Aut tace, Aut Loquere meliora Silentio (and the Likes)

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Keynote Abstract

Starting a career in research is one of the most uncertain professional ambition in modern societies. Besides the technical obstacles of becoming a world-class expert in a specific topic (you have to!), it presents a diversity of daunting psycho-social difficulties that might be conducive to harmful consequences. The talk is informal in nature and tries to reflect the speakers experience (as a computer scientist) at the beginning of his career and later as the mentor of students and postdocs. Besides expected definitions about what research is or should be, it tries to discuss how students often tend to adopt the irrational idea of having perfect reasoning. It also will consider empiricism, as a democratic tool for entering research, and the language as a barrier for those who do not speak English as a first language. The final remark will be about silence as a beneficial or pathological aspect of both researchers and mentors.

Short Biography

Alfonso Pierantonio is Associate Professor in Computer Science at the University of LAquila (Italy) and Visiting Professor at Mlardalen University (Sweden). His research interests are in Model-Driven Engineering, Language Engineering, and Software Engineering with a specific emphasis on co-evolution, bidirectionality, and model analytics. He has published more than 120 papers in international journals, conferences, and workshops. He has been general chair of STAF 2015, PC chair of ECMFA 2018 and on the organizing, steering, and program committees of many international conferences. He is the editor-in-chief of the Journal of Object Technology (JOT), on the editorial board of the Journal on Software and Systems Modeling (SoSyM), and in the advisory board of Science of Computer Programming.