

Monday, 19 October

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14:00–15:00 UTC 10:00 EDT · 16:00 CEST

Welcome & President's Message

CSS President and VP for Technical Activities

Opening remarks, Society updates, and strategic direction for the coming year. Introduction to the structure and highlights of CSS Days 2026.

Speakers: Carolyn Beck (CSS President) · Mario di Bernardo (VP Technical Activities) · Jonathan How (President-Elect)

15:00–16:50 UTC 11:00 EDT · 17:00 CEST

CSS Publications Showcase: Journals, Magazine & Book Series

Andrea Serrani (VP of Publications) · Giovanni Russo (Co-Chair & Senior Editor, TCNS)

An introduction to the full portfolio of CSS publications. The Editors-in-Chief of each venue present their editorial vision, hot topics, review process, upcoming special issues, and advice to prospective authors. The block closes with a moderated round-table on generative AI in publications and the review process.

Program:

- Introduction — Andrea Serrani (VP Publications)
- IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control (TAC) - Miroslav Krstic
- IEEE Control Systems Magazine (CSM) - Anuradha Annaswamy
- IEEE Transactions on Control Systems Technology (TCST) - Ilya Kolmanovsky
- IEEE Transactions on Control of Network Systems (TCNS) - Lacra Pavel
- IEEE Control Systems Letters (L-CSS) - Laura Menini
- IEEE Open Journal of Control Systems (OJ-CSYS) - Sonia Martinez
- IEEE Press Series on Control Systems Theory and Applications — Maria Domenica Di Benedetto
- Round Table: *Generative AI in Publications & Review Process*

16:50–17:00 UTC — Break

17:00–19:00 UTC 13:00 EDT · 19:00 CEST

CSS History Session: Curated Reflections on the Evolution of Control and the Society

CSS History Committee — Chair: Alberto Padoan (UBC)

Three historically grounded lectures on foundational and rapidly evolving areas of systems and control theory, each tracing its development from early motivations to the current state of the art.

Talks:

- *PID Control Beyond P, I, and D: A Century of Innovation in Process Control* - Tore Hägglund (Lund University), Margret Bauer (Hamburg University of Applied Sciences), and José Luis Guzmán Sánchez (University of Almería)
- *A Historical Perspective on Adaptive Observers and Parameter Estimation* - Romeo Ortega (ITAM, Mexico City)
- *Mean Field Games, Graphons, and Graphexons: History and Future Directions* - Peter E. Caines (McGill University)

19:00–19:15 UTC — Break

19:15–20:15 UTC 15:15 EDT · 21:15 CEST

Distinguished Lecturer Panel: The New Frontier of Intelligent Control

CSS Distinguished Lecturer Program — Moderator: Sanjay Lall (Stanford)

A panel of CSS Distinguished Lecturers on integrating physics, learning, and quantum frontiers in modern control systems. Format: lightning perspectives, moderated discussion on pre-distributed questions, and audience Q&A.

Panelists:

- Na Li
- Javad Lavaei
- Tara Javidi
- Ian Petersen

20:15–20:30 UTC — Break

20:30–21:30 UTC 16:30 EDT · 22:30 CEST

Distinguished Lecturer Panel: The Social Contract of Automation

CSS Distinguished Lecturer Program — Moderator: Sanjay Lall (Stanford)

A panel of CSS Distinguished Lecturers on trust, ethics, and human-centric control systems. Format: lightning perspectives, moderated discussion, and audience Q&A.

- Naira Hovakimyan
- Ming Cao
- Ying Tan
- Kingsley Fregene
- Emilio Frazzoli

Tuesday, 20 October

Diversity, Outreach & Students Day (DODA Day)

08:00–08:30 UTC 10:00 CEST · 15:00 JST

Introduction to DODA Day — Morning Opening

Karl H. Johansson & Silvia Mastellone (VP DODA)

Welcome and overview of DODA objectives, schedule, and community goals for participants in Europe, Africa, and Asia-Pacific.

