

Women in Computer Science Visibility, Networking, and Empowerment at Kiel University

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Introduction

Despite the increasing importance of computer science in nearly all areas of society, women remain significantly under-represented in the field. Female students are not only less likely to choose computer science as a field of study, but those who do, often face a higher dropout rate compared to their male peers. This gender gap starts already in schools, persists throughout academia and into professional careers, underscoring the urgent need for targeted support, inclusive spaces, and visible role models. At the same time, numerous studies have shown that diverse teams – including gender-diverse ones — are more innovative, effective, and better at problem-solving.

Situation at Kiel University

- minority of enrolled students are females
- amongst them a majority in Business Informatics and studies for higher education
 - ➔ discouragement starts in schools, lack of role models
- high drop-out rate including changes of the subject

Goals of the ACM-W Kiel chapter

- ★ increase visibility
- ★ foster community amongst female students
- ★ empower women in STEM

Events at Kiel University

Women's Talk Marathon - ACM Celebration of Women in Computing every 8th March

- a whole day of exciting talks from female students, researchers and employees of Kiel University
- international, interdisciplinary exchange of personal and research related experiences



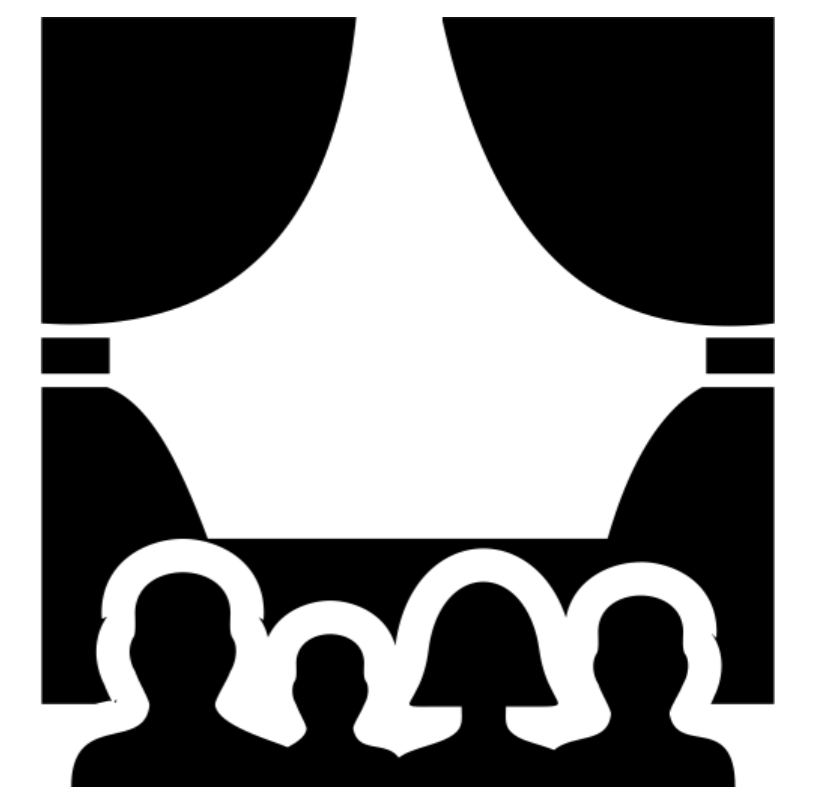
Women's Café



- biweekly support, networking and save space for females at the department of computer science
- open for male participants every quarter

Movie Events

- strengthening visibility of strong women in history
- documentaries or movies of women in the STEM field



International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women



- auction in the department of computer science with donated items
- returns completely donated to the local women's shelter

Workshops for Women

- training in a save space amongst other women
- body language and quick-wittedness in daily life and work situations



Girls Code @ CAU Kiel



- enhancing female pupil to recognise their talent in computer science
- getting in touch with programming outside of school

Connecting and enhancing Women in STEM amongst various career stages and increasing their visibility!

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References

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12th ACM Celebration of Women in Computing: womENCourage™
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Theme: Computer Science: a Catalyst for Educational Change

