ANNUAL REPORT

2018/2019

WOMEN IN DATA SCIENCE
ZURICH

EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

"There is a diversity crisis in the AI sector across gender and race"[1], wrote the AI Now Institute in New York in April 2019. In our times, there is a lot of discussion about gender differences. Organizing a conference with only female speakers is therefore a great privilege, but it also comes with a certain responsibility. What is the best way to promote women and at the same time demand equal treatment for all?

It is critical to support specifically female career-starters and to show women fellow role models. We have therefore filled our programme with experienced women who are technically very strong and who can also pass on their expertise. To distinguish ourselves from a normal technical conference not only by the female speakers, we have made full use of the spectrum of the data science field.

From business applications to theoretical questions on machine learning, we heard exciting talks and diligently discussed them.

Our whole team agrees that the ultimate goal of the conference is to promote diversity in the field of data science. Therefore, we are particularly proud of the different nations, disciplines, genders and ages that came together and exchanged ideas at the WiDS Conference 2019.

On behalf of the Women in Data Science Zürich Association I would like to thank all supporters, partners and participants.

Leonie Hodel
Treasurer and President in Action of the Women in Data Science Zürich Association

THE CONFERENCE

This year's WiDS Zurich Conference was **two-day** long and filled with excellent talks, mentorship and break-out sessions, an art exhibition and very interested participants. Like the first edition, it was held at the **Swiss Re Centre for Global Dialogue** in Rüschlikon.

220 participants from **35 different countries** attended the conference. 30% of the attendees were students from over **25 different academic institutions**. Due to the great support of our partners we were able to hand out travel grants from **37 different cities all over Europe**, and three from overseas.
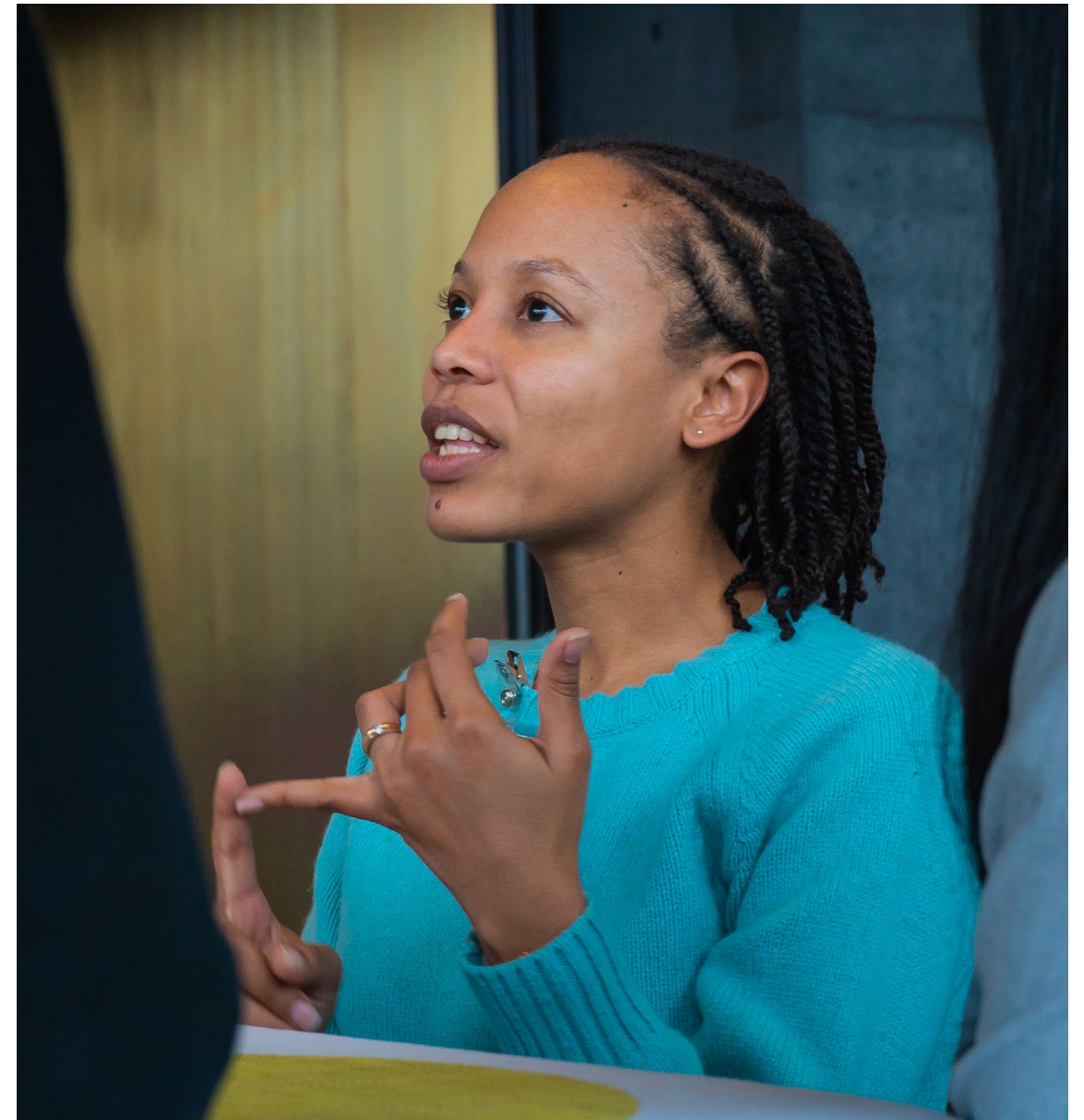
THE CONFERENCE

