



Association for IS Women's Network

May 2020 Edition

The **AIS Women's Network** is a college of the Association for Information Systems (AIS). The purpose of the College is to promote a network for supporting women scholars in information systems and to enable mentorship relationships that are crucial to speed the success of women in the information systems field.

In this edition

Highlights from ICIS Luncheon
Incoming Officers
AIS Distinguished Members
AIS Awards Recipients

News Bytes
AIS Sustainability Summit
The Value of Mentoring
Upcoming Events and CFPs

From the Desk of the Co-Chairs

How much the world has changed since our last newsletter! We hope that you are all well – physically, mentally and emotionally – as you adjust to the ‘new normal’ of living with COVID19. We salute all of you for the efforts – seen and unseen – you are making to tackle this pandemic, by working from home and converting your classes to online teaching, home schooling children, caring for family members or others in your community, foregoing recreational activities, or just by keeping your distance. Physical distance, however, shouldn't be socially isolating. The AIS Women's Network is continuing to develop opportunities for our members to engage and support each other. Please take a few minutes to read about what is happening both inside and outside the AIS Women's Network.



Dawn Owens, Ph.D.
The University of
Texas at Dallas



Jacqueline Corbett, Ph.D.
Université Laval

Connect with us!





Association for IS Women's Network

Highlights from ICIS Luncheon Panel 2019

December 16, 2019 | Munich, Germany

We were privileged to welcome three outstanding women to speak on the topic of *Research Opportunities and Grand Challenges*. The informative and inspiring panel consisted of Eleanor Loiacono from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Hala Annabi from University of Washington, and Janet Toland from Victoria University of Wellington.

Eleanor's research on women in IT and on neuro diversity emphasizes IT's lack of a "typical user"; therefore, we need to consider diversity. Including the female perspective is a matter of "life and death" not only literally as the seatbelt testing has shown, but also figuratively for organizations' survival. A diversity in views increases creativity and innovation. She encouraged women to include a diversity of people (both men and women) in their networks.

Hala's research on equity and inclusion in the IT industry focuses on how organizations can implement the right interventions for the right people at the right time. Although previous attempts focused on giving women space to grow, more needs to be done to make structural changes that reflect a fuller understanding of diversity in the experiences of women. Hala encourages women to think about how they can personally support others by championing and nominating others for official recognition and sending "small signals" of support and affirmation.

Janet, whose interests includes sustainability and the history of IS, took us back in time to the 1960s when ACM first debated the question of scientific societies engaging in political activities. She highlighted the contributions of Jean Sammet, the first female president of the ACM. For Janet, many questions revolve around what it means to bring one's "authentic self" to work and whether this is something employers want. She also expressed concerns regarding work-life balance and hate-speech directed towards women. She believes it is essential that women be able to pursue topics of research about which they are passionate.





Association for IS Women's Network

Incoming Officers for 2020-2022

We are pleased to announce the following changes in the AISWN College executive committee effective July 1, 2020. Incoming officers will serve a two-year term ending on June 30, 2022.

Co-chair: Vanessa Cooper, RMIT University (Region 3)

Vanessa Cooper is a Professor of Information Systems at RMIT University in Melbourne. She has successfully discharged a range of leadership roles that demonstrate her understanding of the issues that women face in the IS field and workplace more broadly. These roles include: Pro-Vice Chancellor (College of Business) Nominee for RMIT's Diversity and Inclusion Committee (2014-2015); Director of the [Centre for People Organisation and Work](#)— an inter-disciplinary research centre with a strong focus on gender, equality and diversity (2016-2019); Mentor for RMIT's "Boost Women" Program (2017-2018); and leading initiatives aligned with the [Athena SWAN](#) Charter (2019-current). Vanessa is passionate about providing opportunities for women to succeed in the IS field and if elected Co-Chair of AISWN, would endeavor to use her experience to benefit the College and its members.

Funding Chair: Shahrzad Roohy Gohar, UQ Business School (Region 3)

Shahrzad is working at UQ Business School, as an Associate Lecturer in Business Information Systems(BIS) and is a PhD candidate. Shahrzad holds a Bsc in computer science and a Masters in IT; also an ACS Certified Professional. Shahrzad has worked in areas of Business Process Management (BPM) and Networks and Systems Engineering in industry and has completed various business process improvement projects for Queensland Government and health sector in the past. Shahrzad's research expertise include Green Information Systems (IS), BPM, visualization of environmental information on processes and Design Science. Shahrzad has served as student representative in several academic recruitment selection committees and has been involved in shortlisting sessions and recruitment interviews. Shahrzad is also an active member of ACS professionals and is a STEM Women mentor, run by the Australoian Academy of Science.

