

KIOS Distinguished Lecture Series



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The unstoppable growth of AI and Analytics – is industry really ready?

LECTURE ABSTRACT

The last few years saw a tremendous interest in the use of Advanced Analytics and Artificial Intelligence tools to understand and analyze data, extract new insights and strive for a natural interaction between humans and machines. Great advancements have been achieved in these areas and the organizations that have successfully deployed AI recognize the strong connection between AI and analytics. However, a number of challenges still exist such as: data acquisition from different types of sources; establishing links among different data types using both structure and content; dynamic, real-time processing of data; scalability for analytics and query processing, just to name a few. These challenges often prevent a business from even starting to look at the information and make sense out of it. At the same time, advances in cognitive computing offer new possibilities in analysing unstructured information for richer insights. In this talk, we will first highlight the importance of (big) data and the evolution of AI, and then through the use of applications motivate some of the advanced technologies, point out the practical and research challenges, and highlight the business benefit from these technologies. We will conclude with a view on future directions.

BRIEF BIO

Eleni Pratsini is Managing Director at Accenture Technology, leading the growth of 'AI and Automation' business in Europe. Prior to joining Accenture in January 2018, Eleni spent 14 years at IBM Research, leading research teams in Advanced Analytics and AI. In her most recent roles, she was Director of Cognitive IoT Solutions and Lab Director of IBM Research – Dublin, Smarter Cities Technology Centre. Before joining IBM, she had a successful career in academia, first in the US as associate professor at Miami University, and then in Europe at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHZ). Her teaching and research was recognized by a number of academic awards and industrial grants. Eleni has a PhD in Quantitative Analysis and Industrial Engineering (U. of Cincinnati, USA), an MBA in Finance (UCLA, USA) and a B.Sc. in Civil Engineering (U. of Birmingham, U.K.)

