



The women of WIDS-Barcelona 2024



**Women in
Data Science
Worldwide**

Barcelona

WiDS-Barcelona 2024

April 11th, 2024. 9:30h-12:45h

***Manel Martí Recober Auditorium of the
Barcelona School of Informatics (UPC)***

The women of WIDS-Barcelona 2024

WiDS Barcelona is independently organized by Karina Gibert and Núria Castell to be part of the mission to increase participation of Women in data science and to feature outstanding Women doing outstanding work



Women in
Data Science
Worldwide | Barcelona

Auditorium FIB

April 11, 2024, 9:30-12:45



Welcome



Josefina Antonijuan Rull

Vice Chancellor of Social Responsibility and
Equality

vra.antonijuan@upc.edu

Josefina Antonijuan Rull holds a bachelor-master degree in mathematical sciences from the University of Barcelona (1993) and a doctorate in mathematical sciences from the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (1999). Since 2002 she is Professor at the Department of Mathematics at the UPC. She has taught at the Polytechnic

School of Engineering of Vilanova i la Geltrú (EPSEVG) and eventually at the School of Telecommunications and Aerospace Engineering of Castelldefels (EETAC) and at the Barcelona School of Informatics (FIB). She has written 3 university-level teaching manuals and has participated in a conference, in teaching innovation workshops and in a funded teaching innovation project. In the field of management, she has been head of the section of the Department of Mathematics of the UPC in Vilanova (2018-2021) and a member of the University Senate of the UPC (2013-2021).

As a researcher, she is part of the SARTI group (Remote Acquisition and Information Processing Systems research group). Her activity has focused on numerical simulation applied to fluid dynamics, fishing gear and analysis of sea currents and sedimentary dynamics. She has participated in 9 research projects funded in national and European competitive calls, and is the co-author of 15 articles in indexed journals and 22 publications in conferences.



Women in
Data Science
Worldwide | Barcelona

Auditorium FIB

April 11, 2024, 9:30-12:45



Lidia Montero Mercadé

Vice Dean Head of Studies of Fib-Upc

lidia.montero@upc.edu

futur.upc.edu/LidiaMonteroMercade

[linkedin.com/in/lidia-montero/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/lidia-montero/) , [@LidiaMonteroCAT](https://twitter.com/LidiaMonteroCAT)

PhD in Computer Science from the UPC. Senior Consultant at ALG. Partner, until 2015, and founder of TSS, commercialization company of the AIMSUN platform. Full Professor of Statistics and Operational Research at the UPC. Expert in Transport Models, Transportation Analytics and Traffic Simulation currently linked to inLab-FIB at the UPC, since 2014. She has participated in numerous research projects in ministry programs.

She is the author of more than 100 scientific communications at industry conferences and has also collaborated in the last 10 years in modeling

projects of innovative ICT concepts in transport funded by Volkswagen (through the Hub-UPC called CARNET), H2020 projects and research projects. For the past year, she has been Vice-Dean Head of Studies for the Computer Engineering Degree at the FIB-UPC and is involved in the analysis of urban planning bias in relation to the gender perspective.



Women in
Data Science
Worldwide | Barcelona

Auditorium FIB

April 11, 2024, 9:30-12:45



WiDS-Barcelona Ambassador



Karina Gibert i Oliveras

WiDS-Barcelona 2022 ambassador, professor and director of IDEAI-UPC, Dean of Professional College of Informatics Engineering in Catalonia (COEINF)
karina.gibert@upc.edu, [@karinagibertk](https://www.instagram.com/karinagibertk)
<https://www.eio.upc.edu/en/homepages/karina>

Full Professor at the UPC for over 30 years. She holds a bachelor degree, a master degree and a PhD in computer engineering. She is Co-founder and former secretary of the Intelligent Data Science and Artificial Intelligence Research Center (IDEAI-UPC). Vice-president of the General Council of Informatics Engineering Professional Colleges from Spain (CCII, 2023-). She does research in extracting strategic knowledge from data and intelligent decision support systems, with focus in explainability and ethics in AI.