Treasurer: Maud Ashong Elliot, University of Ghana Business School (Region 2)

Maud Adjeley Ashong Elliot is a Lecturer at the department of Information Technology Studies of the University of Professional Studies, Accra, where she teaches Systems Analysis and Design and Management Information Systems. She is an IBM trained educator in mobile and cloud development. Maud holds two Masters' degrees –and is currently pursuing a PhD in Information Systems at the University of Ghana Business School. Her research interests are in the areas of digital transformation and women in technology. Maud is an advocate for safe internet usage for both the young and the old. As a hobby, she counsels young women about their personal and career life and has been giving talks on 'Self-care for the Woman in Tech'. She is also an advocate for early introduction of programming languages to children and thus supports the teaching of Scratch programs and Python programming language.

Immediate Past Co-Chair: Dawn Owens, University of Dallas (Region 1)

At the end of June, Dawn will complete her two-year term as co-chair and will move into the role of Immediate Past Co-Chair until July 2021.



Association for IS Women's Network

News Bytes



Safa'a AbuJarour earned the AIS Doctoral Student Service Award in recognition of her volunteer contributions to the success of AIS conferences, journals, and programs. Great job Safa'a!

Anjana Susarla shared [this INFORMS podcast \(link\)](#) made by her co-author Rema Padman about their joint work to apply deep learning to filter usable and unusable healthcare information for patients with chronic disorders to find information from providers.

Safa'a AbuJarour, Haya Ajjan, Jane Fedorowicz, and Dawn Owens, all members of the AISWN, are collaborating on a timely research project related to working-from-home during COVID19. Thank you to the AISWN for providing a network for women to collaborate!

Amy J. Connolly traveled to London over Thanksgiving Break to accept the Stafford Beer Medal from the Operational Research Society for her paper "User response to mandatory IT use: a coping theory perspective," EJIS 27(4):395-414. This award recognizes the most outstanding contribution to the philosophy, theory or practice of Information Systems published in EJIS each year. Coauthors Anol Bhattacharjee, Chris Davis and Neset Hikmet regretfully could not attend. [Here is Amy accepting the award on their behalf at The Blackett Lecture event.](#)

Thank You to Advisory Board Members! Dawn and Jacqueline would like to thank members of the Advisory Board who were able to attend the meeting in Munich. We had a fruitful discussion on a range of topics. Thank you for your support of the AISWN College! The next meeting will take place in May.

Congratulations to all these outstanding women!



Association for IS Women's Network

AIS Distinguished Members

In December 2019, many women were recognized for their service to AIS. Congratulations to these women for earning the title of AIS Distinguished Member!

AIS Distinguished Member program recognizes members who have made a significant impact on the association. Qualifications for the designation include a minimum of five years of continuous AIS membership, service in a significant role in AIS or AIS-related activity, and at least one publication in an AIS or AIS-affiliated journal. The Distinguished Member - Cum Laude designation is for those who exceed the requirement by holding continuous AIS membership for at least 10 years, service in a leadership role in AIS or AIS-related activity and have been published in at least four publications in an AIS or AIS-affiliated journal.

Manju K. Ahuja, University of Louisville*‡
France Belanger, Virginia Tech*
Frada Burstein, Monash University‡
Traci A. Carte, Illinois State University*‡
Michelle Carter, The University of Alabama*
Yolande E. Chan, Queen's University*
Katherine M Chudoba, Utah State University*‡
Sherae Daniel, University of Cincinnati*‡
Amy J. Connolly, James Madison University
Lakshmi Iyer, Appalachian State University*
Atreyi Kankanhalli, National University of Singapore*‡
Claudia Loebbecke, University of Cologne*‡
Alanah Mitchell, Drake University*
Stacie Petter, Baylor University*
Rhonda A. Syler, University of Arkansas
Monideepa Tarafdar, Lancaster University Management School*‡
Virpi Kristiina Tuunainen, Aalto University School of Business*‡
Cathy Urquhart, Manchester Metropolitan University*‡

*Member Cum Laude

‡Please check if your membership is current; you're not showing up in our member list.

