

Participant Biographies

HENRIK I. CHRISTENSEN

Director, Contextual Robotics Institute, UC San Diego

Henrik I. Christensen, Ph.D., is the Qualcomm Chancellor's Chair of Robot Systems and a professor of computer science and engineering at UC San Diego. He is a national policy leader for the field of robotics and has testified before Congress on the subject. He is the head of a nationwide effort to formulate the robotics roadmap and explore the field's potential to transform U.S. society. Christensen's research covers computer vision, artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics, and his primary emphasis has been on a systems-oriented approach to machine perception, robotics and design of intelligent machines. He and his team seek solutions that are theoretically sound, with well-defined implementations that can be evaluated in realistic situations. He has worked with a number of industry partners, including Boeing, KUKA, iRobot, BMW and Apple.

RINA DECHTER

Distinguished Professor of Computer Science, UC Irvine

Rina Dechter, Ph.D., is a professor of computer science at UC Irvine. Her research centers on computational aspects of automated reasoning and knowledge representation including search, constraint processing and probabilistic reasoning. She holds a Ph.D. from UCLA, an M.S. degree in applied mathematics from the Weizmann Institute, and a B.S. in mathematics and statistics from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. She is the author of "Constraint Processing" and "Reasoning with Probabilistic and Deterministic Graphical Models: Exact Algorithms." She has co-authored nearly 200 research papers and has served on the editorial boards of: Artificial Intelligence (and served as co-editor-in-chief from 2011-18), Constraint Journal, Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research and Journal of Machine Learning Research. She has been a fellow of the American Association of Artificial Intelligence since 1994, was a Radcliffe Fellow from 2015-06, received the 2007 Association of Constraint Programming Research Excellence Award and became an Association for Computing Machinery fellow in 2013.

EVANGELOS (VAGELIS) PAPALEXAKIS

Assistant Professor, Computer Science and Engineering, UC Riverside

Evangelos (Vagelis) Papalexakis, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of computer science and engineering at UC Riverside. He received his Ph.D. from Carnegie Mellon University's School of Computer Science and his M.Sc. in electronic and computer engineering from the Technical University of Crete (Greece). His doctoral dissertation received the 2017 Association for Computing Machinery's Special Interest Group on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining's (SIGKDD) Doctoral Dissertation Award (runner up).

Papalexakis' research interests span the fields of data science, machine learning, AI and signal processing. His research involves designing interpretable models and scalable algorithms for extracting knowledge from large multi-aspect datasets and applying those algorithms to a variety of real-world problems, including detection of misinformation on the Internet, explainable

AI and gravitational wave detection. His publications have appeared in top-tier scientific venues and have received numerous distinctions, including “best student paper.” In addition to his academic experience, he has industrial research experience working at Microsoft Research Silicon Valley and Google research.

VI H. RAPP

Research Scientist, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Vi H. Rapp, Ph.D., is a research scientist at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab who advances technology, software and data analysis to improve human health. At the lab, she leads and directs research on low-carbon combustion technologies. More specifically, Rapp uses machine learning to identify bio-derived molecules that can improve air quality and public health; develops new low-emissions technologies for residential-heating and distributed energy generation; and evaluates opportunities for implementing and improving energy and combined heat and power systems.