

Xenofon Foukas

Curriculum Vitae

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Education

- Oct 2013 - **PhD in Wireless Networks and Mobile Systems**, *School of Informatics, The University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom.*
July 2018 Thesis: "Towards a Programmable and Virtualized Mobile Radio Access Network Architecture"
Supervisor: Professor Mahesh K. Marina
- Oct 2012 - **MSc in Advanced Computing**, *Department of Computing, Imperial College London, London, United Kingdom*, GPA: **Distinction** (86/100).
Sep. 2013 **Distinguished** thesis project: "Sampling in a Large Network"
Supervisor: Prof. Alexander L. Wolf
- Sept. 2007 - **BSc in Computer Science**, *Department of Informatics, Athens University of Economics and Business, Athens, Greece*, GPA: **Distinction** (9.44/10).
Feb. 2012 **Distinguished** thesis project: "k-LWPR: Speeding up LWPR through clustering"
Supervisor: Prof. Michalis Vazirgiannis

Professional Experience

- Oct 2020 - **Senior Researcher**, *Microsoft Azure for Operators, Cambridge, United Kingdom.*
present Working on designing and developing **efficient, scalable and intelligent virtual RAN solutions.**
- Jan 2020 - **Senior Researcher**, *Microsoft Research Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom.*
Sep 2020
- March 2019 - **Postdoctoral Researcher**, *Microsoft Research Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom.*
Dec 2019
- April 2018 - **Research Associate**, *School of Informatics, The University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom.*
February 2019 Worked in the research group of Dr. Mahesh K. Marina, focusing on problems relevant to the **5G network architecture & network slicing**. **Co-supervised** two PhD students (Mohamed M. Kassem, Rajkarn Singh), one honours student (Alan Plascinkas) and one intern (Fox Foster), working closely with them on a daily basis.
- May 2016 - **Research Assistant**, *School of Informatics, The University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom* and *Institute of Informatics and Telecommunications, NCSR "Demokritos", Athens, Greece.*
April 2017 Worked in the PACER project, which was part of the second open call for experimentation of the European FP7 FLEX project (FIRE LTE testbeds for open Experimentation). Developed a **prototype open source Software-Defined Radio Access Network (RAN) platform** called FlexRAN.
- July 2013 - **Marie-Curie Early Stage Researcher**, *Institute of Informatics and Telecommunications, NCSR "Demokritos", Athens, Greece.*
Dec. 2014 Early stage researcher for the FP7 GREENET project on green wireless networks. Worked on developing **algorithms for energy efficient vertical handovers**, focusing on the energy efficiency of the user equipment.

July 2012 - **Research Assistant**, *Department of Computing, Athens University of Economics and Business, Athens, Greece.*

Worked under the supervision of Prof. Michalis Vazirgiannis on developing **data collection algorithms** for the generation of a complete lexicon of Greek streets and settlements.

Nov. 2011 - **Intern**, *Intracom Telecoms, Athens, Greece.*

Feb. 2012 Internship under the supervision of Dr. Sergios Soursos – Developed a **simulation model** for a **smart flooding algorithm** for content-based networks using OMNeT++.

Research Interests

My research broadly falls under the domain of *networks and distributed systems* and in particular within *wireless and mobile networks and cloud computing*. My recent and on-going research is on the following topics, focusing mostly on aspects relevant to next-generation (5G) mobile networks:

- 5G and beyond virtual RAN (vRAN) architecture & performance
- Intelligent vRAN control
- Applications of machine learning to mobile networks
- Multi-Access Edge Computing (MEC)
- Spectrum sharing & network slicing
- Testbeds and large scale experimentation
- Network management & orchestration

