

# Charikleia (Chara) Podimata

Assistant Professor of OR/Stat at MIT Sloan School of Management

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<b>RESEARCH INTERESTS</b>	trustworthy & incentive-aware ML, decision making under uncertainty, AI policy-making, online learning, topics at the interface of CS, Economics & ML	
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>Assistant Professor</b> OR/Stat, MIT Sloan <b>Lead Researcher</b> , Archimedes/Athena RC <b>Postdoctoral Fellow</b> , UC Berkeley, CA	Jun. 2023 - present Jun. 2023 - present Aug. 2022 - Jul. 2023
<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>Harvard University</b> , Cambridge, MA Ph.D in Computer Science <i>Dissertation</i> : “Incentive-Aware Machine Learning for Decision Making” <i>Advisor</i> : Yiling Chen  <b>National Technical University of Athens</b> , Greece Diploma in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (5-year joint degree) <i>GPA</i> : 9.47/10 <i>Thesis</i> : “Approximations of Liquid Welfare for Combinatorial Auctions” <i>Advisor</i> : Dimitris Fotakis	Aug. 2016 - Nov. 2022  Sept. 2010 - Jan. 2016
<b>SELECTED HONORS &amp; AWARDS</b>	<b>Amazon Research Award</b> <b>FODSI Postdoctoral Fellowship</b> <b>Siebel Scholarship</b> <b>MSR Dissertation Grant</b> <b>Rising Stars in EECS in Berkeley</b> <b>Poster Honorary Mention 14th Annual ML Symposium (NYAS)</b> <b>Finalist for 2020 Facebook PhD Fellowship (top 4%)</b> <b>Spotlight 2nd Place Prize, 13th Annual ML Symposium (NYAS)</b> <b>Finalist of the 2019 Microsoft Research PhD Fellowship</b> <b>Certificate of Distinction in Teaching</b> , Harvard University <b>Among 5 papers shortlisted for Best Paper Award</b> , EC18	2024 2022-2023 2021-2022 2021-2022 2020 2020 2020 2019 2019 2017, 2018
<b>TUTORIALS</b>	<b>Incentive-Aware Machine Learning: A Tale of Robustness, Fairness, Improvement, and Performativity</b> NeurIPS 2022 <a href="https://charapodimata.com/NeurIPS22-tutorial.html">[https://charapodimata.com/NeurIPS22-tutorial.html]</a>  <b>Do we incentivize honest effort or gaming in incentive-aware learning?</b> “Optimizing the Efforts of Others” workshop at STOC22 ( <b>invited</b> ) <a href="https://www.charapodimata.com/files/presentations/STOC22-tutorial.pdf">[https://www.charapodimata.com/files/presentations/STOC22-tutorial.pdf]</a>  <b>Algorithms for Incentive-Aware Learning</b> Full-day course in the University of Zurich summer school ( <b>invited</b> )  <b>How to Achieve Both Transparency and Accuracy in Predictive Decision</b>	Dec. 2022  Jun. 2022  Jun. 2021

