

# Charikleia (Chara) Podimata

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**RESEARCH INTERESTS** incentive-aware ML, decision making under uncertainty, online learning, mechanism design, topics at the interface of CS, Economics & ML

**EDUCATION** **Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA Aug. 2016 - Nov. 2022  
Ph.D in Computer Science  
*Dissertation*: “Incentive-Aware Machine Learning for Decision Making”  
*Advisor*: Yiling Chen

**National Technical University of Athens**, Greece Sept. 2010 - Jan. 2016  
Diploma in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (5-year joint degree)  
*GPA*: 9.47/10  
*Thesis*: “Approximations of Liquid Welfare for Combinatorial Auctions”  
*Advisor*: Dimitris Fotakis

**EMPLOYMENT** **Assistant Professor** OR/Stat, MIT Sloan starting Sep. 2023  
**Postdoctoral Fellow**, UC Berkeley, CA Aug. 2022 - Jul. 2023  
**Research Intern**, Google Research NYC May - Aug., 2021  
**Research Intern**, Microsoft Research NYC Feb. - May, 2020  
**Research Intern**, Microsoft Research NYC May - Aug., 2019  
**Research Assistant**, the EconCS group, Harvard University Jun. 2017 - present  
**Business Intern**, Google Athens, Greece

**SELECTED HONORS & AWARDS** **FODSI Postdoctoral Fellowship** 2022-2023  
**Siebel Scholarship** 2021-2022  
**MSR Dissertation Grant** 2021-2022  
**Selected as part of the Rising Stars in EECS in Berkeley** 2020  
**Poster Honorary Mention 14th Annual ML Symposium (NYAS)** 2020  
**Finalist for 2020 Facebook PhD Fellowship (top 4%)** 2020  
**Spotlight 2nd Place Prize, 13th Annual ML Symposium (NYAS)** 2019  
**Finalist of the 2019 Microsoft Research PhD Fellowship** 2019  
**Certificate of Distinction in Teaching**, Harvard University 2017, 2018  
**Among 5 papers shortlisted for Best Paper Award, EC18**

**TUTORIALS** **Incentive-Aware Machine Learning: A Tale of Robustness, Fairness, Improvement, and Performativity**  
NeurIPS 2022 Dec. 2022

**Do we incentivize honest effort or gaming in incentive-aware learning?**  
“Optimizing the Efforts of Others” workshop at STOC22 (**invited**) Jun. 2022  
[\[https://www.charapodimata.com/files/presentations/STOC22-tutorial.pdf\]](https://www.charapodimata.com/files/presentations/STOC22-tutorial.pdf)

**Algorithms for Incentive-Aware Learning**  
Full-day course in the University of Zurich summer school (**invited**) Jun. 2021

**How to Achieve Both Transparency and Accuracy in Predictive Decision Making: an Introduction to Strategic Prediction**, FAccT21 Mar. 2021  
Co-taught with Benjamin Edelman and Yonadav Shavit  
[\[https://www.benjaminedelman.com/tutorial.html\]](https://www.benjaminedelman.com/tutorial.html)

**Incentive-Compatible and Incentive-Aware Learning**, EC20 Jun. 2020  
Co-taught with Nika Haghtalab  
[\[https://www.charapodimata.com/EC20-tutorial.html\]](https://www.charapodimata.com/EC20-tutorial.html)

**SELECTED TALKS**

**Transparency and Accuracy in Predictive Decision Making: an Introduction to Strategic Prediction**  
Quant Seminar at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission Apr. 2022

**Incentive-Aware Machine Learning for Decision-Making**  
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 (**plenary talk**) Aug. 2022

**Contextual Search in the Presence of Irrational Agents**  
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 April 2022

**Learning Strategy-Aware Linear Classifiers**  
Northeastern University Theory Seminar Nov. 2019

**Learning to Bid Without Knowing your Value**  
Google NYC, Algorithms Seminar. Jul. 2018  
Yahoo! Research NYC, Algorithms Seminar. Jun. 2018

**PUBLICATIONS** **Corruption-Robust Contextual Search through Density Updates**  
(Alphabetical Renato Paes Leme, Chara Podimata, and Jon Schneider  
Author Order) *In Proc. of the 35th Annual Conference on Learning Theory* (COLT22)  
[\[https://arxiv.org/pdf/2206.07528.pdf\]](https://arxiv.org/pdf/2206.07528.pdf)

**Information Discrepancy in Strategic Learning**

Yahav Bechavod, Chara Podimata, Zhiwei Steven Wu, and Juba Ziani  
*In Proc. of the 39th International Conference on Machine Learning* (ICML22)  
[\[https://arxiv.org/pdf/2103.01028.pdf\]](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**  
[\[https://arxiv.org/pdf/2002.11650.pdf\]](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)  
[\[https://arxiv.org/pdf/2006.12367.pdf\]](https://arxiv.org/pdf/2006.12367.pdf)

**Learning Strategy-Aware Linear Classifiers**  
Yiling Chen, Yang Liu, and Chara Podimata  
*In Proc. of the 34th Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems* (NeurIPS20)  
[\[https://arxiv.org/pdf/1911.04004.pdf\]](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)

**PROFESSIONAL PC Member:** NeurIPS2022, ICML2022, COLT 2020-2022, FAccT2022, WINE 2021, SERVICE 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:** Management Science (MS), 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)