Expert of the Catalan AI Strategy Catalonia.ai (Gencat, Feb 2020), she co-drafted the Strategy (2018-2020). She advised the Spanish Senate (Jan 2021-), Spanish State Secretary on AI (2023) or the EC (2020) in AI and Ethics topics. Consultant of the WHO Department of Mental Health (Feb 2008-Aug 2010) to analyze Mental Health in LAMIC countries. Member of the Committee on Data Ethics from Catalan Government. Member of Board of the AI in Health program, Catalan Ministry of Health. Member of Advisory board of AI in EIT digital (EC). Founder and President of donesCOEINF (May 2018-) to bridge the gender gap in computer engineering. Founder and president of donesIAcat (gender chapter of the Catalan Association of Artificial Intelligence 03-08-2019-), member of the commission Women and Equality of the Intercollegiate (Sep 2019-). Co-founder of Women in Computer Engineering (CCII, June 2021). Ambassador of WiDS-Barcelona (Stanford Women in Data Science, Jan 2021-). Vicepresident of the Barcelona Chapter of Women in ACM (2023-). Founder and Director of the Top Secret Rosies program, for the generation of female talent in AI (2021-). PI of the INSESS-COVID19 project on characterizing the emerging social vulnerability (2020-). UPC PI of the COFUND postdoctoral program Ramon Llull (2023-). Researcher at the European project GAVIU on digital transformation of social services (2019-). Promoter and Technological Director of the *critvirtual.com* movement and the virtual int'l demonstrations for Afghan Women (11-26-2021, 01-10-2023). **Awards:** WomenTech Award 2023, National Computer Engineering Award 2022, Ada Byron Award 2022, Finalist at the European Social Services Awards 2021. Honorable Mention 2021 and 2022 at the Creu Casas Award, women to change the world (Institute of Catalan Studies). DonaTIC Award 2018 (Generalitat de Catalunya). First prize, HackingBullipedia Contest (Nov 2013), related to the famous chef Ferran Adrià (project GENESIS: Intelligent decision support for creative through evolutionary analysis, vimeo.com/78143348). Best EU eHealth project award (K4Care project) (Feb 2010). "Highly accessed paper seal", HARPS (v8(28) 1:16), 2010. Elected fellow of iEMSs (Jul 2007).



Women in
Data Science
Worldwide | Barcelona

Auditorium FIB

April 11, 2024, 9:30-12:45



WiDS-Barcelona Ambassador



Núria Castell Ariño

WiDS-Barcelona 2022 co-ambassador, ex-dean of the FIB
nuria.castell@upc.edu, [@NuriaCastell_A](https://www.instagram.com/NuriaCastell_A)
[linkedin.com/in/nuria-castell-arinyo/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/nuria-castell-arinyo/)

Dr. Núria Castell Ariño. Retired Professor at the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya-BarcelonaTech. She holds a bachelor-master degree (UAB) and a PhD (UPC) in Computing Engineering.

She has been Vice-Dean for International Relations at the FIB (2004-2010) and Dean of the FIB (2010-2017). Co-founder of the Intelligent Data Science and Artificial Intelligence Research Center (IDEAI). Her field of research is Natural Language Processing. She has published articles in conferences, journals and books, mainly related to natural language processing and some others on topics related to education. She has participated

in national and European competitive research projects, being the responsible researcher in some of them. She has been actively involved in the design and innovation of educational programs, not only at the UPC level but also in the framework of European projects. She currently continues to collaborate in continuing education programs with the UPC School. She is actively involved in gender equality issues, and especially in actions to increase the presence of women in the field of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). Actions, both local and international. She has participated in the design of various UPC equality plans, being part of the UPC equality commission and leading internal projects such as "+noiesTIC". She has collaborated in the European project H2020 Gender Equality in Engineering through Communication and Commitment (GEECCO). She is a consultant on gender issues in European projects. She is a founding member of the women's gender commission (donesCOEINF) of the Official College of Computing Engineering of Catalonia (2018-). Furthermore, she is a member of the experts' committee of the Intercollegiate Commission on Women and Equality. (2021-). Co-founder of Women in Computing Engineering (June 2021-), of the General Council of Colleges of Computing Engineering of Spain. Since 2018, she is a member of the WomenEncourage Steering Committee, a conference organized annually by the ACM-WE (ACM Women's Chapter in Europe), and she is currently chairing the committee.

Awards: honorary mention of the Creu Casas award "Women for changing the world", IEC in 2020, the UPC award for Social Commitment in the field of gender equality in 2020 (individual) and in 2021 (collective), the Salvà i Campillo Award for Outstanding Personality of LaNit 2021 and the Mention M. Encarna Sanahuja Yll (collective) of the Generalitat de Catalunya in 2021.



Women in
Data Science
Worldwide | Barcelona

Auditorium FIB

April 11, 2024, 9:30-12:45



Panel: “Data-intensive: the management perspective”



Maria Rosa Ortuño Melero

Expert and specialist in cybersecurity and CEO of OptimumTIC

rosa.ortuno@optimumtic.com

[linkedin.com/company/optimumtic-s.l./](https://www.linkedin.com/company/optimumtic-s.l./), [@optimumtic_](https://www.instagram.com/optimumtic_)

Rosa Ortuño has extensive experience in the world of technology, security and compliance, acting as CIO and CSO of different companies around the world and internationally in the best American and European companies and in different sectors.