	<b>Making: an Introduction to Strategic Prediction</b> , FAccT21 Co-taught with Benjamin Edelman and Yonadav Shavit <a href="https://www.benjaminedelman.com/tutorial.html">[https://www.benjaminedelman.com/tutorial.html]</a>	Mar. 2021
	<b>Incentive-Compatible and Incentive-Aware Learning</b> , EC20 Co-taught with Nika Haghtalab <a href="https://www.charapodimata.com/EC20-tutorial.html">[https://www.charapodimata.com/EC20-tutorial.html]</a>	Jun. 2020
<b>TEACHING</b>	<b>Instructor, MIT Sloan</b> <i>Courses</i> Data, Models, and Decisions (MIT 15.060) Common Experience (MIT 15.090)	Fall 2023, 2024 Summer 2024
	<b>Teaching Fellow, Harvard University</b> <i>Course:</i> Introduction to Optimization (AM121) <i>Instructor (2017, 2018):</i> Yiling Chen <i>Instructor (2020):</i> Yiling Chen & Margo Levine	Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2020
	<b>Teaching Assistant, NTUA, Greece</b> <i>Courses:</i> Introduction to programming (PaZcal), Algorithms and Complexity <i>Instructor:</i> Dimitris Fotakis	Fall 2015
<b>RESEARCH ADVISING</b>	<b>Zijie (Jerry) Zhou</b> (co-advised with P. Jaillet) PhD student at MIT ORC	2023 - present
	<b>Apostolis Tsorvantzis</b> (co-advised with D. Fotakis, C. Caramanis) PhD student at Archimedes AI/Athena RC	2023 - present
	<b>Chrysa Oikonomou</b> (co-advised with K. Sotiraki) PhD student at Archimedes AI/Athena RC	2023 - present
<b>SELECTED INVITED TALKS</b>	<b>Calibrated Stackelberg Games: Learning Optimal Commitments Against Calibrated Agents</b> ORC seminar	Mar. 2024
	<b>The Disparate Effects of Recommending to Strategic Users</b> Recommendations Ecosystem Workshop (AAAI24) Workshop on Fairness in Operations and AI (Columbia IEOR) The Future of AI and Economics (Harvard Business School) Stanford RAIN Seminar Morgan Stanley ML research seminar	Feb. 2024 Nov. 2023 Sep. 2023 May 2023 Aug. 2023
	<b>Information Discrepancy in Strategic Learning</b> TOC4Fairness Online Seminar Series	Oct. 2022
	<b>Corruption-Robust Contextual Search</b> Simons institute workshop on “Quantifying Uncertainty”	Sep. 2022
	<b>Transparency and Accuracy in Predictive Decision Making: an Introduction to Strategic Prediction</b> <a href="#">Quant Seminar at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission</a>	Apr. 2022

<b>Incentive-Aware Machine Learning for Decision-Making</b>	
University of Michigan, IOE Department	Jan. 2022
MIT Sloan, OR/Stat Group	Jan. 2022
Cornell, ORIE Department	Jan. 2022
USC Marshall, OM Group	Jan. 2022
Stanford GSB, OIT Group	Jan. 2022
CMU Tepper, OR Group	Feb. 2022
TTIC	Feb. 2022
UChicago, Data Science + CS	Feb. 2022
Northeastern, CS Department	Feb. 2022
Cornell, Information Science Department	Feb. 2022
Columbia, IEOR Department	Feb. 2022
Yale, Stats and Data Science	Feb. 2022
UC Berkeley, Statistics Department	Mar. 2022
MIT EECS, AI + D	Mar. 2022
US General Services Administration Data Science Seminar	May 2022
CMU's 5th YinzOR Conference ( <b>plenary talk</b> )	Aug. 2022

<b>Contextual Search in the Presence of Irrational Agents</b>	
Cornell Young ORIE Researchers Workshop	Oct. 2021
BU Algorithms and Theory Seminar	Oct. 2021
NEU Theory Lunch	Nov. 2021
Stanford Information Systems Laboratory Colloquium	Jan. 2022
Amazon Ads	Apr. 2022

<b>Learning Strategy-Aware Linear Classifiers</b>	
Northeastern University Theory Seminar	Nov. 2019

<b>Learning to Bid Without Knowing your Value</b>	
Google NYC, Algorithms Seminar.	Jul. 2018
Yahoo! Research NYC, Algorithms Seminar.	Jun. 2018

<b>INTERNSHIPS</b>		
<b>Research Intern</b> , Google Research NYC		May - Aug., 2021
<b>Research Intern</b> , Microsoft Research NYC		Feb. - May, 2020
<b>Research Intern</b> , Microsoft Research NYC		May - Aug., 2019
<b>Business Intern</b> , Google Athens, Greece		Feb. - Aug. 2016

