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***Head of the Department***

**PRESS RELEASE**

**“Γυναίκες στη Στατιστική – Women in Statistics”**

**Women in Statistics**  
*Celebrating International Women's Day, 2024*

**Featuring:  
Award-Winning  
&  
Young Achievers  
in Statistics**

**March 8, 2024**  
**12.00 - 18.00**  
**Troias Building**

**AUEB -STATS**

In a landmark celebration of **International Women's Day 2024**, the **Department of Statistics, Athens University of Economics and Business (AUEB)** hosted the prestigious “**Γυναίκες στη Στατιστική – Women in Statistics**” Event on March 8th, 2024, from 12:00 to 18:00 at the Troias Amphitheatre, located within the University's state-of-the-art facilities ([Troias 2 and Spetson](#)).

The Event showcased an impressive lineup, featuring **two (2) Keynote Speaker Oral Presentations** and **three (3) additional Oral Presentations**, alongside **two (2) Panel Discussions** that fostered a vibrant exchange of ideas and perspectives. Designed to facilitate insightful dialogue and networking, **the Gathering served as an ideal platform for both Award-Winning and Emerging Women in Statistics to share their research, experiences, and visions for the future of the discipline.**

Participants had the unique opportunity to engage in informal discussions, enriching the Event's atmosphere with a dynamic and multicultural research exchange. This gathering not only celebrated the achievements of women in the field of Statistics but also underscored the Athens University of Economics and Business's commitment to fostering diversity, inclusion, and academic excellence.

This notable gathering was inaugurated with a heartfelt welcome address by distinguished members of the AUEB community, including **Professor [Alexandra Livada](#), Vice Rector of Academic Affairs and Personnel at AUEB**, **Professor [Vassilis Vasdekis](#)**, and **Professor [Ioannis Ntzoufras](#), Head of the Department of Statistics**, setting the stage for a day of inspirational dialogue and intellectual exchange:



The Event was officially inaugurated by the esteemed [Maria Skoularidou](#), a distinguished **Research Fellow at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard**. Dr. Skoularidou captivated the audience with her **Keynote Speech**, titled **"Towards Detecting Molecular Quantitative Trait Loci Using Bayesian Hierarchical Models"**. This insightful presentation set the tone for the day's discussions, spotlighting cutting-edge statistical methodologies and their transformative potential in the realm of molecular genetics:

**Women in Statistics**  
Celebrating International Women's Day, 2024

**Keynote Speaker: Maria Skoularidou**  
*"Towards detecting molecular quantitative trait loci using Bayesian hierarchical models"*

March 8, 2024  
12.15 - 13.00  
Troias Building

2023 Winner of the Blackwell-Rosenbluth Award in Bayesian Statistics by JSSA

Postdoctoral Fellow, EWSC,  
The Broad Institute of M.I.T. & Harvard



Following the compelling introduction, the Event seamlessly progressed with [Xenia Miscouridou](#) taking the stage. As a **Lecturer in Statistics & Machine Learning at the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Cyprus** and an **Honorary Lecturer at the Department of Mathematics and the IX Centre for Artificial Intelligence at Imperial College London**, Miscouridou enriched the audience with her **Keynote Speech**, **"Inferential Machine Learning: Statistics and Machine Learning for Real-World Problems"**. Her Presentation delved

into the intricate interplay between Statistics and Machine Learning, highlighting their synergistic potential to address and solve real-world challenges, further emphasizing the Event's focus on practical, impactful research:

