

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

# PERSPECTIVES ON INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS

June 20, 2026 • Hosted by University of Vlora "Ismail Qemali", Vlorë, Albania

Organized by AlbaNovus

09:00 – 09:15 — WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

**Aurela Saliaj**

Professor and Rector, University of Vlora "Ismail Qemali"

**Artur Elezi**

Director, AlbaNovus • Associate Professor, American University

SESSION 1

09:15 – 09:50

KEYNOTE

**Mirjeta Pasha**

Assistant Professor of Mathematics, Virginia Tech, USA

09:55 – 10:15

**Michael Robinson**

Chair, Mathematics & Statistics Department, American University, USA

10:20 – 10:40

● ZOOM

**Edlira Kalemi Vakaj**

Associate Professor of Neuro-Symbolic AI, Birmingham City University, UK

10:40 – 11:10 — COFFEE BREAK & NETWORKING

SESSION 2

11:10 – 11:45

● ZOOM

KEYNOTE

**Fatos Xhafa**

Full Professor, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain

11:50 – 12:10

**Elinda Kajo Meçe**

Full Professor & Dean, Polytechnic University of Tirana, Albania

12:15 – 12:35

**Ogerta Elezaj**

Associate Professor, Birmingham City University, UK

12:35 – 14:00 — LUNCH BREAK

14:00 – 15:30 — DISTINGUISHED PANEL DISCUSSION

*“Intelligent Systems — Research, Policy  
and the Road Ahead”*

Moderated by Artur Elezi, Director, AlbaNovus

**Amarda Shehu**

● ZOOM

VP & Chief AI Officer; Professor of Computer Science,  
George Mason University, USA

**Zois Boukouvalas**

Director of Data Science and AI Graduate Programs,  
American University, Washington DC, USA

**Alda Kika**

Head of Computer Science Dept., University of Tirana;  
Member, AI Section, Academy of Sciences of Albania

**Richard Ressler**

Hurst Senior Professorial Lecturer & Assoc. Director,  
Data Science Programs, American University, Washington DC, USA

15:30 – 15:45 — CLOSING REMARKS

ABOUT ALBANOVUS

The AlbaNovus Center for Mathematics and Intelligent Systems advances education, research, and public understanding at the intersection of mathematics, artificial intelligence, data science, and intelligent systems — promoting academic excellence and international collaboration.

*Use. Understand. Build.*

VENUE & INFORMATION

Conference Room "Ali Asllani", University of Vlora "Ismail Qemali"

Language: English • Remote participation available

email: [contact@albanovus.com](mailto:contact@albanovus.com) for link