



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. MACS Honorary Degree Celebration

At the MACS Graduation Ceremony in Edinburgh an honorary degree will be conferred upon Professor Cheri Shakiban, of the University of St Thomas, Minnesota (now retired) who was the first Iranian female recipient of a US PhD in mathematics, while a refugee, and the first Iranian female Professor of Mathematics anywhere.



Cheri Shakiban is Professor of Mathematics at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, (USA)



**Wednesday 19 June 2024:  
11:30am to 1pm**

## 2. MACS Athen SWAN UG Summer Bursary Recipients for 2024

Building on the success of the last two summers, we are pleased to report that Dubai is also now part of the Athena SWAN UG Summer Bursary scheme. The aim of the scheme is to improve gender equality across our three disciplines, and more broadly address diversity, equality and inclusion (EDI) issues. Any project that funds a student from an under-represented group meets these criteria. Likewise, a project topic that directly addresses EDI issues also meets these criteria. This years' recipients are listed below.



### Dubai Student Projects:

**TechSheCan: Empowering Women in Technology**  
Mufliha Shake Dawood  
Supervisor: Drishty Sobnath

**Exploring Gender bias in Human Computer Interaction**  
Isaias Thomas Biju  
Supervisor: Adrian Turcanu

### Edinburgh Student Projects:

**Investigating Graph Neural Networks for Optimization**  
Maria Esteban Casadevall  
Supervisor: Audrey Repetti

**A Study of the Topological Description of Continuity**  
Gabrielle Pirie  
Supervisor: Beatrice Pelloni

**Developing Peer-led support for Year 3 Direct Entry Students**  
Justyna Ulejczyk  
Supervisor: Kathrin Stark

**Easing the Transition from College to University**  
Kumi Gilchrist  
Supervisor: Kathrin Stark

### A Joint Edinburgh-Dubai Student Project:

**Building an Open-source Visualization System in support of Parkinson's Disease patients**  
Sweta Acharya  
Supervisors: Joe Wells and Albert Burger (Edinburgh) and Drishty Sobnath (Dubai)





### 3. Preparing for Ada Lovelace Day 2024 in Dubai

# Preparing for Ada Lovelace Day 2024 in Dubai



**MACS Dubai** are planning an Ada Lovelace Day 2024 event will take place in **October**. 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 that 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 to showcase your work:

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

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





## 4. Preparing for Ada Lovelace Day 2024 in Edinburgh

# Preparing for Ada Lovelace Day 2024 in Edinburgh



**MACS Edinburgh** are planning an Ada Lovelace Day event in October that aims to strengthen community across all our **Year 1 undergraduate students within MACS**. Initial planning is focusing on a robot demo in the **National Robotarium** followed by a pizza lunch (within the School).

If you would like to get involved in the organization of this event, then please get in touch via the email address below:

[a.ireland@hw.ac.uk](mailto:a.ireland@hw.ac.uk)

Please put **'Ada Lovelace 2024'** in the subject header.

Organizers: **Andrew Ireland, Tessa Berg and Alistair McConnell**



## 5. Nominations for Honorary Degrees

The award recognizes academic as well as wider societal contributions. Part of our MACS Athena SWAN Action Plan is to increase the number of MACS female honorary graduates. Anyone can propose an individual for an honorary degree; simply complete the nomination form on the University web page – see QR Code below.





# MACS Athena SWAN Newsletter

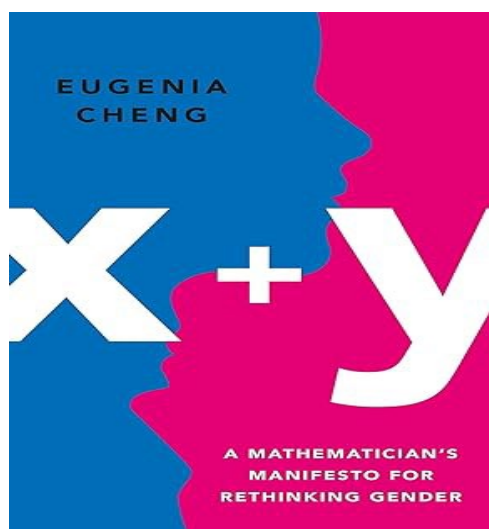
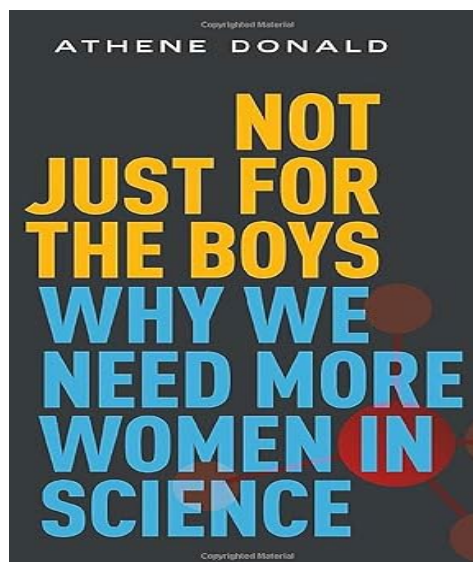
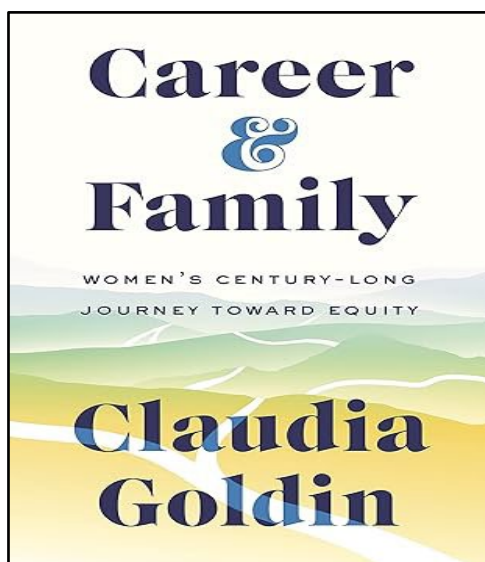


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If you have suggestions or questions related to Athena SWAN, or an event that you would like to advertise, then please send them to us via [athena-macs@hw.ac.uk](mailto:athena-macs@hw.ac.uk). In addition, if you would like to be part of the MACS Athena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



Do you have a book recommendation for inclusion in the Newsletter?

If YES then please send the details to:

[athena-macs@hw.ac.uk](mailto:athena-macs@hw.ac.uk)