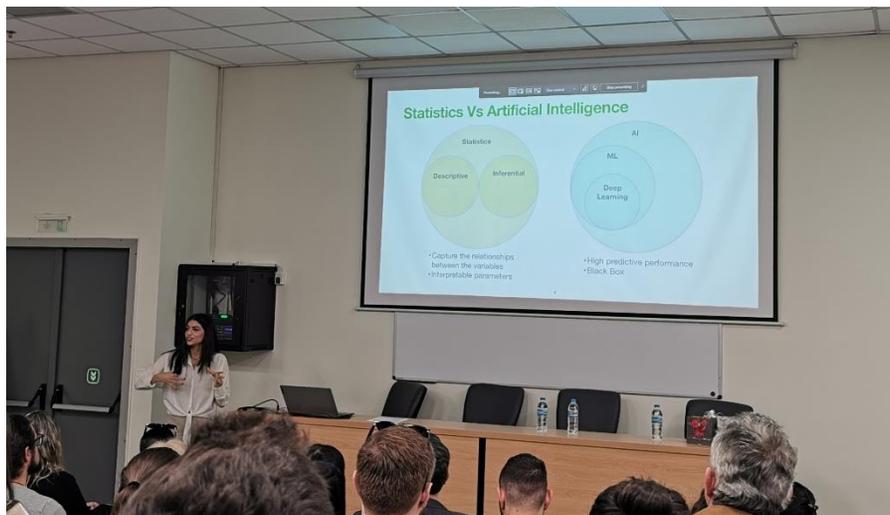
**Women in Statistics**  
Celebrating International Women's Day, 2024

**Keynote Speaker: Xenia Miscouridou**  
"Inferential Machine Learning:  
Statistics and Machine Learning for real-world problems"

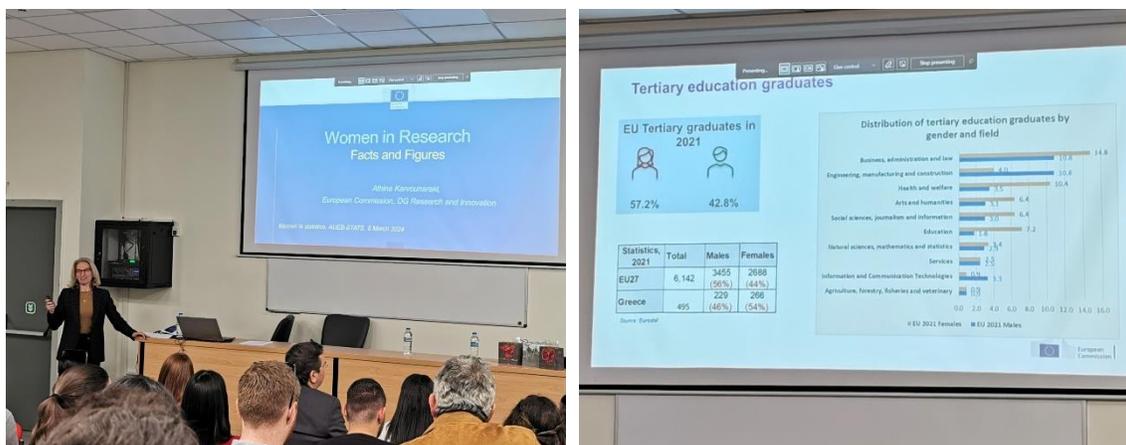
March 8, 2024  
13.00 - 13.45  
Troias Building

2023 Winner of the Blackwell-Rosenbluth Award in Bayesian Statistics by J-BSA

Lecturer in Statistics & Machine Learning,  
Department of Mathematics and Statistics,  
University of Cyprus  
Honorary Lecturer, Department of Mathematics &  
the IX Centre for Artificial Intelligence,  
Imperial College London



The momentum of the Event continued to build as we transitioned into **Session A**, which commenced with an enlightening talk by [Athina Karvounaraki](#), a distinguished **Statistical Officer at the European Commission**. Her **Presentation**, titled "**Women in Research: Facts and Figures**", offered a comprehensive analysis of the status of women in the research sector. Karvounaraki's insightful exploration into the data painted a vivid picture of the landscape for women in academia and research, shedding light on both the strides made and the challenges that remain, thereby fostering a crucial dialogue on gender equality in the scientific community:



Continuing the series of impactful Presentations, the Event welcomed [Panagiota Tzamourani](#), a Principal Economist-Statistician at the European Central Bank, who joined us via a live web connection. Tzamourani presented her Research under the title «*Η Σύνθεση και η Κατανομή του Πλούτου των Νοικοκυριών στην Ελλάδα και την Ευρωζώνη*» ("*The Composition and Distribution of Household Wealth in Greece and the Eurozone*"). Her Presentation provided a detailed examination of household wealth dynamics, offering critical insights into the economic structures and disparities within Greece and across the Eurozone. This session underscored the vital role of statistical analysis in understanding and addressing economic inequalities, further enriching the discourse of the Symposium:



