2023.

Keynote 4: Physical Layer Security for Dual-function Radar-Communication Systems

Prof. Athina Petropulu, Rutgers University, USA



Biography:

Athina P. Petropulu is a distinguished Professor at the Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) Department at Rutgers, having served as chair of the department during 2010-2016. Prior to joining Rutgers, she was a Professor of ECE at Drexel University (1992-2010). She held Visiting Scholar appointments at SUPELEC, Universite' Paris Sud, Princeton University, and University of Southern California. Dr. Petropulu's research interests span statistical signal processing, wireless communications, signal processing in networking, physical layer security, and radar signal processing. Dr. Petropulu is a Fellow of IEEE and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and recipient of the 1995 Presidential Faculty Fellow Award given by the US National Science Foundation and the White House. She has played key roles in her professional society, including serving as 2022-2023 President of the IEEE Signal Processing Society, Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing (2009-2011), and IEEE Signal Processing Society Vice President-Conferences (2006-2008). She was Technical Program Co-Chair of the 2023 IEEE ICASSP, General Co-Chair of the 2018 IEEE SPAWC, and General Chair of the 2005 ICASSP. She was a Distinguished Lecturer for the Signal Processing Society and the IEEE Aerospace & Electronics Systems Society. For her service, Dr. Petropulu has received the 2012 IEEE Signal Processing Society Meritorious Service Award. She is also co-recipient of the 2005 IEEE Signal Processing Magazine Best Paper Award, the 2020 IEEE Signal Processing Society Young Author Best Paper Award (B. Li), the 2021 IEEE Signal Processing Society Young Author Best Paper Award (F. Liu), the 2021 Barry Carlton Best Paper Award by IEEE Aerospace and Electronic Systems Society, and the 2023 Stephen O. Rice Prize Best Paper Award by the IEEE Communications Society.

Keynote 5: Seven Surprising Cyber Stories

Shane Wegner, Cyber Gate, UAE



Biography:

Shane Wegner is a cybersecurity expert with extensive experience in both the US and UAE. He served 10 years in the US Navy as a Chief Cryptologic Technician: Networks, where he led nearly a thousand cyber operations in support of national defense and provided leadership to the 501 Combat Mission Team. After his military service, Shane spent an additional 5 years in the UAE, supporting their cyber missions. Now with Cybergate, he is dedicated to raising cyber awareness and delivering impactful training and education throughout the UAE.

Keynote 6: From Fingerprinting Malicious Code to Identifying Cyber Threat Actors: Challenges and Solutions

Dr. Saed Alrabaae, United Arab Emirates University, UAE



Biography

Dr. Saed Alrabaae received a Ph.D. in information system engineering from Concordia University, Montreal, QC, Canada. He is currently an Associate Professor with the Department of Information Systems and Security at United Arab Emirates University (UAEU), Al Ain, United Arab Emirates. He is also the director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. He is a permanent research scientist at Canada's National Cyber Forensic and Training Alliance (NCFTA). His research and development activities and interests focus on reverse engineering, including binary authorship attribution, characterization, and malware investigation. In this domain, he has published more than 50 papers in top-tier journals and prestigious conferences.