<https://aisnet.org/general/custom.asp?page=distinguishedmember>

Congratulations to all these outstanding women!



Association for IS Women's Network

AIS Awards Recipients

Congratulations to our members for earning the following AIS awards! AIS WN members have made a concerted effort to nominate more of our members for these awards each year, and clearly these efforts are paying off. (Thank you Gondy for energizing us to start this initiative.)

Ritu Agarwal, Leo Award

Cathy Urquhart, Fellow Award

Jane Webster, Fellow Award

Alanah Mitchell, Sandra Slaughter Service Award

Katherine Chudoba, Sandra Slaughter Service Award

Xiao Xiao, Early Career Award

Safa'a AbuJarour and Yanran Liu, Doctoral Student Service Awards

**Leona Chandra Kruse, Nadine Székely, Rina Hansen and Mary Lacity,
Publications Award**

Mary Lacity, Outreach Practice Publication Award

We can't win these awards unless we get nominated! Be thinking about who you want to nominate for an award next year.



<https://aisnet.org/page/AwardsPage>

Congratulations to all these outstanding women!



Association for IS Women's Network

AISWN College Participates in “AIS Sustainability Summit”

On December 15 in Munich, the AISWN College participated in the first-ever AIS Sustainability Summit as part of ICIS 2019. The aim of the Summit was to present details of current sustainability initiatives across the AIS' Special Interest Groups and Communities and to facilitate collaboration in implementing sustainability initiatives within AIS. The Summit was organized by SIGGreen and included presentations from SIGDSA, SIGEd, SIGGIS, SIGGlobDev and the AISWN College. Representing the College, Jacqueline Corbett (Co-chair) highlighted the mission of the AISWN College of supporting women in the field of information systems.

The presentation further emphasized that the subject of gender cannot be ignored in discussions of sustainable development because women are disproportionately affected by the impact of climate change. At the same time, women can be powerful forces for change by advocating for greater environmental responsibility in firms. Research also shows that women in leadership roles improves the implementation of green innovations. Thus, helping women ascend to higher levels of responsibility within the field and in their careers will have positive impacts on sustainability. Coming out of the Summit, the AISWN College will continue to investigate opportunities to collaborate with other AIS SIGs and communities on joint projects related to improving environmental sustainability and grand challenges. A powerful video on how vital women are to sustainable development: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-oc4GOoWOI&feature=emb_logo.

For more information or to get involved, please contact Jacqueline.Corbett@fsa.ulaval.ca.



Association for IS Women's Network

The Value of Mentoring

Stacie Petter, Ph.D.

Baylor University

The academic journey, while rewarding, is difficult. Even though each of our journeys are different, we navigate twists, turns, highs, lows, detours, and speedbumps. As we encounter achievements or adversity, there is value in sharing our experiences and learning from others along the way. This is the value of mentoring. We can learn from others' paths that may be similar to and different from our journey. Often, we look to others that are further along in their academic journey and ask for advice based on their past experiences.

I have been a grateful recipient of mentoring relationships like this, and I try to share my own lessons learned with those that are earlier in their own academic journey. Yet, there are other forms of mentoring beyond formal and informal relationships with others that have more academic experience. There is tremendous value in other types of mentoring relationships. One of my personal favorites – peer mentoring.

On television shows or in books I would read as a teenager, there were often references to “peer counselors” or “peer mentors”. Peer counselors or peer mentors were fellow students that helped other students handle academic pressures, avoid negative personal influences, or offered support to others. I was not familiar with the idea of peer mentoring in a professional sense until I attended the Grace Hopper Celebration for Women in Computing in 2013. During the conference, I attended a session that described the value of peer mentoring. During this session, the presenter told the story of Austin’s butterfly. If you aren’t familiar with the story, Austin was a first grader at an elementary school in Boise, Idaho. For a class activity, each child had to choose a species of butterfly and then draw a picture of the butterfly. Austin chose to draw a Tiger Swallowtail butterfly. Austin began by drawing his first picture of a butterfly. He continued to iterate through more drawings of the butterfly after receiving guidance on different elements to include in his drawing.

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In Figure 1, you can see the progression of Austin's butterfly until he reached his final product. Austin did not make improvements to his butterfly based on instructions from an artist, a lepidopterist (an expert in moths and butterflies), or a teacher. He received guidance from a small group of fellow first-grade students that offered advice to help Austin improve his butterfly drawing. His drawing was remarkably improved not due to expert mentors, but rather because of the lessons learned from peer mentors.