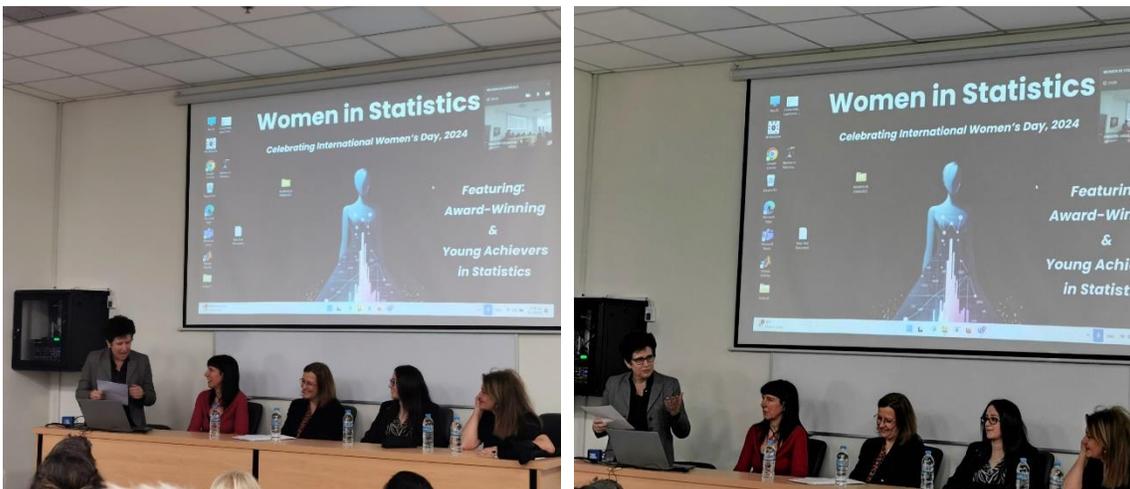
After the thought-provoking speeches, a well-timed intermission was introduced, offering all attendees a golden opportunity to engage with one another in a more relaxed setting. This brief pause in the proceedings allowed participants to mingle, fostering connections that went beyond the academic and professional. It provided a perfect moment for attendees to share insights, discuss the presentations in depth, and initiate discussions that could lead to future collaborations. This break not only facilitated the exchange of ideas but also allowed everyone to

absorb the wealth of information shared, setting the stage for the rich discussions that were to follow:



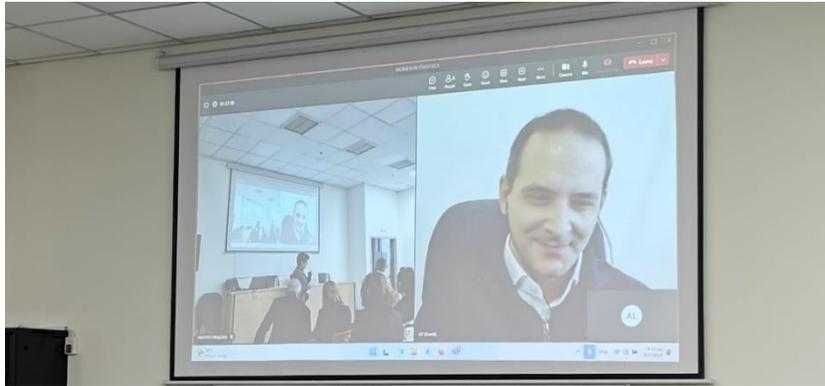
**Session B** marked a pivotal moment in the Event as it heralded the commencement of the **First Panel Discussion**, focusing on the "**Career Journey and Experiences of Women in Statistics**". Esteemed **Professor [Eirini Moustaki](#)** of the **London School of Economics** adeptly took the helm as the **Panel Moderator**, guiding a profound discussion among a panel of distinguished experts. The Panel comprised **[Claudia Tarantola](#)**, **Associate Professor at the University of Pavia**; **Anastasia Kostaki**, **former Professor at the Department of Statistics, AUEB**; **Ioulia Papageorgiou**, **Professor at the Department of Statistics, AUEB**; and **[Anna Nalpantidi](#)**, a **PhD Candidate at the Department of Statistics, AUEB**.