**PUBLICATIONS**  
(Alphabetical  
Author Order)

**Journals**

<b>Contextual Search in the Presence of Adversarial Corruptions</b>	
Akshay Krishnamurthy, Thodoris Lykouris, Chara Podimata, and Robert Schapire	
<i>Operations Research</i> 2022	(OR22)
<a href="https://arxiv.org/pdf/2002.11650.pdf">[https://arxiv.org/pdf/2002.11650.pdf]</a>	

**Conferences**

<b>Can Probabilistic Feedback Drive User Impacts in Online Platforms?</b>	
Jessica Dai, Bailey Flanigan, Meena Jagadeesan, Nika Haghtalab, and Chara Podi-	

mata

In Proc. of the 27th International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics  
(AISTATS24) [<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2401.05304>]

### **Strategyproof Decision-Making in Panel Data Settings and Beyond**

Keegan Harris, Anish Agarwal, Chara Podimata, and Steven Zhiwei Wu  
*In ACM SIGMETRICS Performance Evaluation Review 2024* (SIGMETRICS24)  
[<http://arxiv.org/abs/2211.14236>]

### **Calibrated Stackelberg Games: Learning Optimal Commitments Against Calibrated Agents**

Nika Haghtalab, Chara Podimata, and Kunhe Yang  
*In Proc. of the 37th Conf. of Neural Information Processing Systems* (NeurIPS23)  
Spotlight  
[<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2306.02704.pdf>]

### **Strategic Apple Tasting**

Keegan Harris, Chara Podimata, and Steven Zhiwei Wu  
*In Proc. of the 37th Conf. of Neural Information Processing Systems* (NeurIPS23)  
[<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2306.06250.pdf>]

### **Corruption-Robust Contextual Search through Density Updates**

Renato Paes Leme, Chara Podimata, and Jon Schneider  
*In Proc. of the 35th Annual Conference on Learning Theory* (COLT22)  
[<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2206.07528.pdf>]

### **Information Discrepancy in Strategic Learning**

Yahav Behavod, Chara Podimata, Zhiwei Steven Wu, and Juba Ziani  
*In Proc. of the 39th International Conference on Machine Learning* (ICML22)  
[<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2103.01028.pdf>]

### **Contextual Search in the Presence of Irrational Agents**

Akshay Krishnamurthy, Thodoris Lykouris, Chara Podimata, and Robert Schapire  
*In the Proc. of the 53rd ACM Symposium on Theory of Computing* (STOC21)  
Operations Research 2022  
[<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2002.11650.pdf>]

### **Adaptive Discretization for Adversarial Lipschitz Bandits**

Chara Podimata and Aleksandrs Slivkins  
*In the Proc. of the 34th Annual Conference on Learning Theory* (COLT21)  
[<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2006.12367.pdf>]

### **Learning Strategy-Aware Linear Classifiers**

Yiling Chen, Yang Liu, and Chara Podimata  
*In Proc. of the 34th Conf. on Neural Information Processing Systems* (NeurIPS20)  
[<https://arxiv.org/pdf/1911.04004.pdf>]

### **No-Regret and Incentive-Compatible Online Learning**

Rupert Freeman, David Pennock, Chara Podimata, and Jennifer Wortman Vaughan  
*In Proc. of the 37th International Conference on Machine Learning* (ICML20)  
Poster Presentation Honorary Mention 14th Annual ML Symposium (NYAS).

[\[https://arxiv.org/pdf/2002.08837.pdf\]](https://arxiv.org/pdf/2002.08837.pdf)

**Strategyproof Linear Regression in High Dimensions: An Overview**

Yiling Chen, Chara Podimata, Ariel D. Procaccia, and Nisarg Shah

*ACM SIGEcom Exchanges (Research Letter)* **Invited**

[\[https://www.sigecom.org/exchanges/volume\\_17/1/CHEN.pdf\]](https://www.sigecom.org/exchanges/volume_17/1/CHEN.pdf)

**A Bridge between Liquid and Social Welfare in Combinatorial Auctions with Submodular Bidders**

Dimitris Fotakis, Kyriakos Lotidis, and Chara Podimata

*In Proc. of the 33rd AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence* (AAAI19)

[\[https://arxiv.org/pdf/1809.01803v1.pdf\]](https://arxiv.org/pdf/1809.01803v1.pdf)

**Learning to Bid Without Knowing your Value**

Zhe Feng, Chara Podimata, and Vasilis Syrgkanis

*In Proc. of the 19th ACM Conference on Economics and Computation* (EC18)

Spotlight award 2nd place prize at the 13th Annual ML Symposium (NYAS).