As I sat in this session, I had one of those "a-ha" moments that changed my perspective about mentorship. As I reflected on the story of Austin's butterfly, I thought about all the people that had helped me on my academic journey to complete my Ph.D. and earn tenure at my university. I thought about the more established, senior faculty members that offered me such important and useful advice throughout my journey.

Yet, most of my reflections were related to experiences learning from fellow doctoral students or early career faculty when I attended doctoral consortia or early career workshops.

I thought about my colleagues at similar ranks that were my support system when I felt like I was stumbling along my academic journey. There were things I would talk about with my peers that I would never feel comfortable discussing with those in senior positions. While mentors more established in their careers offered invaluable advice at pivotal crossroads in my journey, my peers offered day-to-day support. My peers would pick me up when I was discouraged. My peers could offer advice on dealing with local politics based on their own experiences. My peers would share in my joy during the good times in my journey. I realized there was a different level of freedom when talking with peers. This is the power of peer mentoring.

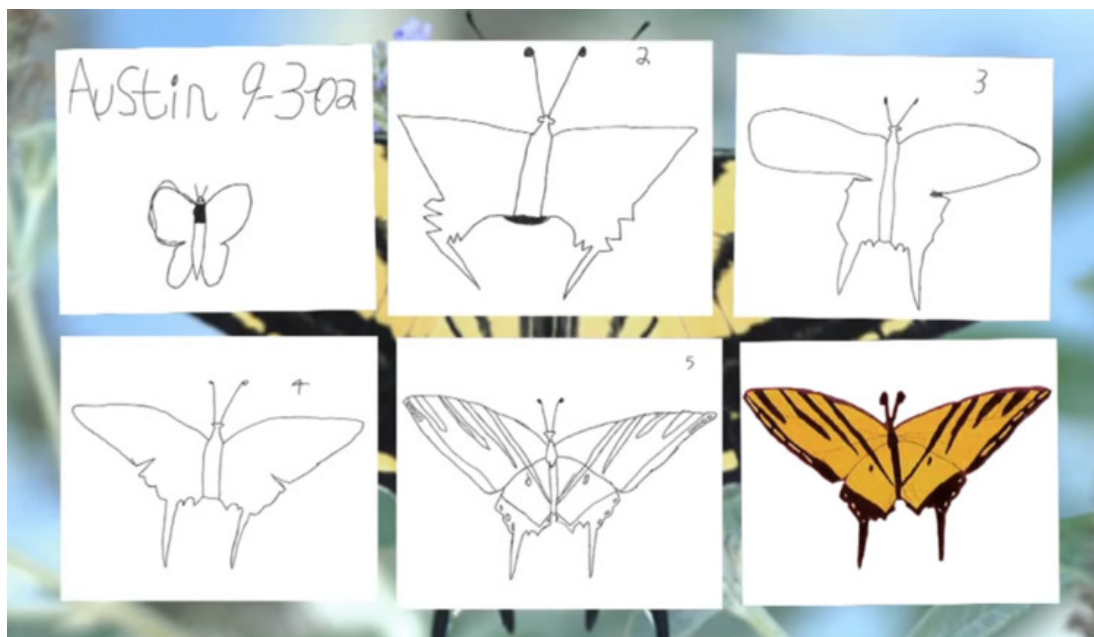


Figure 1: Austin's Butterfly (<https://modelsofexcellence.education.org/resources/austins-butterfly>)



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Before reading this article, you may have been thinking that you have nothing to contribute to others as a mentor. You may be thinking, “I’m a doctoral student that has just started my journey” or “My experiences are so different, no one else can learn from me” or “I don’t know that I have anything to offer”. I refute all of these assumptions. While much of my academic journey is unique to me, I guarantee we could find a shared experience that would allow us to relate and connect with another. Everyone has a good, bad, or ugly experience that allows us to connect, support, guide, and help one another through our academic journeys.

Don’t wait until you have reached a certain milestone to become a mentor. We all have knowledge, skills, and experience that may be useful to others during their academic journey. Sometimes, to be a mentor, we have to be vulnerable. Others can learn from your successes and those experiences that are not-as-successful. Look for opportunities to support someone on their academic journey by sharing those experiences. Being part of peer mentoring relationships is incredibly rewarding. Not only do I learn from others, but also I can help others through these interactions.