Since the beginning of her professional career, always focused on technologies, optimization and improvement of business processes, she has opted for security from design and privacy to defend in systems and applications, and this has affected her great expertise and career currently as an expert in cybersecurity and consolidated by the best cybersecurity manufacturers in the market. Allowing you to always be up-to-date with the latest developments and developments and under strict

regulatory and regulatory control.

After several years working for the leading companies in the market and different activities around the world, he was trained in the supervision of the behaviour of the networks themselves and carrying out an integrated security according to regulations and measures to be taken from the base, that is why in 2009 he founded his own company, OptimumTIC, dedicated to the integral management of cybersecurity, covering the technical and compliance fields, and creating a unique DNA that allows it to accompany all types of organizations in a cross-cutting security strategy, for more than 15 years now.

Her tireless motivation, concern and willingness, as well as all her experience and knowledge apart from continuous training and several Master's degrees (La Salle, IESE, Harvard, London BSC, ...), have led her to be Honorary President of CATEI (Catalan Association of Technology and Information Technology Companies), Board Member of DonaTIC, President of the Advisory Board of GraustIC, Vice President of ISACA Chapter Barcelona, member of the DCA (Digital Catalonia Alliance in Cybersecurity), and collaborating partner of several StartUP at the UPC. In addition, she is a professor at the UIC with the Master Program in Cybersecurity and at ESADE at the level of IT Compliance. Commitment, quality, transparency and security define Rosa and OptimumTIC, which has managed to transfer its vision of cybersecurity to the sector, where it has undoubtedly reaffirmed its place.



Women in
Data Science
Worldwide | Barcelona

Auditorium FIB

April 11, 2024, 9:30-12:45



Panel: “Data-intensive: the management perspective”



Rosa Ma. Castro Cabrera

Head of IT - NOUCOR Group

Rosa.castro@noucor.com

[linkedin.com/in/rosacastro/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/rosacastro/)

Rosa Castro is the head of IT at NOUCOR, a recently created chemical-pharmaceutical company, but backed by an extensive trajectory of almost two centuries in the sector, with a business focused on research, development, licensing, manufacturing and supply of pharmaceutical products.

With a degree in Computing Engineering from the Barcelona School of Informatics (FIB-UPC), she started working in the Department of Computer Architecture (UPC) as IT manager in the department.

From there she held different positions at the UPC and at UPCnet, always in the field of providing IT services to the university community (teachers, students and PAS). She participated in the development of the service offer to external customers from UPCnet. During this time, she completed her training with the PDD (Management Development) program at the IESE.

In 2014, she left the university world and joined the pharmaceutical sector in a company that distributes healthcare products. Over the years, she has developed her CIO profile in the sector, leading international teams and driving the digitalization of the companies she has worked with. The last few years at NOUCOR have allowed her to work in an industrial manufacturing environment in a regulated environment.

Member of the advisory board of CIONET Spain and CIOs.cat.



Panel: “Data-intensive: the management perspective”



Conxi Pérez Andreu

CEO & Co-Founder RollIDBox Games, Digital and Rapid Transformation Consultant, CEO & Co-Founder In Movement!, vd COEINF, Asoc. WA4STEAM, Prof.As. IQS, UPC School, exCIO

conxi.perez@rolldbox.com

[linkedin.com/in/conxiperezandreu/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/conxiperezandreu/)

[@ConxiPerez](https://twitter.com/ConxiPerez)

Conxi Pérez Andreu is co-founder and CEO of RollIDBox Games, a video game studio dedicated to a new generation of video games that generate positive energy. She is also CEO and Co-Founder of In Movement!, experts in organizational and digital transformation and rapid and collaborative transformation methodologies. Ex-CIO, with more than 25 years of experience in different sectors, and teaches at centers such as UPC School, among others. Computer engineer by training, specialized in AI, certified by the Stanford Development Center in Advanced Project Management, and has studied a PDD at the IESE.

Associated with Women Angels for Steam (WA4STEAM. Business Angels organization), from where she supports projects where there are STEAM entrepreneurs as Business Angels through a democratized investment model. Member of the dean's team of the College of Computer Engineering of Catalonia (COEINF), as 2nd Vice-Dean of Presidency and ICT Talent and member of the COEINF women's gender commission.

