

# Women in Control Session



**EUCA**  
EUROPEAN CONTROL ASSOCIATION



Wednesday 14 June 2023

**Location: Library. Room: L.2.1. Time: 12:40-13:20**

**Chair: Ionela Prodan (LCIS, Grenoble INP, France)**

**Co-chair: Daniela Lupu (Univ. Politehnica of Bucharest, Romania)**

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**IEEE Women in Engineering** is one of the largest international professional organizations dedicated to promoting women engineers and scientists and inspiring girls around the world to follow their academic interests to a career in engineering. With the occasion of the 21st European Control Conference to be held in Bucharest during 13-16 June 2023 a special session *Women in Control* will be organized on Wednesday 14 June. This session represents a women networking opportunity, whose aim is to give new perspectives about the current role of engineering (with a particular focus on control engineering), science and industry, women with personal stories, programs and opportunities. Four remarkable women, with a rich activity within the Control Engineering community, will tell us their stories, *why they choose Control Engineering* and *what are the role and greatest challenges of Control Engineering in modern times for a successful career in teaching, research or industry*.



**Antonella Ferrara** received the M.Sc. degree (Cum Laude and printing honors) in electronic engineering and the Ph.D. degree in computer science and electronics from the University of Genova, Italy, in 1987 and 1992, respectively. Since 2005, she has been Full Professor of automatic control at the University of Pavia, Italy, where she is the Head of the Intelligent Robotics Laboratory, as well as the President of the Research Standing Committee of the Department

of Electrical, Computer and Biomedical Engineering. She served as a member of the EUCA Council and, since 2018, she has been the EUCA Conference Editorial Board Chair. She is a member of the IEEE Technical Committee (TC) on Automotive Control, IEEE TC on Smart Cities, IEEE TC on Variable Structure Systems, IFAC Technical Committee on Nonlinear Control Systems, IFAC TC on Transportation Systems, and IFAC Technical Committee on Intelligent Autonomous Vehicles. Among several awards, she was a co-recipient of the 2020 IEEE Transactions on Control Systems Technology Outstanding Paper Award. She is IEEE Fellow and IFAC Fellow.



**Maria Prandini** obtained the Laurea degree in Electrical Engineering (Politecnico di Milano, 1994) and the Ph.D. degree in Information Technology (Univ. of Brescia, 1998) with a dissertation on adaptive control of stochastic systems. After receiving her Ph.D., she was a visiting post-doctoral researcher at the Univ. of California at Berkeley, from 1998 to 2000. She also held visiting positions at TU Delft (1998), Cambridge Univ. (2000), UC Berkeley (2005), and ETH Zurich (2006). She is currently Full Professor at

the Dipartimento di Elettronica, Informazione e Bioingegneria of the Politecnico di Milano. She is member of the editorial board of Automatica, IEEE Transactions on Network Systems and Cyber Physical Systems as associate editor. She is member of the IFAC Technical Committee on Discrete Event and Hybrid Systems, of the IEEE Control Systems Society Conference Editorial Board and of the EUCA Conference Editorial Board. She has been elected President of the International Federation of Automatic Control (IFAC) for the three-year period 2026-2029.



**Jacquelin M. A. Scherpen** received her MSc (1990) and Ph.D. (1994) degree in applied mathematics from the Univ. of Twente, The Netherlands. She was faculty at TU Delft until 2007. Since 2006, she is professor at the Jan C. Willems Center, ENTEG, Faculty of Science and Engineering, Univ. of Groningen. From 2013-2019, she was scientific director of ENTEG. She is currently director of Engineering at the Univ. of Groningen. She is fellow of IEEE, appointed

Knight in the Order of The Netherlands Lion, received the best paper prize of Automatica in 2020 and the Prince Friso Engineer of the Year (2023) award in The Netherlands. She is currently Captain of Science of the Dutch High Tech Systems and Materials top sector, is member of the board of the Dutch Institute of Systems and Control (DISC), is active at the IEEE Control Systems Society, member of the IFAC council 2020-2023, Past President of the European Control Association (EUCA) 2022-2023, and Chair of the SIAM Activity Group Control and Systems Theory 2022-2023.



**Melanie Zeilinger** is an Associate Professor at the Department of Mechanical and Process Engineering at ETH Zurich, where she is leading the Intelligent Control Systems group at the Institute for Dynamic Systems and Control. She received the diploma in Engineering Cybernetics from the Univ. of Stuttgart in Germany in 2006 and the Ph.D. degree in Electrical Engineering from ETH Zurich in 2011. From 2011 to 2012 she was a postdoctoral fellow at the École Poly-

technique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland. From 2012 to 2015 she was a Postdoctoral Researcher and Marie Curie fellow in a joint program with the Univ. of California at Berkeley, USA, and the Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems in Tuebingen, Germany. From 2018 to 2019 she was a professor at the Univ. of Freiburg, Germany. Her awards include the ETH medal for her PhD thesis, a Marie-Curie IO fellowship and an SNF Professorship grant. She is one of the organizers of the new Conference on Learning for Dynamics and Control (L4DC).