The first Women in Security and Cryptography (WISC) Workshop of the Cluster of Excellence “CASA - Cyber Security in the Age of Large-Scale Adversaries” at Ruhr-Universität Bochum took place from 21-23 September 2021. International female* doctoral candidates and outstanding female* students from the field of IT security participated in the inspiring digital workshop.

The WISC is a sister event of the renowned computer security conference “Women in Theory” (WIT) and will be held every two years from now on.

**GOALS of the workshop:**
- Creating a forum for scientific exchange, professional development, and networking - exclusively for women*
- Offering top-class lectures by leading female* scientists in the field of IT security
- Enabling new insights into the industry
- Establishing long-lasting connections with key players in the scientific community
- Female Empowerment
The centerpiece of the Program were the talks: WISC-Masters, Team No Eye Dear, the Quiz-attackers, the women!

Artificial intelligence needs more...

Kenza Ait Si Abbou
Pseudorandom Correlation Generators

Tal Rabin
University of Pennsylvania & Algorand Foundation, USA
MPC in the YOSO (You Only Speak Once) Model

Michelle Mazurek
Institute for Advanced Computer Studies, University of Maryland, USA
Investigating Secure Development in Practice: A Human-Centered Perspective

Elette Boyle
FACT Research Center, IDC Herzliya, Israel
Pseudorandom Correlation Generators

Adrienne Porter Felt
Director of Engineering, Google, USA
An Industry Career Path, in Security and Beyond

Carmela Troncoso
Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland
Why Synthetic Data Is Not a Solution

In addition to the scientific presentations, WISC offered a diverse program of lightning talks, open space discussions, games, a yoga session, a quiz, and – above all – many opportunities to ask questions.

We are looking forward to the next WISC 2023!
Experiences, Insights & Findings

A few INSIGHTS that the participants took away from the first WISC:

- Exciting scientific topics
- The importance of networking
- It is possible to change directions in your career path, so do not be afraid of trying new things
- It’s okay to fail
- Be clear with yourself
- Know your worth and your values
- You have to put yourself out there
- Learn from everyone around you who is doing something well
- Do something meaningful!

A few words from Johanna, our WISC 2021 organizer ...

"Finding your own values, building a network and being active - these are probably a few of the main messages I personally take away from WISC 2021. I believe that the helpful and practical tips from the speakers were very valuable for the participants and left a lasting impact. The positive, powerful and motivating atmosphere during the three days as well as the interest and commitment of all WISC participants made a strong impression on me. The diversity of participants and topics also made the event very colorful and lively. Therefore, I’m looking forward even more to the next WISC in 2023!"

We are Looking Forward to the Next WISC 2023!

About CASA:
CASA is the only German Cluster of Excellence in the field of cybersecurity and is funded by the DFG (German Research Foundation) with 30 million Euros over seven years. This funding ensures excellent research conditions and allows us to support the needs and ambitions of our scientists. CASA encourages talented female scientists to pursue careers in academia and industry and supports them in achieving a work-life balance. Our goal is to implement lasting and effective measures to promote equal opportunities.

Contact
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* In case of using gender-assigning attributes we include all those who consider themselves in this gender regardless of their own biological sex.

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