Awards received: Woman Startup Challenge 2021 (prize at Catalonia level), Entrepreneurship, enterprising person, in the 2022 National Ingeniería en Informática Awards (prize at Spanish level), DonaTIC Award 2023 - Entrepreneurship (Generalitat de Catalunya).



Women in
Data Science
Worldwide | Barcelona

Auditorium FIB

April 11, 2024, 9:30-12:45



Panel: “Data-intensive: the management perspective”



Isabel Bellot Matas

Chief Digital Officer (CDO) at Grant Thornton Spain

Isabel.bellot@es.gt.com

[linkedin.com/in/isabelbellot/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/isabelbellot/) , [@ibellotm](https://twitter.com/ibellotm)

Knowmad of Innovation, Digital Business promotor & advisory, CDO, Emergent Tech, Artificial Intelligence, Metaverse, IoT, Additive Manufacturing, VR, AR, XR, Blockchain...

Multi-sectorial culture and knowledge (Building & Architecture & Construction, Air & Marine Transportation, Automotive, Food & Beverage, among others).

Global mind, change oriented, results and customer oriented, visionary, responsible, leader, team building, continuous learning oriented. Dynamic, honest, motivated, communicative, conciliator, creative thinker,

enthusiastic, positive.

‘Innovation to Growth’ is my motto and my orientation. New technologies are my passion. Always working at the forefront of technologies. A great challenge: always define initiatives that give support to the Sustainable Development Goals.

20+ years of professional career. Last ten years involved in Digital Transformation and innovation, helping the Companies to grow and redefine their IT & Business strategy.



Women in
Data Science
Worldwide | Barcelona

Auditorium FIB

April 11, 2024, 9:30-12:45



Closing



Núria Espuny i Salvadó

General Director of Digital Administration, Generalitat de Catalunya (Catalan Government)

nespuny@gencat.ca

[linkedin.com/in/nuriaespuny/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/nuriaespuny/), [@NuriaEspuny](https://www.instagram.com/NuriaEspuny)

Núria Espuny is General Director of Digital Administration in the Department of the Presidency of the Generalitat de Catalunya (Catalan government) and former General Director of Transparency, Open Data and Democratic Quality in the Ministry for Foreign Action, Institutional Relations and Transparency of the Generalitat de Catalunya (2016-2020).

Technical engineer in Telecommunications and Senior Engineer in Electronics, she complemented her training with a Postgraduate Degree in Digital Government. After a short period in the private sector, she has developed her entire professional career in the public sector, holding various management and directorship positions in the Generalitat de Catalunya. Her expertise includes areas such as computer networks, telecommunications, information systems, e-government, open government, digital transformation, and data governance.

During the stage as a General Director of Transparency and Open Data, she was responsible, among other projects, for the implementation and deployment of the Transparency Law, leading the opening of public information to citizens through the implementation of the Generalitat's Transparency Portal and promoting the inclusion of Catalonia as a member of the international organization Open Government Partnerships. In addition, she defined and implemented the open data strategy of the Generalitat de Catalunya and the Open Data Portal. Currently, since June 2020, she has been working as the General Director of Digital Administration, promoting the digital transformation of the Catalan government. Her responsibilities include the improvement and reengineering of corporate digital services, the promotion of interoperability and the exchange of public information and its openness, the establishment of a corporate data governance model, the implementation of advanced analytics and artificial intelligence services for the improvement of public services, and the definition and creation of the Register of artificial intelligence systems of the Administration of the Generalitat.

Recently, she created and leads the Data Ethics Committee of the Presidency Department of the Generalitat de Catalunya and she promoted the adoption of an official data model for the digital transformation of the public administration in Catalonia, as well as the creation of an interdepartmental advisory board of the Government for the deployment of AI in public administration in Catalonia. She is also a member of several bodies, such as the Strategic Council for Digital Administration, the Artificial Intelligence Commission of the Generalitat de Catalunya, the CIDAI Advisory Committee, the Board of Directors of the Cybersecurity Agency of Catalonia, the Board of Directors of the EADOP, the Commission for the digitization of the Administration of Justice and the General Council of the AOC Consortium.

Likewise, she is the author of several articles and publications and collaborates as a speaker in several masters and postgraduate courses, both locally and internationally.



Women in
Data Science
Worldwide | Barcelona

Auditorium FIB

April 11, 2024, 9:30-12:45



Other members of the Organizing Committee



Àngela Nebot

Head of the Soft Computing (SOCO) research group and member of the board of the UPC Intelligent Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (IDEAI) Research Center

angela@cs.upc.edu

She is a professor and researcher at the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC) where she studied Computer Engineering and did a doctorate in Artificial Intelligence.