08:30–10:00 UTC 10:30 CEST · 16:30 JST · 17:30 AEDT

Leadership Training for a Successful Academic Career — Asia-Pacific Edition

Angela Fontan & Silvia Mastellone

This interactive training event is aimed at students, young researchers, and professionals in Automatic Control Systems Science and Technology who aspire to build successful academic careers and become effective research leaders. Through expert coaching, practical exercises, and case-study discussions, participants will gain valuable insights into the leadership, communication, and networking skills needed to thrive in academia.

Participants will learn:

- How to understand and navigate group dynamics in academic settings.
- How to recruit, motivate, and lead high-performing research teams.
- How to strengthen key career-development skills, including interviewing, negotiation, networking, and academic leadership.
- How to foster collaborative and innovative research environments that support scientific excellence.

Upon successful completion of the training, participants will receive a Certificate of Attendance recognizing their participation and professional development.

Program Structure

- Introduction
- Leadership training sessions in small groups with dedicated coaches
- Short break
- Case-study presentations and plenary discussion
- Concluding remarks and key takeaways

10:00–12:00 UTC — Break

12:00–14:00 UTC 14:00 CEST · 08:00 EDT

Leadership Training for a Successful Academic Career — CEST Edition

Angela Fontan & Silvia Mastellone

This interactive training event is aimed at students, young researchers, and professionals in Automatic Control Systems Science and Technology who aspire to build successful academic careers and become effective research leaders. Through expert coaching, practical exercises, and case-study discussions, participants will gain valuable insights into the leadership, communication, and networking skills needed to thrive in academia.

Participants will learn:

- How to understand and navigate group dynamics in academic settings.
- How to recruit, motivate, and lead high-performing research teams.
- How to strengthen key career-development skills, including interviewing, negotiation, networking, and academic leadership.
- How to foster collaborative and innovative research environments that support scientific excellence.

Upon successful completion of the training, participants will receive a Certificate of Attendance recognizing their participation and professional development.

Program Structure

- Introduction
- Leadership training sessions in small groups with dedicated coaches
- Short break
- Case-study presentations and plenary discussion
- Concluding remarks and key takeaways

15:00–15:30 UTC 11:00 EDT · 08:00 PDT · 17:00 CEST

Introduction to DODA Day — Americas Opening

Karl H. Johansson & Silvia Mastellone (VP DODA)

Repeat opening for the US/Americas audience: DODA objectives and schedule recap.

15:30–16:30 UTC 11:30 EDT · 08:30 PDT · 17:30 CEST

Women in Control (WiC) Leadership Strategy

Elisa Franco and Patricia Pena (WiC Co-Chairs)

The panel will present the new structure of the Women in Control Committee, describe upcoming events and initiatives, and new strategies for engagement of the CSS community.

Panelists:

Dennice Gayme (Johns Hopkins University)

Steffi Knorn (Technische Universität Berlin)

Damiano Varagnolo (Norwegian University of Science and Technology)

Patricia Pena (WiC Co-Chair)

16:30–17:30 UTC 12:30 EDT · 09:30 PDT · 18:30 CEST

Coffee and Control Podcast with Best Student Paper Award Winners

César A. Uribe (Student Activities) and Lucy Hodgins (University of Southampton)

This will be a live-stream episode of the Coffee and Control Podcast about the recent Best Student Paper award wins at ACC26, CCTA26, and CDC25. An informal discussion about their papers, how the idea came about, and their beliefs about what makes a great paper. Attendees are invited to join the podcast at the following links:

LinkedIn event:

<https://www.linkedin.com/event/manage/7511482902476464130>

YouTube link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2S9X66_Wfzc

17:30–18:30 UTC 13:30 EDT · 12:30 CDT · 10:30 PDT · 19:30 CEST

CSS Outreach: Funds, Applications & Project Showcase (Session 1 — European Prime Time)

Philip E. Paré (Outreach Task Force Chair)

CSS outreach programmes, funding opportunities, and project showcase — session 1 of 2.