PROGRAM
6 Keynotes
16 Lightning Talks
15 Mentors
8 Break-Out Sessions

SIDE-EVENTS
Boeringer Ingelheim Apéro
Google Apéro
Zürich Tourism City Tour

AWARDS AND TRAVEL GRANTS
49 W Travel Grants
1 W Founder Award
2 Social Media Awards

CHILD CARE SERVICE

ATTENDEES

100%
of the attendees would recommend
the conference to others

>80%
of the attendees indicate the conference
has been helpful
for personal development

10
of the speakers were so impressed
with the conference that they want to join
the organising team.
Many participants have also expressed
the same enthusiasm.

MEDIA COVERAGE

Three international blog posts (here, here and here) reported about the conference:

We collaborated with **64 promotional partners** (universities, meetUp groups, companies and mailing lists from organisations) to bring the conference to the public.

Three **association newsletters** in Switzerland and two association newsletters in Europe have recommended the conference to their subscribers.

PRESENCE IN THE WEB

wids.ch
This year the website was generously extended and filled with new content. It will be updated with new blog posts throughout the next year.

#widszürich2019
It was possible to follow the conference online due to the Twitter and Instagram feeds.

WiDS Switzerland YouTube Channel
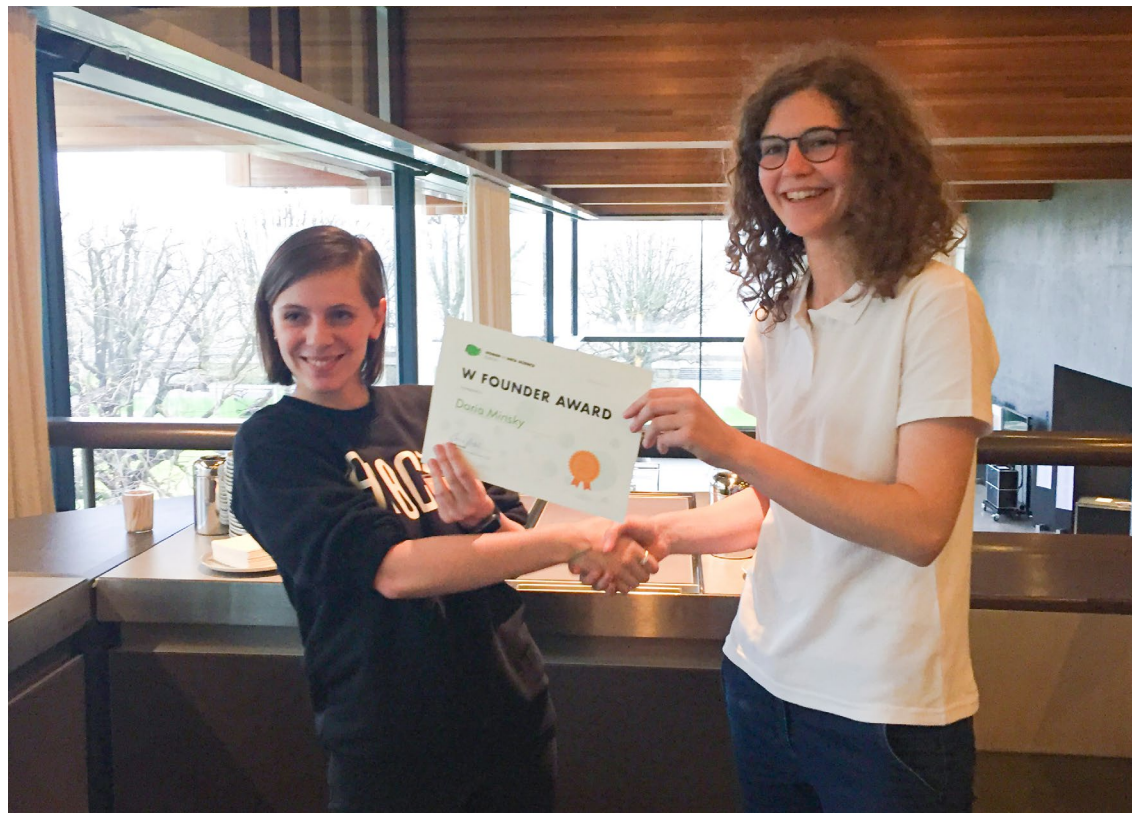A summary clip of the conference and the majority of the **talks** are available on our YouTube channel.

AWARDS

THE W FOUNDER AWARD

... was given to **Daria Minsky** for her outstanding work as the CEO of **exponenta.io**. She received a prize of 2,000 CHF and 20,000 Google Cloud Credits.

THE SOCIAL MEDIA AWARDS

The Best Group Picture Award and the Best Selfie Award were given to **Frederik Riedel** and **Dylaria Baymurzina** respectively, for their contribution posted on social media.They both received a voucher of 100 CHF.

IT'S A MACHINES WORLD

Presented during the conference and open to the public for the successive month, an art exhibition on the forefront of the AI art domain, illustrated the works of eight female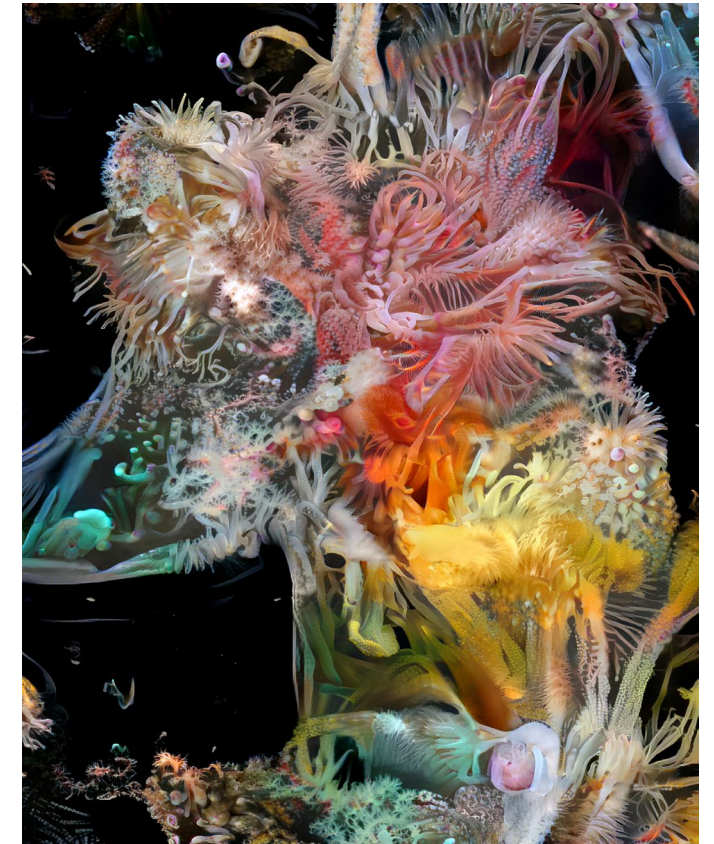 artists. These women presented their world visions, interpretations and expressions as shaped by the machine. The exhibition was curated by **Luba Elliott**, who gave a talk about this exciting new movement in the art world.

