‘Birds of a Feather’ Session

Preparing Students for Software Engineering Research

Session Moderator
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1. Description

Discussions of software engineering education tend to focus on the needs of industry and the preparation of graduates for professional careers. This is understandable, and may even be appropriate, but what about those who hope to go on to do research in software engineering - how well are we catering for them?

This session will facilitate the exchange of ideas on preparing students for software engineering research. Is there a need for a different emphasis on certain aspects of the core software engineering curriculum, and on the choice of contextual topics, from mathematics to economics? How necessary is professional experience as a precursor to research?

Software engineering involves a broad spectrum of topics, and it may be that the underpinnings required for research in some of these can only be acquired at a postgraduate level, or post experience. Where do the boundaries lie between what should be provided at undergraduate or postgraduate levels or through industrial experience? How can we ensure that the research is relevant and helps improve industry practice?

2. Biography

Dr. Ita Richardson is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems and a Project Leader on project GSD for SMEs within Lero – the Irish Software Engineering Research Centre, at the University of Limerick. Her research work focuses on Software Process Improvement and Global Software Development, particularly in Small Software Development Companies. Dr. Richardson supervises full-time and part-time PhD and MSc students.