- *2026 ACC Self-Driving Car Student Competition* - Matt Hale (Georgia Institute of Technology)
- *IEEE CSS Outreach Event - PhD Summer School: Sliding Mode Towards a Changing World* - Exeter, UK - Gianmario Rinaldi (University of Exeter)

- *Bridging the Gap: A Gateway to Control Systems Engineering for Lebanese High School Students* - Naseem A. Daher (American University of Beirut)
- *Professional Development and Career Advice for Young Professionals* - Fahmida (Former NSF Program Manager)

18:30–20:00 UTC 14:30 EDT · 11:30 PDT · 20:30 CEST

NextCom: Navigating Early Career Transition to Independence: Perspectives from Industry and Academia

Anastasia Bizyaeva (NextCom Steering Committee Chair)

This panel discussion brings together professionals from academia and industry to share their experiences finding their footing after the PhD in control systems and related fields. Panelists will reflect on navigating career decisions, growing into new roles, and lessons learned along the way, offering perspectives and practical advice for the next generation of control professionals. This event is organized by NextCom, a committee dedicated to supporting students, early career researchers, and young professionals in the Control Systems Society along their way to becoming the next generation of established control systems engineers and researchers.

- Gioele Zardini (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
Gioele Zardini is an Assistant Professor at MIT, where he leads research on the design and control of complex interconnected systems. He obtained his PhD from ETH Zurich and was a postdoctoral researcher at Stanford prior to joining MIT.
- Thinh Doan (University of Texas at Austin)
Thinh T. Doan is an Assistant Professor at UT Austin and Director of the Control, Optimization, and Online Learning for Autonomy Lab. Prior to that, he was an assistant professor at Virginia Tech.
- Licio Romao (Technical University of Denmark)
Licio Romao is an Assistant Professor in DTU's Department of Wind and Energy Systems, working on control, optimization, and mathematical methods for modern power systems and electricity markets. He joined DTU in 2024 following postdoctoral appointments at Oxford and Stanford.
- Desmond Zhong (OpenAI)
Yaofeng "Desmond" Zhong is a Member of Technical Staff working in robotics at OpenAI, with a PhD from Princeton. Prior to joining OpenAI, he had research roles at Siemens and the AI start-up Breakpoint AI.

- Joakim Børllum Deleuran (Grundfos)
Joakim Børllum Deleuran is a Senior Control Specialist at Grundfos with a PhD in Control and Automation from Aalborg University. His work combines control research, software engineering, and industrial implementation, including applications in water-distribution systems.

20:00–23:00 UTC — Break

23:00–00:00 UTC 19:00 EDT · 16:00 PDT

CSS Outreach: Funds, Applications & Project Showcase (Session 2 — American Prime Time)

Philip E. Paré (Outreach Task Force Chair)

CSS outreach programmes, funding opportunities, and project showcase — session 2 of 2.

- *Inaugural African Control Systems Symposium (AFCONS)* - Mamadou Diagne (University of California, San Diego)
- *CDC 2026 Hawai'i Outreach: Control, Robotics, and Workforce Pathways* - Monique Chyba (University of Hawaii)
- *4th Annual ICON Student Research Conference* - Younggil Chang and Vittal Srinivasan (Purdue University)
- *Expanding Horizons in Systems and Control for Indonesia's Young Scientists* - Augie Widyotriatmo (Bandung Institute of Technology, Indonesia)

Wednesday, 21 October

Industry & Innovation Day + President's Forum

13:15–14:00 UTC 09:15 EDT · 15:15 CEST · 22:15 JST

Control Meets AI in Robotics and Automation: Opportunities, Pitfalls, and Reality

Chair: Yongcan Cao (University of Texas at San Antonio)

Panel discussion

- Shirantha Welikala (Stevens Institute of Technology)
- Ashwin Dani (University of Connecticut)
- Riddhi Padariya (Heirloom)
- Abhinav Sinha (University of Cincinnati)
- David Casbeer (Air Force Research Lab)
- Isaac Weintraub (Air Force Research Lab)
- Sylvia Herbert (University of California San Diego)

14:00–15:00 UTC 10:00 EDT · 16:00 CEST

Panel: What Does Your Life Look Like as a Control Engineer?

Session 1

Host: Prof. Tobi Louw (Stellenbosch University)

A panel discussion offering a candid perspective on the day-to-day work of control engineers in industry. Session 1 targets the European and African audience.