Publications

- 2021 R. Singh, C. Hasan, **X. Foukas**, M. Fiore, M. K. Marina, Y. Wang “**Energy-Efficient Orchestration of Metro-Scale 5G Radio Access Networks**”, To appear in *IEEE INFOCOM 2021*
- 2020 G. Patounas, **X. Foukas**, A. Elmokashfi, M. K. Marina, “**Characterization and Identification of Cloudified Mobile Network Performance Bottlenecks**”, In *IEEE Transactions on Network and Service Management (TNSM)*
- 2020 A. Plascinkas, **X. Foukas**, M. K. Marina, “**Towards Efficient and Adaptable Monitoring of Softwarized Mobile Networks**”, In *Proc. 32nd IEEE/IFIP Network Operations and Management Symposium (NOMS 2020)*
- 2019 K. Samdanis, **X. Foukas**, E. Pateromichelakis, A. Ksentini, “**Slicing and Radio Resource Management**”, In *Wiley 5G Ref: The Essential 5G Reference Online*
- 2019 **X. Foukas**, M. K. Marina and K. Kontovasilis, “**Iris: Deep Reinforcement Learning Driven Shared Spectrum Access Architecture for Indoor Neutral-Host Small Cells**”, In *IEEE Journal on Selected Areas in Communications 37.8 (2019): 1820-1837*.
- 2018 **X. Foukas**, F. Sardis, F. Foster, M. K. Marina, M. A. Lema and M. Dohler, “**Experience Building a Prototype 5G Testbed**”, In *Proc. 1st International Workshop on Experimentation and Measurements in 5G (EM-5G) in conjunction with ACM CoNEXT 2018*,
- 2018 **X. Foukas**, K. Kontovasilis and M. K. Marina, “**Short-Range Cooperation of Mobile Devices for Energy-Efficient Vertical Handovers**”, In *Wireless Communications and Mobile Computing (WCMC) Journal Special Issue on Green Computing and Communications for Smart Portable Devices*,

- 2017 **X. Foukas**, M. K. Marina and K. Kontovasilis, "**Orion: RAN Slicing for a Flexible and Cost-Effective Multi-Service Mobile Network Architecture**", In *Proc. ACM MobiCom'17*
- 2017 G. Tsoukaneri, **X. Foukas** and M. K. Marina, "**ASPIS: A Holistic and Practical Mechanism for Efficient MTC Support over Mobile Networks**", In *Proc. IEEE Mobile and Ad Hoc Sensor Systems (MASS'17)*.
- 2017 **X. Foukas**, G. Patounas, A. Elmokashfi and M. K. Marina, "**Network Slicing in 5G: Survey and Challenges.**", *IEEE Communications Magazine*, 55(5), pp.94-100.
- 2016 **X. Foukas**, N. Nikaein, M. M. Kassem, M. K. Marina and K. Kontovasilis, "**FlexRAN: A Flexible and Programmable Platform for Software-Defined Radio Access Networks**", In *Proc. ACM CoNEXT'16*.
- 2016 S. Sivaprakash, **X. Foukas**, M. K. Marina, "**VALI: An SDN-based management framework for public wireless LANs (Poster)**", In *ACM MobiCom'16*.
- 2015 **X. Foukas**, K. Kontovasilis and M. K. Marina, "**Exploiting Short-Range Cooperation for Energy Efficient Vertical Handover Operations**", In *Proc. 11th International Conference on Network and Service Management (CNSM'15)*.
- 2015 **X. Foukas**, M. K. Marina and K. Kontovasilis, "**Software Defined Networking Concepts**", Appeared as a chapter in the book on *Software Defined Mobile Networks (SDMN): Beyond LTE Network Architecture*.
- 2015 **X. Foukas**, A. Carzaniga and A. L. Wolf, "**Measuring the Mixing Time of a network**", In *Proc. 2015 IEEE Conference on Computer Communications (INFOCOM)*.
- 2014 **X. Foukas**, D. Loukatos, K. Kontovasilis and H. Marques, "**Energy Requirements of Secure Vertical Handover Operations in the 802.21a Framework**", In *Proc. IEEE CAMAD 2014*.

