

Computer Science Seminar

NSF funding opportunities in Engineering and Computer Science converging with Social, Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences

Dr. Alexandra Medina-Borja, National Science Foundation



Dr. Alexandra Medina-Borja, Program Director in the Directorate for Engineering at the National Science Foundation will provide an overview of the agency's emerging funding opportunities for engineering and computer science researchers in collaboration with cognitive and behavioral scientists. Other funding opportunities in education targeted at revolutionizing engineering and computer science departments will also be discussed followed by an open discussion and Q&A.

Bio: Alexandra Medina-Borja was appointed as the first Director of Evaluation and Assessment for the Directorate for Engineering of the US National Science Foundation (NSF) in Arlington, VA in 2012, where she also held an interim appointment as Head of the new Evaluation and Assessment Section in the Office of the NSF Director from 2012 to 2015. In addition, Alexandra has acted as Cognizant Program Officer in Smart Service Systems for the Directorate for Engineering, being the main contributor to the development of the Smart Service Systems research funding opportunity. She is a member of the NSF-wide working group that is developing the Work and the Human Technology Frontier research theme, one of the ten ideas for future NSF investment championed by the NSF director. In 2016, she became responsible for the entire portfolio of the Partnerships for Innovation in Smart Service Systems program within the Division of Industrial Innovation and Partnerships (PFI:BIC).

From 2006 to 2012, Dr. Medina-Borja was the founding Director of the International Service Systems Engineering Research Lab at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, where she is an associate professor, securing substantial federal funding for her research, mainly from NSF. Her research focuses on the effective design and analysis of service delivery systems considering factors such as culture, demographics and behavioral and cognitive traits.

From 2001 to 2006, Alexandra managed the Operations Research and Analysis Unit of the American Red Cross National Headquarters in Washington D.C. This organization adopted an analytical framework developed as part of her doctoral dissertation. This work was awarded the 2007 Goodeve Medal by the British Operational Research Society for the most significant contribution to the theory and practice of OR in the world in the given year. Prior to that and for several years she Alexandra worked for the United Nations' International Trade Centre. She serves as ambassador of The International Society of Service Innovation Professionals, ISSIP, and is a member of the editorial board of INFORM's Service Science Journal, She is a member of ASEE, INFORMS and IISE.

Alexandra earned her Ph.D. and Master's Degrees from Virginia Tech's Industrial and Systems Engineering Department in 2002 and 1995, respectively, and a Production of Materials Engineering Degree from the Federal University of São Carlos in São Paulo, Brazil.

Date: April 13, 2017

Time: 2:00 pm

216 Computer Science Building

MISSOURI
S&T