- Laurentz Olivier (Analyte)
- Bhagyesh Patil (John Deere)
- Heinz Mittermaier (Stone Three)

15:00–16:00 UTC 11:00 EDT · 17:00 CEST

President's Forum: CSS Presidents Panel

Moderator: Carolyn Beck (CSS President)

A panel discussion with former CSS Presidents on the past, present, and future of the Society.

- Tamer Başar
- Bob Bitmead
- Tariq Samad
- Jay Farrell

16:00–17:00 UTC 12:00 EDT · 18:00 CEST

Distinguished Industry Lecture

Host: Pratik Vernekar (General Motors)

A distinguished lecture by an industry leader in control systems.

Speaker: Kingsley Fregene (Lockheed Martin)

17:00–18:00 UTC 13:00 EDT · 19:00 CEST

Industrial Success Story: Advanced Process Control Case Study

Host: Alf Isaksson (ABB)

A single-speaker case study on the application of Advanced Process Control (APC) in industry.

Speaker: Dani Montelpare (Elk Valley Resources - Glencore)

18:00–19:00 UTC 14:00 EDT · 20:00 CEST

Panel: What Does Your Life Look Like as a Control Engineer?

Session 2

Host: Pratik Vernekar (General Motors)

A panel discussion offering a candid perspective on the day-to-day work of control engineers in industry. Session 2 targets the Americas audience.

- Kim D Listmann (atg Mycronic GmbH)
- Ana Cristina Lima Gomes (dm-firmenich Animal Nutrition & Health)
- Chinmaya Patil (General Motors)
- Shobhit Gupta (General Motors R&D)

19:00–21:00 UTC 15:00 EDT · 21:00 CEST

TC on System Identification and Adaptive Control (SIAC) Session

Co-Chairs: Dario Piga (IDSIA USI-SUPSI) & Valentina Breschi (TU Eindhoven)

Six invited talks and two panel discussions on system identification and adaptive control, spanning learning-based, safety-aware, and industry-facing perspectives.

Invited speakers:

- 19:00-19:15 UTC: *From Physics to Machine Learning and Back: Applications to Engineered Systems* - Olga Fink (EPFL)
- 19:15-19:30 UTC: *Thermal Effects and Compensation in EDM Machines* - Renato Rota (Agie Charmilles SA, Losone, Switzerland)
- 19:30-19:45 UTC: *Advancements in the Crazyflie as a Testbed for Drone Control Research* - Stefan Thorstenson (Bitcraze)
- 19:45-20:00 UTC: Panel Discussion
- 20:00-20:15 UTC: *Learning Neural Differential Algebraic Equations via Operator Splitting* - Prof. Jan Drgona (Johns Hopkins University)
- 20:15-20:30 UTC: *Robustness 2.0* - Prof. Alessio Benavoli (Trinity College Dublin)
- 20:30-20:45 UTC: *Backpropagation as a Tool for Physics-Based System Identification* - Prof. Constantino Manuel Lagoa (Penn State)
- 20:45-21:00 UTC: Panel Discussion

Thursday, 22 October

Chapters Day

14:00–15:30 UTC 10:00 EDT · 16:00 CEST

Italy Chapter: Meet the Awardees

Italy Chapter: Alessandro Rizzo, Mauro Franceschelli, Raffaele Carli, Martina Mammarella

Showcase of recent IEEE CSS award recipients from the Italy Chapter community. Presentations and Q&A.

Invited Speakers:

- *A unifying system theory framework for distributed optimization and games* - Guido Carnevale (Università di Bologna, Italy)
- *Robust Online Learning Over Networks* - Diego Deplano (Università di Cagliari, Italy)
- *Leader–Follower Density Control of Spatial Dynamics in Large-Scale Multiagent Systems* - Gian Carlo Maffettone (Scuola Superiore Meridionale, Napoli, Italy)

15:30–17:00 UTC — Break

17:00–18:30 UTC 13:00 EDT · 19:00 CEST · 12:00 ECT

Control Systems Student Design Challenge — Final Live Session

Ecuador Chapter Vice-Chair (CSS & IES): Ph.D. Ismael Minchala (Universidad de Cuenca)

Live final of the Control Systems Student Design Challenge. Three finalist teams present their designs to a panel of judges, followed by Q&A and awards. The challenge problem is released 1–2 days prior to the finals.

