

Feminist Reading Circle for Computer Scientists

WISC Lightning Talk

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OR

How to combine something that we like with something useful?

Who am I?



Katharina Boudgoust's Homepage

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Since September 2018, I am a Ph.D student in computer science within the [EMSEC](#) team at [IRISA Laboratory](#) in Rennes under the supervision of [Pierre-Alain FOUQUÉ](#) and [Adeline ROUX-LANGLOIS](#). I am working on lattice-based cryptography.

From October to December 2019, I visited [Ron STEINFELD](#) at the [Cybersecurity Lab](#) of the [Faculty of Information Technology](#) of the [Monash University](#) in Melbourne, Australia.

In May 2018, I received my master's degree at the [Department of Mathematics](#) at [Karlsruhe Institute of Technology](#). My master thesis *Polycyclic groups and applications in cryptography* was under the supervision of [Frank HERBLICH](#) and [Joern MUELLER-QUADE](#).

Prior to this, I received in July 2014 my bachelor's degree at the [Department of Mathematics and Computer Science](#) at [Heidelberg University](#). My bachelor thesis *Die Kompatibilität von Determinantenfunktoren mit Spektralsequenzen und der Kohomologie* was under the supervision of [Olmar VENJAKOB](#).

- <https://katinkabou.github.io/>
- 3rd year PhD Student
- IRISA Research Lab in Rennes (France)
- Member of the **Gender Equality Task Team**



Context & History

Starting Point:

- January 2020: Do something as PhD students for young researchers
- Without any training/qualification in this topic?
- Without experience?
- Idea: Teach ourselves while sharing knowledge with others → **Reading Circle**

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Concept:

- 1 Collect possible books to read → **Collaborative list**
- 2 Define framework: Who to invite? How to reach? When and how to meet?
- 3 Goal: learn collectively and propose a safe space for exchange

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Then: first lock down due to Covid-19 :/

Collaborative List of Feminist Literature for CS

- [\[link of the list here\]](#) (you can still add books :))
- IRISA bought most of the CS-related books (ca. 30)
- will be accessible to read in the Cafeteria (visit Rennes?)

 CHANGED 2 MONTHS AGO 



Feminist Literature for Computer Scientists

We ([Égalité Femmes-Hommes IRISA & INRIA](#)) started a list of literature that treats feminist topics with regards to computer science. This includes anything about important women in the field, sexism arising in particular in this area, industry related or research related.

Feel free to add any comments if you have any.

Literature (targeting Computer Science)

Title	Author	Language	Category	Link	Access
Cracking the Digital Ceiling	Carol Frieze, Jeria L. Quesenberry	English	Scientific book	amazon link	Buy <27€
Invisible Women	Caroline Criado Perez	English	Scientific book	amazon link	Buy <20€

The books we read so far [website of our reading circle]



Phase 1: Only Solène and I

- Brotopia by Emily Chang (Tech Industry)
- Invisible Women by Caroline Criado Perez (Everyday Life)

Phase 2: Virtual reading circle

- The Matilda Effect by Ellie Irving (Child book)
- The Only Woman in the Room by Eileen Pollack (Personal Experience)
- A Global Approach to the Gender Gap in Mathematical, Computing, and Natural Sciences : How to Measure It, How to Reduce It? (Final Report)

How does our reading circle work?



- Virtual meeting every Friday afternoon for 1 hour
- One person writes a recap of the main discussion points
- Common server for sharing links / short-term notices (Discord)
- Wiki with all important information and recaps of every meeting
- Besides reading: reference sharing and film screening (Picture a Scientist)
- In July even our first picnic in real :) (no picture :()

Conclusion (So Far)

- Goal of today: encourage people to start their own reading circle :)
- Personally: very nice exchanges, easy to organize, low mental load
- Poll after the 3rd Online Edition: very positive feedback
- Experiments: with/without men
- Open questions: keep virtual meetings? How to ensure strong presence of women?
- Suggestions? Questions? Ideas?

Thanks :)