UK Computing and Research Leadership

Jane Hillston
School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh
and
UKCRC

30th April 2019
About me...

- BA and MSc in Pure Mathematics, brief spell working in industry (Logica) before completing a PhD in Computer Science at the University of Edinburgh in 1994.

- Remained at Edinburgh first on a SERC postdoctoral fellowship and subsequently as Lecturer, Reader, Professor.

- I am currently Head of School in the School of Informatics (approx. 145 academic staff) and I was previously Director of Research and Director of the LFCS.

- I’ve been a member of UKCRC since 2005, and on the Exec since 2016; I currently chair the Exec.
The UKCRC

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There is an Executive Committee of 12 members, and a wider membership of approximately 150.
About the UKCRC

- “The UK Computing Research Committee aims to promote the vitality, quality and impact of Computing Research in the UK. Its members are internationally leading computing researchers drawn from both academia and industry.

- The UKCRC was formed in November 2002 and is an Expert Panel of the British Computer Society, the Council of Professors and Heads of Computing and the Institution of Engineering & Technology.

- By contributing to policy formation within these three key national bodies, UKCRC enables UK Computing Research to speak with a single voice.

- UKCRC presents its views to Government, Parliamentary Committees and other agencies through pro-active submissions and responses to consultations.”
## UKCRC Executive Committee

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Crucially, EPSRC representatives also attend meetings of Exec
But what is UKCRC really for....?
What has it done so far....?

- Respond to Governmental and other consultations
- Grand Challenges/Big Ideas
- Represent the UK research community internationally
- Work with CPHC on supporting early career researchers
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Grand Challenges

- GC1: In Vivo - In Silico: A 2020 Vision on Modelling Living Processes
- GC2/4: Ubiquitous Computing: Experience, Design and Science
- GC3: Memories for Life
- GC5: The Architecture of Brain and Mind
- GC6: Dependable Systems Evolution
- GC7: Journeys into Non-Classical Computation
- GC8: Learning for Life
- GC9: Bringing the Past to Life
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They did so with varying degrees of success – those that were successful had a strong champion and were able to attract funding.
Grand Challenges in Education

- Perception of computing
- Innovation
- Competencies
- Programming issues
- Formalism
- e-learning
- Pre-university issues
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UKCRC contributing to the next ”Chair in 10 years” workshop.
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- Make our work more visible: publish more reports and papers
- Organise more events: in cooperation with EPSRC we will be organising two ”Big Ideas” workshops later this year (July and December)
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