Format: 10' intro & judging criteria · 45' finalist presentations (3 × 15') · 20' Q&A and panel · 10' winner announcement & awards

Finalist Teams and Members

Team 1: Descontroladores - Henry David Maldonado Tuza (Team Leader) (Universidad de Cuenca)

Jean Carlo Aucapiña Lozada (Universidad de Cuenca)

Luis Antonio Andrade Matute (Universidad de Cuenca)

Finalist Teams and Members

Team 2: CueMbato - Augusto Orlando Rodas Vélez (Team Leader)
(Universidad de Cuenca)
Diego Armando Cáceres Lamar (Universidad de Cuenca)

Finalist Teams and Members

Team 3: PIDcitos - Emmanuel Gerardo Rivas Pincay (Team Leader)
(ESPOL)
Iván Andre Cabrera García (ESPOL)
Milena Dayanna Rodríguez Astudillo (ESPOL)

Judges and Speaker

Ismael Minchala, Ph.D. (Universidad de Cuenca) - Session Chair and Speaker

Jackeline Llanos Proaño, Ph.D. (Universidad de las Fuerzas Armadas (ESPE))

18:30–23:00 UTC — Break

23:00 UTC (Thu) – 01:00 UTC (Fri) 16:00–18:00 PDT · 19:00–21:00 EDT **BC Chapter — Vancouver: UBC Graduate Students Present Their Research**

BC Chapter Chair: Dejan Kihás

Student-led research presentations by graduate students from British Columbia universities on topics of their choice, followed by Q&A. Certificates of participation will be given to all presenters.

Invited Speakers:

- *Toward Intelligent Control of Metal Additive Manufacturing* - Kezi Li (Control Engineering Laboratory and Advanced Manufacturing Processes Laboratory, Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of British Columbia)
- *Image-Driven Control with Application to Thermoforming* - Junyong Shim (School of Engineering, University of British Columbia, Okanagan)
- *Robust Direct Data-Driven Hamiltonian for Safe Set Computation under Measurement Noise and Disturbances* - Mohammad Bajelani (Data-driven modeling & learning control group, The University of British Columbia, School of Engineering, Okanagan)

- *Advancing Security in Large--scale Systems under False--data--injection Cyberattacks* - Dr. Hanieh Tabatabaei (Okanagan Laboratory for Control Systems Research, University of British Columbia (Okanagan))
- *Shaping Energy Exchange with Gyroscopic Interconnections: a geometric approach* - Dr. Jasper Juchem (Artificial Intelligence in Robotics & Engineering (AIRE), Electrical & Computer Engineering, University of British Columbia)

Friday, 23 October

Technical Committees Day

09:30–10:50 UTC 05:30 EDT · 11:30 CEST · 18:30 JST

Network Systems TC Session

Chair: Emiliano Dall'Anese (Boston University)

A cross-cutting session on the state of the art in network systems, from dynamical flow networks to optimization and information theory.

Invited speakers:

- *Network Systems and Dynamical Flow Networks* - Gustav Nilsson (Inria Grenoble)
- *Network Systems and Optimization* - Sergio Grammatico (TU Delft)
- *Network Systems and Information Theory* - Oron Sabag (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
- *Contracting Dynamics for Time-Varying Convex Optimization: From Centralized to Decentralized Cases* - Sasha Davydov (Rice University)

10:50–12:00 UTC — Break

12:00–13:30 UTC 08:00 EDT · 14:00 CEST · 21:00 JST

Quantum Computing, Systems & Control TC Session

Chairs: Julian Berberich & Daoyi Dong

Overview of the TC's activities and three invited talks on quantum systems and control.