This diverse group of Panelists shared their rich experiences, challenges, and triumphs in the field of Statistics, offering invaluable insights into the evolving landscape for women in the profession. Their stories not only highlighted the hurdles they have overcome but also celebrated their achievements and contributions to the field of Statistics, inspiring attendees and fostering a deeper understanding of the professional paths in this dynamic and critical discipline:



Following the insightful Panel Discussion, the Event took an engaging turn as George Tsiantos, **Senior Director at Fitch Ratings London**, joined us **virtually** to share his perspective in an online speech. His **Presentation**, titled "**Πώς βλέπει ένας άνδρας τη γυναικεία παρουσία στο DS στον οικονομικό τομέα**", ("**How a Man Views Women's Presence in DS in the Financial Sector**"), provided a unique vantage point on the dynamics of gender diversity within the Data Science (DS) and economic fields.

Tsiantos offered a comprehensive analysis, drawing from his extensive experience in the financial industry, to shed light on the current status, challenges, and advancements regarding women's participation and representation in Data Science roles within the economic sector. His insights contributed significantly to the day's discourse, emphasizing the importance of inclusivity and the benefits of diverse perspectives in enriching the financial and data science landscapes. This Presentation not only broadened the scope of the discussion but also encouraged a multifaceted examination of gender dynamics in professional settings:



Culminating the series of discussions, **Panel B**, aptly titled "**Being a Statistician in the Real World**," brought the Event to a reflective and informative close. **Professor [Eirini Moustaki](#)**, demonstrating her adept moderation skills, led the Panel for the second time, facilitating a deep dive into the practicalities and nuances of statisticians' roles across various sectors.

The Panelists, each a distinguished professional in their field, included **[Ioanna Markaki](#)**, a **Statistician at ELSTAT**; **[Kyra Kotzia](#)**, a **Public Property Controller at the Ministry of Economy and Finance, Hellenic Republic**; **[Marina Polli](#)**, specializing in **Brand Management** and a **seasoned Journalist**; and **[Nymfodora-Maria Raftopoulou](#)**, a **Data Analyst and Project Manager at Aposi Group of Companies**, also serving as the person responsible for the **Digital and Public Image of the Department of Statistics, AUEB**.

This diverse lineup of speakers provided a comprehensive overview of the Statistician's role in both the public and private sectors, offering insights into the challenges and opportunities that come with applying statistical knowledge in real-world scenarios. Their discussions illuminated the vast scope of Statistics beyond academia, showcasing its pivotal role in policy-making, economic planning, brand strategy, and digital image management. The Panel not only highlighted the indispensable contributions of Statisticians to various facets of society but also inspired attendees by demonstrating the dynamic and impactful careers Statisticians can pursue:



As the “Γυναίκες στη Στατιστική – Women in Statistics” Symposium drew to a close, the camaraderie and intellectual engagement did not end with the final Presentation. In a gesture of continued fellowship, all Oral Presenters were cordially invited to a coffee gathering, where the atmosphere was charged with warmth and conviviality. This informal setting provided a perfect backdrop for capturing moments through photographs and forging memories that promise to endure through the ages. The day was marked by a profound sense of joy, a testament to the deep respect for one another’s research, the empathetic and constructive feedback shared, and the invaluable conversations that unfolded. The Event epitomized the essence of networking and left all participants with a feeling of profound satisfaction and gratitude:



For those eager to relive the Event, we invite you to visit the **Official “Women in Statistics”** website at: <https://sites.google.com/view/womeninstatistics/home>

Here, you will find detailed insights and reflections on the day's proceedings, a testament to our collective commitment to advancing the field of Statistics through inclusion, collaboration, and shared knowledge.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to every individual who contributed to making this Symposium an extraordinary milestone. Your participation and support transformed this gathering into a memorable celebration, one that we hope marks the beginning of many more inclusive Events within our University and the Department of Statistics. Truly, your efforts have laid the foundation for a tradition of celebrating diversity, inclusion, excellence, and the vibrant community of Statistics!