



Issue 8 June 2023

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 STEMM subjects, i.e., science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine. The Athena SWAN agenda has grown overtime to promote equality in general.

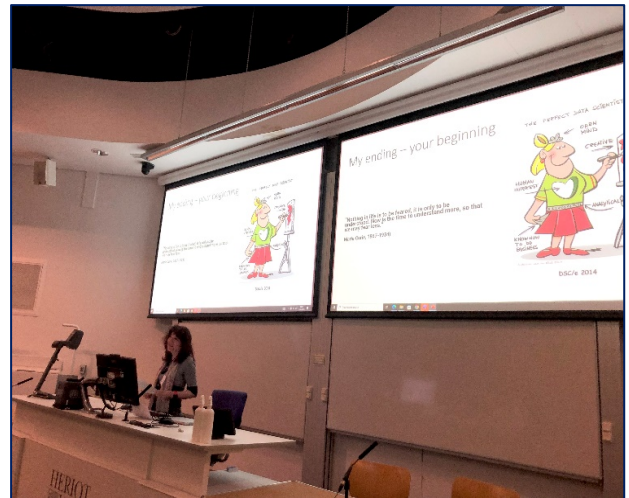
1. Athena SWAN at Heriot-Watt

The following link provides more background about Athena SWAN at Heriot-Watt, including guidance and resources:

<https://www.hw.ac.uk/uk/services/equality-diversity/athena-swan/>

2. Edinburgh Women in Data Science Workshop@Heriot-Watt University – Report

The first Women in Data Science Workshop took place at the Edinburgh Campus on May 15th. The objective was to share with the next generation, experiences and good practice of women working in data science. The venue was the Postgraduate Centre, and it ran in hybrid mode. Fourteen female speakers from academia and industry shared their experiences with students. A wide spectrum of topics and insights were shared, from healthcare and finance, through to data ethics and transitioning to a career in data science. This diversity provided attendees with a rich learning experience. Plans are afoot to turn it into an annual event. If you wish to be involved, do not hesitate to contact **Saman Gule** (s.gule@hw.ac.uk) or **Audrey Repetti** (a.repetti@hw.ac.uk).



3. MACS Athena SWAN Summer Undergraduate Bursary Scheme 2023 – Update

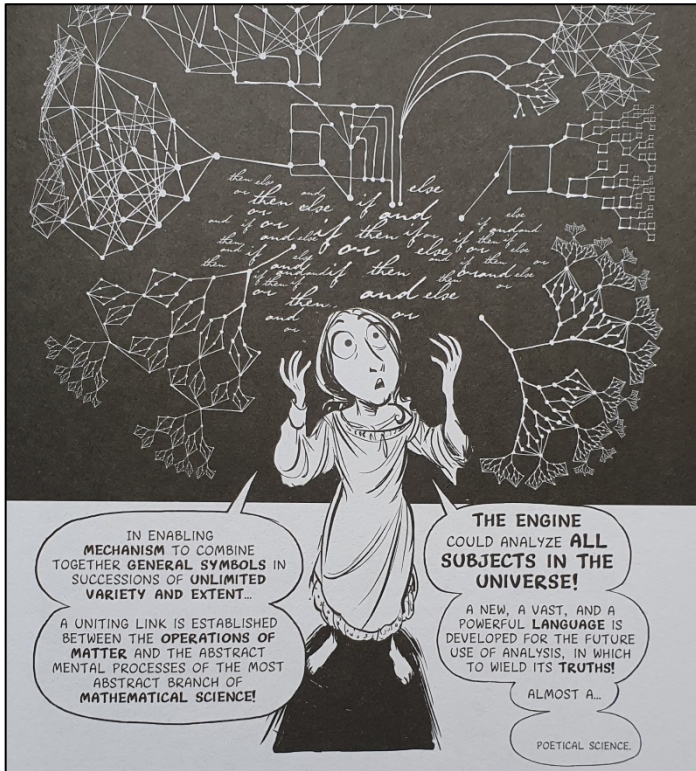
MACS Athena SWAN is sponsoring two Summer Undergraduate Bursary students this year:

- **Abby Stevenson** (Year 2), supervised by **Alistair McConnell** and **Marta Vallejo**, will use data from projects on Parkinson's, Huntington's and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis to create a set of engaging and interactive lectures.
- **Laura Schauer** (Year 4), supervised by **Rob Stewart**, will build upon her final year BSc Dissertation project where she developed the *Canvas-GitLab* integration. Through her bursary project, Laura will further enhance the functionality of Canvas-GitLab.

A report on how the projects develop will appear in the September issue of the Newsletter.



4. A MACS Ada Lovelace Day Celebration for 2023 – Update



Imagine taken from: *The Thrilling Adventures of Lovelace and Babbage* by Sydney Padua (2015)

A MACS Ada Lovelace Day 2023 event will take place on **Wednesday 11 October**. The venue is the National Robotarium in Edinburgh. The event will start at 1pm with a lunch followed by a team-based quiz.

The event will be open to all staff and students. Registration will be required in order to manage numbers and create the teams – registration details will follow at the start of semester.

A separate Ada Lovelace outreach event will take place in the autumn involving local high school pupils.

If you would like to contribute to the organization of either event then please get in touch via:

athena-macs@hw.ac.uk

Organizers: Nancie Gunson, Kathrin Stark, Karen Donaldson, Jen Hurley, Marta Romeo, Alistair McConnell, Priyanka Billa, Mark Lawson, Audrey Repetti and Andrew Ireland.

5. MACS Athena SWAN 2024 Submission – Update

MACS currently holds an Athena SWAN Bronze Award – first awarded 2015 and renewed 2018 (where we were close to achieving a Silver Award). Our award is up for renewal at the beginning of autumn 2024. We are again striving for a Silver Award. Over that last year, we have focused on ensuring that the current Action Plan is achieved. This summer will mark the start of a ‘reflection and analysis’ phase – this will draw about numerous datasets managed by Heriot-Watt University – datasets that relate to equality, diversity and inclusion. Come the autumn, we will use focus groups where we find gaps in the datasets. The formulation of a new Action Plan and the final rewrite-up will start in the New Year. Whether you are a student or are a staff member, you are very welcome to join the Athena SWAN Team – just group an email to athena-macs@hw.ac.uk.

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. In addition, if you would like to be part of the MACS Athena SWAN Team (i.e., officially known as the SAT Self-Assessment Team) then please do get in touch.

Audrey Repetti and Andrew Ireland
(MACS Athena Swan Coordinators)

