

## WIRE-EUGAIN Workshop:

# "Attracting & Retaining Female Students from Bachelor and Master to PhD"

Workshop Chairs:

Karima Boudaoud, *Université Côte d'Azur*

Barbora Buhnova, *Masaryk University*

Letizia Jaccheri, *NTNU*

## Session 5 | Young Researchers

Chair:

Monica Landoni, *Università della Svizzera Italiana*

Patricia Lago, *Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*

Speaker:

**SERENA VERSINO**

PhD in Artificial Intelligence for Society, *University of Pisa (Italy)*

Wednesday, 26 October 2022 -  
Hamburg



EUGAIN



INFORMATICS  
EUROPE



## Serena Versino

First-year PhD candidate in Artificial Intelligence for Society, *University of Pisa (Italy)*

 **2004-2009**

High school (scientific lyceum)

 **2009-2012**

B.Sc. in International Business  
School of Management and Economics  
*University of Turin - Italy*

 **2012-2015**

M.Sc. in Quantitative Finance and Insurance  
School of Management and Economics  
*University of Turin - Italy*



**2014**

ERASMUS

*Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), Spain*

 **2015-2019**

Internship in Risk Management (Bank),  
Business and Data analyst (insurance, industrial and textile sectors)

 **June 2022**

1<sup>st</sup> International EUGAIN-Summer School in Lugano





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#### Required skills:

- Programming language
- Data visualization



#### Barriers:

- Basic computer skills
- Poor network in data science, feeling of loneliness
- Role models were perceived distant
- Lack of support and information



#### Drivers:

- Motivation
- Self-confidence



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 **2019**

Data Science Summer School (DSSS19)  
*University of Pisa - Italy*

 **2020-2021**

Post-graduate master in Big Data  
*University of Rome 'Sapienza' - Italy*

 **2021**

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My motivation and self-confidence have been fostered by:

## SHARING

PhD candidates and researchers shared



- Stories

*“ I am a physicist and now I am working with data scientists. We **put together different competencies**, now in our project we are studying...”*



- Activities

*“ Data science can give you state-of-the-art models to study phenomena in social sciences. **Take a look at our monthly review from our department...** ”*



- Future perspectives

*“ I chose a PhD course because it provides **opportunities both in industry and academia**. Informatics, well.. You'll never get bored! ”*



- Mobility

*“ I **visited a laboratory abroad**. With my colleagues, we had a lot of fun. And now, we are working together to submit the work to a conference...”*

→ **ENGAGEMENT | NETWORK**

My motivation and self-confidence have been fostered by:

## SUPPORT

Professors, who provided



- Clarification  
*“There are PhD programs in informatics that admit other degrees. Indeed, you can apply computing skills in several fields. **Check this call...**”*



- Information  
*“I know a researcher in my department with a story closed to yours. **I give you her contact...**”*



- Opportunity  
*“In our department, we are seeking researchers with cross-cutting backgrounds. **I send you an email with details...**”*



- Feedback  
*“Send me your thesis proposal and motivation letter. I can **give you a feedback...**”*

*“I can write to you a **reference letter...**”* ➤ **SELF-CONFIDENCE | MOTIVATION**



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