

Speaker:

Prof. Dr. Georg Gottlob
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Title:

My adventures with Datalog: Walking the thin line between theory and practice

Abstract:

I have worked on various subjects, but ever since my years as PostDoc, I have been fascinated by Datalog, a logical programming language for reasoning and database querying. I will start this talk with a short introduction to Datalog, followed by an overview of some theoretical results on Datalog variants. This will be interleaved with a tale of four Datalog-related companies I co-founded: DLVSystem, Lixto, Wrapidity, and DeepReason.ai. I will also comment on the difficulties an academic has to face when spinning out a start-up, and on the satisfaction you may experience when your results are used in practice.

Short Bio:

Georg Gottlob is a Royal Society Research Professor and a Professor of Informatics at Oxford University and at TU Wien. At Oxford he is a Fellow of St John's College. His interests include knowledge representation, logic and complexity, and database and Web querying. He has received various awards, among which the Wittgenstein Award (Austria) and the Ada Lovelace Medal (UK). He is a Fellow of the Royal Society, of the Austrian and German National Academies of Science, and of the Academia Europaea. He was a founder of Lixto, a company specialised in semi-automatic web data extraction which was acquired by McKinsey in 2013. Gottlob was awarded an ERC Advanced Investigator's Grant for the project "DIADEM: Domain-centric Intelligent Automated Data Extraction Methodology". Based on the results of this project, he co-founded Wrapidity Ltd, a company that specialised in fully automated web data extraction, which was acquired in 2016 by Meltwater. He is also a founder of two other (currently active) companies: DLVSYSTEM and DeepReason.AI.