Joanne Hastie. *Traffic Lights, Confidence*
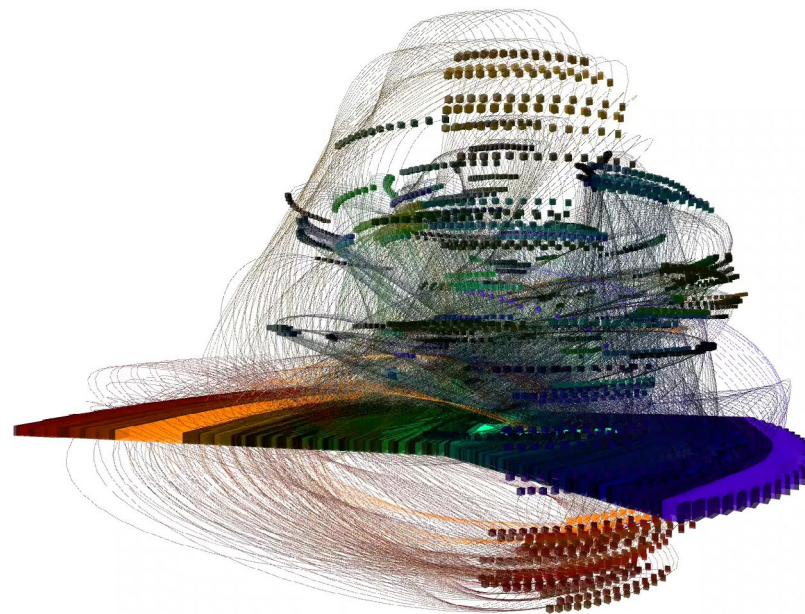
Sey Min. *What if machines can see music*

Sofia Crespo. *Neural Zoo*

FINANCES (PRELIMINARY)

	2018	2019
Total Revenue	CHF 47,927	CHF 126,680
Sponsorships	46,189	116,357
Registrations	1,738	10,543
Savings	—	13,989

	2018	2019
Total Expenditures	CHF 33,937	CHF 114,545
Venue	8,819	49,727
Travel Grants	16,400	19,561
Speakers	1,730	9,114
Promotion	3,892	960
Visual Communication	5,561	9,986
Admin/Internal	296	5,514
Art Exhibition	—	10,979
Child Care	—	3,564
W Founder Award	—	2,000

"We really need a more human-centered approach in data science."

Andrea Hossmann,
Keynote Speaker

"I was inspired by the professionalism and the diversity of the attendees. Bravo!"

Tina Rosario, Keynote Speaker

"Being here,
I am really happy
and surprised
that the data science
community is actually
very broad."

Andrea Corsini,
Travel Grant Recipient

THE ORGANIZING TEAM

The Board
Leonie Hodel
Rosa Visscher
Aleksandra Gebicka
Promo Commission
Akhila Ananth
Sponsoring Commission
Francesca Vitalini
Larissa Laich
Idil Kanpolat
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Speakers Commission
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OUR PARTNERS

THANK YOU!