I also encourage you to reflect on those that you consider a mentor and think broadly about your mentors. The definition of mentoring is to advise or train another. You may have a person you seek out for guidance related to work/life balance. Maybe there is a “go to” person that you reach out to for research advice. You may have a trusted person that you ask sensitive or politically charged questions. As you think about your support system, you may realize that you have been relying on different types of mentoring relationships, including peer mentors, throughout your academic journey.

You may have more mentors in your network than you realize! If you are lacking the support network you need, take action to identify potential mentors. Some may be more established in the field, while others may be your peers. You can also learn from those that have not progressed as far in their academic journey. If you are wanting more mentoring relationships, think broadly about who mentors are and the role that they serve. Consider seeking out different types of mentoring relationships, such as peer mentors, to support you on your academic journey.

Stacie Petter, Ph.D. is an accomplished researcher in the field of information systems. She has served as a role model and mentor to women in the IS field and is currently finishing out her service as editor-in-chief of *The DATA BASE for Advances in Information Systems*.





Association for IS Women's Network



CALL FOR PAPERS 1st AISWN International Research Workshop on Women IS, and Grand Challenges

DECEMBER 13TH 2020

HELD IN CONJUNCTION
WITH ICIS 2020

The AIS Women's Network (AISWN) College is proud to sponsor the **1st International Research Workshop on Women IS, and Grand Challenges**. Although everyone suffers from the effects of unsustainable development, women and children are often most adversely affected. By bringing different perspectives to the discussion of grand challenges, women have the power to make a difference, but their voices are often missing in boardrooms, policy-making, and research. The aim of this workshop is to encourage research done about, for or by women that explores the relationships between information systems and a variety of grand challenges. The workshop will feature research papers and panels focusing on societal 'grand challenges' of particular interest to members of the AISWN College, including, but not limited to:

- How IS supports humanitarian and sustainable migration
- Healthcare IT, from a local level of supporting practitioners to global issues of pandemic control and management
- Promoting work-life balance, every day and during times of enforced teleworking and home schooling
- Using IS to understand and prevent hate speech and discrimination
- The role of IS in restricting and improving diversity and inclusion
- Using technologies and systems to assist the elderly and promote healthy, dignified aging
- Green IS, and the use of IS to combat climate change and other environmental threats

The workshop will be held as an all-day meeting in conjunction with ICIS 2020. Participants should plan on arriving the night before the workshop for an early start to the meeting. There will be a single track to maximize interaction and participation. The modest registration fee will cover the costs of lunch and coffee breaks during which time participants will have the opportunity to network with colleagues (details will be announced as the conference program is finalized).

Submission Type

Excluding references, tables and figures

- Completed Research Paper (<5000 words)
- Research-in-Progress Paper (<3500 words)
- Panel Proposals

Important Dates

- Submission Deadline: August 1, 2020
- Notification of Decision: September 1, 2020
- Revised Manuscript Deadline: October 1, 2020
- Registration Deadline: October 30, 2020

Questions? Email the Workshop Co-Chairs

Dr. Dawn Owens (dawn.owens@utdallas.edu)

Dr. Jacqueline Corbett

(Jacqueline.Corbett@fsa.ulaval.ca)

Submission Information

- Use the template available on the AISWN website.
- The manuscript/proposal/supporting documentation needs to be submitted as an e-mail to womensnetwork@aisnet.org
- Clearly identify the "Submission Type" in your email.
- All submissions must represent "**Original Work**" that has not been published in a journal or conference. If it is under consideration elsewhere, please disclose the fact.
- At least one author of the accepted paper and all the members of the panels must register for the event and be present. At least one author must be a member of the AISWN.
- Any review comments/suggestions must be addressed in the final version of the submission, strictly as per the deadline. Failure to do so will result into the withdrawal of the work from the final proceedings
- All final papers will be published in the form of e-proceedings available via the AIS eLibrary.



Association for IS Women's Network

Upcoming Events



**DEC
16**

Join us at ICIS for a networking lunch while we host our Annual General Meeting (AGM). We will be voting on our next co-chair and will announce the opening of a few other positions.

**JAN
10**

Cindy Riemenschneider, Gondy Leroy and Nanette Levinson are organizing a Women's Network Event at HICSS 2020. The event will be held on Thursday, January 10, 4-5.30 pm.

