

**Technology and Society Forum**  
**Panel Discussion: Big Data Analytics: Current and Future Trends**  
April 12, 2017; 2.30 PM – 4.00 PM  
Ballroom A, Campus Center

**Brief Description:** The amount of data in many scientific and societal applications that the government and institutions are collecting are staggering, requiring special techniques to handle them. Experts in the field of Big Data will share their thoughts on how to manage these data, and how to allocate them to maximize the benefit to society. The panel will discuss challenges in big data analytics, and future trends and expectations on continuously increasing the amount of data and our limitations in dealing with it. "Have we reached the limit of too much data and information?"

**Panel Speakers:**

Terry Christiani, Product Marketing Manager, [Microsoft](#)  
Kathy Meier-Hellstern, Assistant Vice President, AT&T Advanced Technology Platforms and Architecture

**Bio-Sketch: Terry Christiani** is a 10 year veteran in the data analytics technology industry. Starting with the S language at Insightful (now Tibco), Terry built and delivered critical communications plans to educate and drive awareness of the S language in the financial and pharmaceutical sectors worldwide. Subsequently working with the now dominant R language and the rise of big data stores both on premises and in the cloud, she helped drive the growth of Revolution Analytics towards its acquisition by Microsoft. Her role at Microsoft is to oversee outreach to the data science community and create a larger association of individuals and groups dedicated to furthering the use of data analytics across industries with open source tools and platforms. Her programs support users of R, Python, Hadoop, and Spark to build scalable and flexible frameworks for the management and use of data to improve business outcomes.

**Kathy Meier-Hellstern** is an Assistant Vice President in the AT&T Labs Research organization where she leads the Optimization, Reliability and Customer Analytics Department (ORCA). Kathy joined AT&T Bell Laboratories in 1984, where she served as a performance, reliability and scalability consultant to organizations within AT&T for a variety of telephone, mobile, security and IP services. From 2005-2012, Kathy worked in AT&T Government Solutions, operating a large private network and defining new technologies and services for the network. She returned to AT&T Labs in 2012 in her current capacity. Kathy is responsible for the design and development of AT&T's Next Generation Network Cloud with focus on optimization, performance and reliability and network and customer analytics. Her team designs and implements the optimization algorithms for AT&T's SDN network, and quantifies the performance and reliability for virtualized platforms and services. The team is responsible for developing machine learning and data-powered analytics for several aspects of AT&T's SDN network, including security analytics that detect and mitigate threats to AT&T's Network Infrastructure,

optimization and machine learning algorithms for network event and fault detection, and analytics that identify revenue improvement opportunities for AT&T's Enterprise customers. Kathy received her Ph.D. in Operations Research from the University of Delaware in 1984 with a research focus in Applied Probability and Queueing Theory. Prior to obtaining her Ph.D., she spent a year at the University of Stuttgart and at Technion. In 1991, she was a visiting researcher at Rutgers University Wireless Information Network Lab. Kathy is the author of numerous publications and patents in the area of applied probability.

**Agenda**  
**NJIT Technology and Society Forum**  
**Big Data Analytics**

April 102 2017  
Ballroom A, Campus Center

- 2.30 PM – 2.40 PM: Welcome and Introductions  
Atam Dhawan, Vice Provost for Research  
NJIT Center on Big Data  
Chase Wu, Co-Director, Center for Big Data  
Yi Chen, Co-Director, Center for Big Data
- 2.40 PM – 3.10 PM: Terry Christiani, Product Marketing Manager, Microsoft
- 3.10 PM – 3.40 PM: Kathy Meier-Hellstern, Assistant Vice President, AT&T Advanced  
Technology Platforms and Architecture
- 3.40 PM – 4.00 PM: Panel Discussion

*This is a public forum that qualifies attendees for Professional Development Hours.  
NJIT welcomes attendees from all area colleges and universities.  
Co-sponsors: Albert Dorman Honors College, Sigma Xi – NJIT Chapter, and Microsoft  
For more information: Visit <http://tsf.njit.edu> or contact Professor Michel Boufadel,  
[boufadel@njit.edu](mailto:boufadel@njit.edu)*