[\[https://arxiv.org/abs/1711.01333\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/1711.01333)

**Strategyproof Linear Regression in High Dimensions**

Yiling Chen, Chara Podimata, Ariel D. Procaccia, and Nisarg Shah

*In Proc. of the 19th ACM Conference on Economics and Computation* (EC18)

Among the 5 shortlisted papers for the Best Paper Award

[\[https://arxiv.org/pdf/1805.10693.pdf\]](https://arxiv.org/pdf/1805.10693.pdf)

Preprints

**When Should you Offer an Upgrade: Online Upgrading Mechanisms for Resource Allocation**

Patrick Jaillet, Chara Podimata, Andrew Vakhutinsky, and Zijie Zhou

[\[https://arxiv.org/abs/2402.08804\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/2402.08804)

**Grace Period is All You Need: Individual Fairness without Revenue Loss in Revenue Management**

Patrick Jaillet, Chara Podimata, and Zijie Zhou

[\[https://arxiv.org/abs/2402.08533\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/2402.08533)

**Recommending to Strategic Users**

Andreas Haupt, Chara Podimata, and Dylan Hadfield-Menell

[\[https://arxiv.org/pdf/2302.06559.pdf\]](https://arxiv.org/pdf/2302.06559.pdf)

**Preferences Evolve and So Should your Bandits: Bandits with Deterministically Evolving States**

Khashayar Khosravi, Renato Paes Leme, Chara Podimata, and Apostolis Tsorvantzis

[\[https://arxiv.org/pdf/2307.11655.pdf\]](https://arxiv.org/pdf/2307.11655.pdf)

**PROFESSIONAL Senior Area Chair: NeurIPS2024  
SERVICE**

**Area Chair: NeurIPS2023**

**Senior PC: COLT2024**

**PC Member:** EC2024, ICML2024, FAccT2024, WINE2023, COLT 2020-2023, FORC23, EAAMO22-23, NeurIPS2022, ICML2022-2023, FAccT2022, WINE 2021, ICML2021 (**Best Reviewers Award**), NeurIPS 2020-2021 (**Best Reviewers Award**), IJCAI 2020, Emerging Track on AI for Social Impact (AAAI-20, AAAI-21)

**Journal Refereeing:** Journal of American Statistical Association (JASA), Management Science (MS), Operations Research (OR), Review of Economics and Statistics, Artificial Intelligence Journal (AIJ), Transactions of Machine Learning Research (TMLR), Journal of Machine Learning Research (JMLR), IEEE Transactions on Control of Network Systems (TCNS), Theoretical Computer Science (TCS), Theory of Computing Systems (ToCS)

**COMMUNITY  
SERVICE**

**LeT-All podcast organizer and host** 2024-  
**EC Mentoring Workshop, Presenter for “How-To” talk** EC23  
**LeT-All, Volunteer Panelist** Oct. 2022  
**EC Mentoring Workshop, Volunteer Panelist** EC 2022  
**LeT-All, Volunteer Teaching Assistant** ALT 2022  
TA at Nicole Immorlica’s session on Peer Review  
**Google Serve, Athens, Greece, Volunteer** June 2016  
*Project:* Building a playground for refugee kids in the refugee camp (Elaionas, Greece)  
**Organizing 1st Girls Day event at Google, Greece** Mar. 2016  
As part of my participation at Women@Google  
**Instructor at Code it Like a Girl, Athens, Greece** May 2015 - Sep. 2016  
Code it Like a Girl is a volunteering start-up teaching coding to women of all ages.  
**Free tutoring for children of impoverished families, Athens, Greece** 2012-2014