Talks (Invited/Conference)

- Dec. 2018 **1st International Workshop on Experimentation and Measurements in 5G (EM-5G) in conjunction with ACM CoNEXT 2018, Heraklion, Greece, "Experience Building a Prototype 5G Testbed"**.
- April 2018 **NEC Laboratories Europe, Heidelberg, Germany, "Towards a Programmable and Virtualized Mobile Radio Access Network Architecture", Invited Talk.**
- Nov. 2017 **King's College London, London, United Kingdom, "Virtualization and Programmability of Radio Access Networks in 5G", Invited Talk.**
- Oct. 2017 **ACM MobiCom, Snowbird, Utah, USA, "Orion: RAN Slicing for a Flexible and Cost-Effective Multi-Service Mobile Network Architecture"**.
- June 2017 **Multi-Service Networks workshop, Abingdon, United Kingdom, "Towards Programmable and Virtualized Radio Access Networks"**.
- Dec. 2016 **ACM CoNEXT, Irvine, California, USA, "FlexRAN: A Flexible and Programmable Platform for Software-Defined Radio Access Networks"**.
- Dec. 2016 **NCSR "Demokritos", Athens, Greece, "Introducing Programmability in Radio Access Networks", Invited Talk.**
- Nov. 2015 **CNSM 2015, Barcelona, Spain, "Exploiting Short-range Cooperation for Energy Efficient Vertical Handover Operations"**.
- April 2015 **IEEE INFOCOM, Kowloon, Hong Kong, "Measuring the Mixing Time of a Network"**.

Dec 2014 **IEEE CAMAD**, Athens, Greece, "Energy Requirements of Secure Vertical Handover Operations in the 802.21a Framework".

Honors and Awards

- 2017 **Best demonstration award** for "Orion: A RAN Slicing System" in *ACM MobiCom 2017*.
- 2017 **Finalist at Lime Micro Hackathon** organized by the *BT Infinity Lab* for "Orion: RAN Slicing System over LimeSDR" (8 finalists out of 60 registrants). Selection criterion based on the significance of impact and disruption of the traditional mobile network approach.
- 2017 Received the **Brendan Murphy Prize** as an outstanding UK PhD researcher in the networks and systems areas in *MSN 2017 UK Academic Meeting on Systems and Networks*.
- 2015 Received **student travel grant** for presenting the paper titled "Exploiting Short-Range Cooperation for Energy Efficient Vertical Handover Operations" in *CNSM 2015*.
- 2012 Received **departmental scholarship** on *academic distinction* by the *Department of Computing* at *Imperial College London*.
- 2012 Received **graduation award** on *academic distinction* by the *Department of Informatics* at the *Athens University of Economics and Business*. Ranked **1st in a class of about 250 students** and **3rd in the whole department since its founding in 1983**.
- 2007 Received **award on high performance** in national exams by the *Department of Informatics* at the *Athens University of Economics and Business* (ranked 4th).

Grant Writing Experience

- 2016 - 2017 Contributed in writing **successful** proposal for "PACER" project, which was part of the second open call for experimentation on the European FP7 FLEX project.

Professional Service

- TPC Member ACM MobiCom 2020, IEEE SECON 2019, ACM WiNTECH 2018, IEEE EuCNC 2017-2019, VTC 2019, GIIIS 2018
- Reviewer *Invited reviewer* for high-impact journals including IEEE/ACM Transactions on Networking, IEEE JSAC, IEEE Transactions on Wireless Communications, IEEE Transactions on Mobile Communications, IEEE Transactions on Communications.

Open Source Contributions

- FlexRAN Main developer of the open source FlexRAN project for Software-Defined Radio Access Networks (<http://networks.inf.ed.ac.uk/flexran>).
- Orion Main developer of the open source Orion project for Radio Access Network slicing.
- OAI Contributor to the OpenAirInterface (OAI) open source project, writing code for the MAC and the RRC layer of the 4G/5G Radio Access Network.

Languages

- English Fluent
- Greek Native Speaker
- German Intermediate