Special Issue

Women's Special Issue Series: Software

Message from the Guest Editors

Margaret Hamilton, an American computer scientist, coined the term "Software Engineering" in the 1960s, leading the development of flight software for NASA's Apollo program. Despite her foundational work, only 5.17% of software developers today are women, and the profession remains male-dominated. Intersectionality, a framework to understand overlapping identities and systemic inequalities, is instrumental in examining gender disparities within software engineering (SE). Studies indicate that gender-diverse teams experience fewer challenges and improved productivity. In open-source software (OSS), research highlights gender barriers and under-representation, which impact participation and quality. Further, biases in SE, perpetuated by unconscious stereotyping in education and workplace settings, contribute to the gender imbalance, limiting opportunities for women. This Special Issue focuses on the intersection of gender diversity and SE, featuring contributions about interventions, about how to measure and address gender biases within SE, as well as about female role models in software architecture, AI, and cybersecurity.

Guest Editors

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Dr. Xing Hu

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