

## SEMINAR ANNOUNCEMENT

**Monday May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**at 11:30 am**

**Room Sala Seminari, U14**

# **The Eyes Are the Windows to the Mind: Implications for AI-Driven Personalized Interaction**

### **Speaker**

**Prof. Cristina Conati**

The University of British Columbia (CA)

### **Abstract**

Eye-tracking has been extensively used both in psychology for understanding various aspects of human cognition, as well as in human-computer interaction (HCI) for evaluation of interface design or as a form of direct input. In recent years, eye-tracking has also been investigated as a source of information for machine learning models that predict relevant user states and traits (e.g., attention, confusion, learning, perceptual abilities). These predictions can then be leveraged by AI agents to model their users and personalize the interaction accordingly. In this talk, Dr. Conati will provide an overview of the research her lab has done in this area, including detecting and modeling user cognitive skills, and affective states, with applications to user-adaptive visualizations, intelligent tutoring systems, and health.

### **Bio**

Dr. Conati is a Professor of Computer Science at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. She received an M.Sc. in Computer Science at the University of Milan, and an M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Intelligent Systems at the University of Pittsburgh. Cristina has been researching human-centered AI and AI-driven personalization for over 25 years, with contributions in the areas of Intelligent Tutoring Systems, User Modeling, Affective Computing, Information Visualization, and Explainable AI. Cristina's research has received 10 Best Paper Awards and the Test of Time Award 2022 from the Educational Data Mining Society. She is a Fellow of AAAI (Association for the Advancement of AI) and of AAIA (Asia-Pacific Artificial Intelligence Association), an ACM Distinguished Member, and co-Editor in Chief of the Journal of AI in Education. She served as President of AAAC, (Association for the Advancement of Affective Computing), as well as Program or Conference Chair for several international conferences.

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