<https://hicss.hawaii.edu/women-networking/>



We are still planning a virtual event for AMCIS, please let us know if you are interested in coordinating.



ECIS-PACIS-AMCIS Virtual Conference Series. Register now as one package with one low fee. Cost \$50 USD for Very High Human Development Countries, otherwise free. Free to all doctoral student members.

<https://aisnet.org/news/506317/Register-Now-for-the-2020-AIS-Virtual-Conference-Series--ECIS-I-PACIS-I-AMCIS.htm>

AMCIS Virtual Conference FAQ

<https://amcis2020.aisconferences.org/about/virtual-conference-faq/>



Association for IS Women's Network

JAIS Special Issue CFP



Journal of the Association for Information Systems

Special Issue Call for Participation:

Technology and Social Inclusion: Building a dialectic on the role of technology in inclusion and exclusion from societies, organizations, economies, and academe

Deadline for submission: 15 March 2021

Guest Editors

Arlene Bailey, University of the West Indies

Michelle Carter, University of Alabama

Jason Thatcher, University of Alabama

Cathy Urquhart, Manchester Metropolitan University

Jaime Windeler, University of Cincinnati

Social inclusion—the ability to participate fully in one’s social world—presents tremendous challenges in our increasingly digital world and for the IS field. This special issue represents a rallying cry to the IS community; we call for research that theorizes about social inclusion and the critical role of information systems in enabling or preventing individuals and social groups from participating in the societies in which they are embedded.

More information and full CFP available at:

<https://aisel.aisnet.org/jais/SocialInclusionSI.pdf>



Association for IS Women's Network

Who are we?

Some fun facts about our members

228

**Active
Members**

35

**Doctoral
Students**

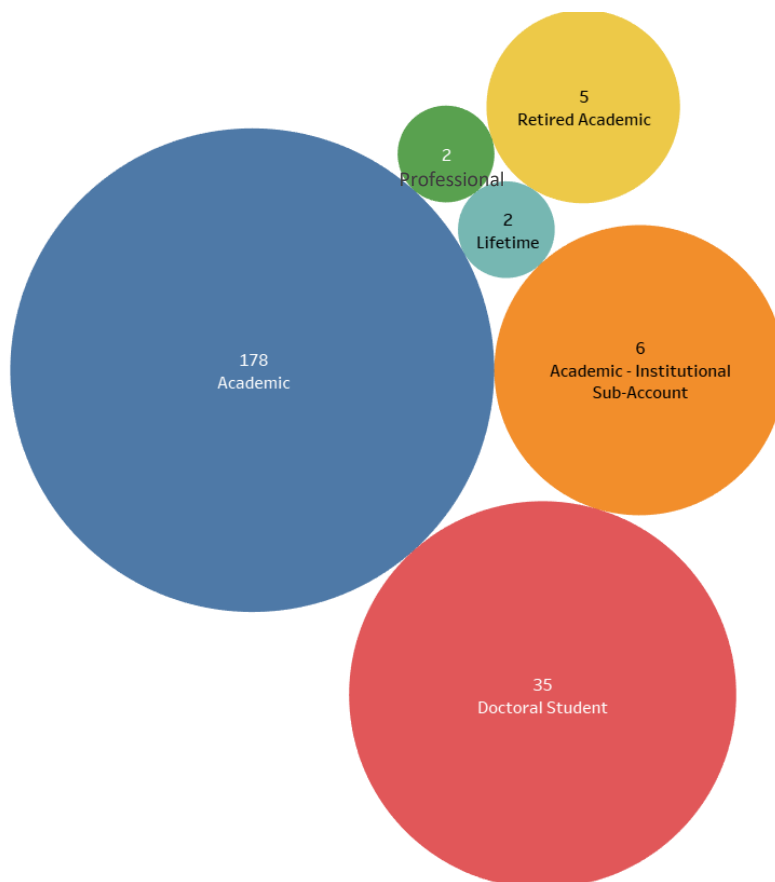
30

**Represented
Countries**

**3
Yrs.**

**Average
Membership**

Member Types



Represented Countries





Association for IS Women's Network

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Dawn Owens
Co-Chair
The University of
Texas at Dallas



Jacqueline Corbett
Co-Chair
Université Laval

Former Co-Chairs



Gondy Leroy
Co-Chair
University of
Arizona



Eleanor Loiacono
Founding Co-Chair
Worcester
Polytechnic
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Manchester
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