Invited Speakers:

- *Geometric quantum control* - Domenico D'Alessandro (Iowa State University, USA)
- *Robustness of quantum algorithms* - Julian Berberich (University of Stuttgart, Germany)
- *Ultra-high-precision quantum sensing via non-Hermitian effects, control, and optimization* - Bo Qi (Chinese Academy of Science, China)

13:30–14:00 UTC — Changeover

14:00–16:00 UTC 10:00 EDT · 16:00 CEST

Safe and Sound: Robust Data-Driven Cyber-Physical Systems

Joint session — Hybrid Systems TC & Robust and Complex Systems TC |

Chairs: Jun Liu, Sze Zheng Yong, Necmiye Ozay

A joint session on robust, data-driven approaches to safe operation of cyber-physical systems.

Invited Speakers:

- *From Spatio-Temporal Specifications to Robust Robot Behavior* - Jana Tumova (KTH Royal Institute of Technology)
- *Abstractions for Scalable Verification of AI-enabled Cyber-Physical Systems* - Pavithra Prabhakar (The University of New Mexico)
- *Certifiable AI Control* - Murat Arcak (University of California, Berkeley)
- *Formal Methods for Control and the Role of Specifications* - Necmiye Ozay (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)

16:00–16:15 UTC — Break

16:15–17:45 UTC 12:15 EDT · 18:15 CEST

Transdisciplinary Challenges and Opportunities in Interconnected Cyber-Socio-Technical Systems

Joint session — TCs on Automotive Control, Energy Systems & Smart Cities |

Coordinator: Mauro Salazar (TU Eindhoven)

Three 30-minute slots (talk + Q&A) offering a transdisciplinary perspective on interconnected cyber-socio-technical systems at the intersection of energy, mobility, and urban life.

Invited speakers:

- 16:15 UTC — TC Energy Systems: *Control of distributed energy resources.* - Johanna Mathieu (University of Michigan)
- 16:45 UTC — TC Smart Cities: *A Smart City Puts Walking First: The Necessity of History to Better Urban Futures.* - Peter Norton (University of Virginia, Department of History)
- 17:15 UTC — TC Automotive Control: *Reasoning Models for Physical AI.* - Marco Pavone (Stanford & NVIDIA Autonomous Driving)

17:45–17:55 UTC — Break

17:55–19:15 UTC 13:55 EDT · 19:55 CEST

Where Is the Healthcare & Medical Systems TC Heading?

Chair: Sérgio Pequito (Instituto Superior Técnico, Lisboa) | Vice-Chair: Emily Pereira (Texas Tech)

Two keynote presentations followed by a moderated round-table on the future directions of control in healthcare and medical systems.

Long-Term Effects of Physical Activity on Blood Glucose Regulation: A Model to Unravel Diabetes Progression

Invited Speaker: Pierluigi De Paola (2024 Awardee)

Automatic Feedback Control for Resource-Aware Characterisation of Genetic Circuits

Invited Speaker: Kirill Sechkar (2026 Awardee)

Round-Table focused on the future prospects of Healthcare and Medical Systems Participants

Panelists

- Juergen Hahn (RPI)
- Emily Pereira (TTU)
- Clara Mihaela Ionescu (UGent)
- Alessandro Borri (National Research Council of Italy)

19:15–19:30 UTC — Break

19:30–21:00 UTC 15:30 EDT · 21:30 CEST

Aerospace Controls TC Session

Co-Chair: Andrea L'Afflitto (Virginia Tech)

Overview of the TC's activities and invited talks on current aerospace control challenges.

Speakers:

- *Safe Multi-Agent Planning and Control Under Uncertainty for Aerospace Autonomy* - Professor Jonathan How (MIT)
- Dr. Kevin Wise (The BOEING corporation)
- *Aerospace Autonomy in the Era of AI* - Professor Dimitra Panagou (University of Michigan at Ann Arbor)
- *Enabling Sustainable Aviation Through Advanced Data Analytics and AI* - Dr. Gokhan Inalhan (The Sloane Institute)

21:00–21:15 UTC — Break

21:15–22:45 UTC 17:15 EDT · 23:15 CEST

Introduction to Quantum Computing in Process Control

TC Process Control Chair: Helen Durand (Wayne State University)

This workshop will teach users about quantum computing and algorithms basics and accessing a quantum computer. We will discuss our recent work investigating closed-loop stability implications of quantum computing in control loops.