She is the head of the Soft Computing research group (SOCO) and member of the board of the UPC Intelligent Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (IDEAI) Research Center.

She is currently a full professor in the Department of Computer Science and teaches courses in the

degree of Computer Engineering and in the Master of Artificial Intelligence on Computational Intelligence and advanced topics in Computational Intelligence.

He has completed different postdoctoral stays at the University of Arizona (USA) and at the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

Her research interests include fuzzy systems, neurofuzzy, fuzzy genetics and other hybrid soft computing techniques, as well as modeling for prediction and decision support. Its application areas include energy, medicine, biology, atmospheric sciences, music, risk management and e-Learning.



Women in
Data Science
Worldwide | Barcelona

Auditorium FIB

April 11, 2024, 9:30-12:45



Mónica Sánchez Soler

University Professor of the Mathematics
Department of the Polytechnic University of
Catalonia

Dr. Mónica Sánchez Soler is a University Professor in the Mathematics Department of the Polytechnic University of Catalonia (UPC). She graduated in 1983 in Mathematics from the University of Barcelona and received his doctorate in Informatics in 1987 from the Polytechnic University of Madrid, with a doctoral thesis framed in the area of Artificial Intelligence, specifically in qualitative, diffuse and probabilistic forms of reasoning and in functional equations. The academic and scientific career developed at the UPC, where she has taught mathematical analysis, algebra, geometry, calculus and fundamentals of

mathematics in the degrees of Architecture, Computer Science, Statistics and Artificial Intelligence, and since 1992 she has been Professor of University of the Department of Mathematics. She has published 40 articles in national or international scientific journals with an external admissions evaluation committee and has published more than 80 communications in national or international conferences with prior review. She has participated, as a member of the research team in 17 competitive R + D + I projects, in 8 of them as principal researcher. She did a research stay at the LAAS of Toulouse of the CNRS. She has participated in the organization and is a member of the scientific committee of several congresses and workshops both nationally and internationally. She also acts as a reviewer for different international magazines. In addition, she is an active member of several research associations, both nationally and internationally. She has carried out her research within the IDEAI research group (Intelligent Data Science and Artificial Intelligence Research Center) since its formation, and previously in the GREC research group (Grupo de investigación en ingeniería del conocimiento) formed by researchers from the UPC and ESADE url. Her research is framed in the area of Artificial Intelligence, specifically in qualitative reasoning, systems based on fuzzy connectives, automatic learning and multi-criteria group decision systems and their applications to real problems. She has co-supervised four doctoral theses and is currently co-supervising another. 1 semester of active research (last semester granted 2016-2022). Total citations: 734 (Google Scholar). Index h: 14 (Google Scholar).



Women in
Data Science
Worldwide | Barcelona

Auditorium FIB

April 11, 2024, 9:30-12:45



Huilin Ni

AI Undergraduate Student in UPC, First Promotion of the Bachelor Degree in Artificial Intelligence at FIB-UPC (Barcelona School of Informatics)

huilin.ni@estudiantat.upc.edu

[linkedin.com/in/huilin-ni/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/huilin-ni/), [@_itshuilin](https://www.instagram.com/_itshuilin)

Huilin Ni is one of the first class students majoring in the Artificial Intelligence bachelor's degree at the Barcelona School of Informatics (FIB) of the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC), started in September 2021.

Currently, she combines her third year studies at the university along with an internship program at the Intelligent Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (IDEAI) research center at UPC, giving support in the 3rd editions of the program **Top Rosies Talent 2024** and **Women in Data Science Barcelona 2024** while generating tools to support the manipulation of e-learning videos and multilingual translations for online courses.

Born in Tenerife (Canary Islands), she grew up in Barcelona, which is why she speaks Catalan and Spanish fluently. She also speaks English and Chinese, the last one due to her ancestry. During her free time she likes to learn languages and practice them while meeting new people.

She is a very altruistic and outgoing person and is always trying to get involved in volunteer programs such as the Summer School of "**The 19th Advanced Course in AI (ACAI)**", the joint international summer school in AI from EurAI and Tailor network of excellence organized by IDEAI in Barcelona in June 2022 and, currently, she is a volunteer for the 10th edition of the "**HackUPC 2024**" hackathon where she herself participated in the two previous editions as a hacker. In the 8th edition of 2022 she won together with her team a golden ticket with one of their **projects**, a direct pass to the hackathon of 1,300 people "**Junction 2022**" that took place in Dipoli, Espoo (Finland).

Awards: Second place of the HackUPC 2024 for the project cracking bank cards: Golden ticket to Junction 2022 in Dipoli, Espoo (Finland).