

# CCS 2017 — Women in Cyber Security (CyberW) Workshop

Danfeng (Daphne) Yao  
Virginia Tech  
danfeng@vt.edu

Elisa Bertino  
Purdue University  
bertino@purdue.edu

## ABSTRACT

The CyberW workshop is motivated by the significant gender imbalance in all security conferences, in terms of the number of publishing authors, PC members, organizers, and attendees. What causes this gender imbalance remains unclear. However, multiple research studies have shown that a diverse group is more creative, diligent, and productive than a homogeneous group. Achieving cyber security requires a diverse group. To maintain a sustainable and creative workforce, substantial efforts need to be made by the security community to broaden the participation from underrepresented groups in cyber security research conferences. We hope this workshop can attract all underrepresented cybersecurity professionals, students, and researchers to attend top security and privacy conferences, engage in cutting-edge security and privacy research, excel in cyber security professions, and ultimately take on leadership positions.

## CCS Concepts/ACM Classifiers

• Social and Professional Topics

## Keywords

Gender discrimination; gender gap; gender imbalance; gender bias; cyber security; underrepresented groups; leadership; female; women; technical competitiveness; diversity; inclusive excellence; career;

## 1 INTRODUCTION

This past summer of 2017 was phenomenal. The discussion on the often shun away subject of gender discrimination was in full public display. Three established senior female scientists sued the prestigious Salk institute for Biological Studies at San Diego, CA for pervasive, long-standing gender discrimination [1, 2]. The infamous Google Manifesto was being hotly debated [3]. Adrienne Porter Felt’s blog article articulated the severe gender imbalance issue in computer science conference program

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committees and how it may impact the fairness of the anonymous review process [4]. We could not ask for a better time to boost people’s interests in our CyberW workshop and engage in the discussion.

Despite the title, we encourage everyone to attend the workshop, regardless of the gender or race. The challenges faced by women and underrepresented groups are too complicated to be addressed by any single group on their own. It requires the collective effort of the community to understand the issues and commit to improving the situation.

CyberW complements the existing successful women in computing/security venues, in that CyberW aims to promote cutting edge research and technical leadership. CyberW is research- and technical-oriented. The field of cyber security needs women in leadership positions, well beyond entry-level positions. Observing and interacting face-to-face with successful technical role models will be inspiring for the attendees and encourage them in their career pursuit.

## 2 PROGRAM

This inaugural workshop consists of invited talks, a lightning talks session, and plenty of question-and-answers and networking opportunities.

We are excited to welcome Louis A. Beecherl, Jr. Distinguished Professor Bhavani Thuraisingham of University of Texas at Dallas and Professor David Evans of University of Virginia to give the opening the remarks to motivate the audience. Both of them have been strong advocates for women in computing for many years.

We are fortunate to have an outstanding group of researchers, professionals, and leaders in the cyber security field to give keynote speeches, including Regents Distinguished Professor Stephanie Forrest of University of New Mexico, Samuel Conte Term Professor Elisa Bertino of Purdue University, Professor Rebecca Wright of Rutgers University, Professor Ling Liu of Georgia Institute of Technology, Diane Staheli of MIT Lincoln Lab, Professor Alvaro Cardenas of University of Texas at Dallas. The topics of their keynote presentations cover various security areas. Besides the technical content, the keynote presentations share speakers’ personal and professional experiences.

Keynote presentations are followed by Q&A sessions that allow attendees to interact with the invited speakers. The evening reception as part of the main CCS program provides additional networking opportunities for the workshop attendees.

The lightning talk session is open to the public. It gives every participant an opportunity to describe his or her work.

We believe that the workshop program will be conducive to an open and broad discussion on initiatives and actions that will lead to an increased involvement of a diverse community of researchers and practitioners in cyber security. Cyber security is today more critical than ever and we need complementary expertise and perspectives for effective solutions.

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