30 OUTSTANDING WOMEN IN DATA

20 24

Recognizing the invaluable contributions of women to the ever-evolving data landscape

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OVERVIEW

In the dynamic and rapidly expanding field of data, women are at the forefront of innovation and excellence. Their contributions span across various industries, showcasing their leadership, expertise, and dedication to harnessing the power of data for impactful change.

This report shines a spotlight on 30 Outstanding Women in Data, celebrating their remarkable achievements and the significant strides they have made. These women are not only leaders in their fields, but also pioneers who inspire future generations through their groundbreaking work and commitment to advancing the data profession.

Join us as we dive into their unique journeys, uncover the groundbreaking initiatives they lead, and explore the profound impact they have on the world of data. These stories highlight diverse experiences and paths to success, demonstrating how each of these women has leveraged data to solve complex problems, drive innovation, and promote inclusivity.

We hope their stories will inspire you and emphasize the critical role of diversity in shaping the future of data science and analytics.

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CINDI HOWSON

USA

Cindi Howson is an analytics and BI expert, with over 20 years experience, and a flair for bridging business needs with technology.

Before Cindi's new role at ThoughtSpot, she served as a VP at Gartner and lead author of the Magic Quadrant for Analytics and Business Intelligence. She also created the BI Scorecard, one of the first industry frameworks for evaluating business intelligence solutions. Before founding BI Scorecard, Howson was a manager at Deloitte & Touche and a BI standards leader for Dow Chemical. She has an MBA from Rice University and a BA from the University of Maryland and has served as The Data Warehousing Institute (TDWI) faculty member for more than a decade.

Cindy Howson is well known for her work in Data and Diversity, Inclusion, Ethics, and Equity in Technology and AI to help Society.

DR. EVA-MARIE MULLER-STULER

UAE

With over 15 years of innovation and leadership experience, Dr. Eva-Marie Muller-Stuler brings extensive knowledge to her role as Chief Data Officer. She spearheads the Centre of Excellence for Data Science and drives sustainable global Data Science & AI projects.

As an advisor to startups and governments, including the UN and UNESCO, Dr. Eva-Marie provides strategic counsel on financial planning, product development, and technology. She navigated challenges as a female technical leader in a male-dominated field, advocating for emerging ideas and technologies for nearly a decade before their widespread recognition.

Dr. Eva-Marie is globally recognized as a leading figure in data science, earning accolades such as "World's Best Data Scientist" (2020) and "The 10 Most Influential Women in Technology" (2021). Committed to gender equality in science, she founded organizations supporting women in the technology sector.

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KATE SARGENT

UK

Since her early days, Kate has been fascinated by patterns and problem-solving, nurturing her passion for math, which she pursued up to the MSc level. Over two decades, she has navigated diverse roles across renowned organizations such as easyJet, Tesco, Sky, and TUI, spanning traditional analytics, BI, data management, research, campaign operations, and web analytics. Recently, Kate served as the Chief Data Officer at Financial Times.

Kate is recognized as a seasoned leader adept at steering diverse teams toward success. Committed to strategic leadership aligned with organizational objectives, she values engagement, productivity, and career development. She credits her father, an electrical engineer, as her role model, instilling in her the importance of supportive relationships. Kate embodies the belief that our effectiveness is deeply tied to the quality of our support network.

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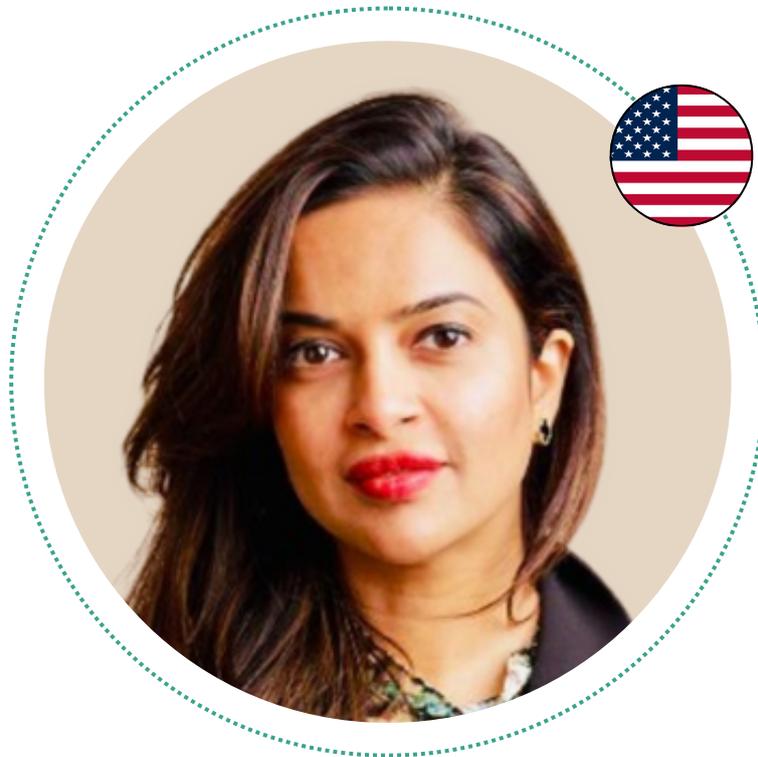
USA

In the past 19 years, Deepika has spearheaded teams in application development, cultivated robust product and marketing teams across various organizations, and executed strategic product launches driven by data-informed decisions, overseeing the entire lifecycle from conception to ongoing enhancements.

Before her tenure at BT, she served as First Vice-President at King, the renowned game developer behind CandyCrush. Prior roles encompass project leadership at Nokia and Telefónica, as well as co-founding Chief in the UK, a private network dedicated to empowering women in leadership positions. She pursued her Master's degree in Embedded Software at Gannon University in Pennsylvania.

Deepika has also occupied senior leadership positions at esteemed companies such as HSBC and Lloyds Banking Group. Her infectious passion for products inspires her team to innovate, while her adaptability and reliability bring order amidst chaos.

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MATHANGI SRI RAMACHANDRAN

INDIA

Mathangi Sri Ramachandran, with over 19 years of experience, is renowned for crafting innovative data science solutions and teams, driving significant organizational impact. With 100+ global patents in data sciences, her expertise spans machine learning, text mining, data mining, and NLP. She excels in data science strategy development, team building, and scaling operations across diverse sectors, from large enterprises to startups.

Mathangi actively contributes to the data science community through guest lectures, talks, blogs, and advisory roles. Mathangi has garnered recognitions from prestigious bodies, including the World Intellectual Property Forum, Engatica, and Analytics India Magazine, earning accolades such as Prolific Inventor, Top AI Influencer, and AI 100 awardee. She has also been honoured by associations like 3AI and Analytics India Magazine as a top AI leader. In 2019, she was celebrated as "The Phenomenal SHE" by the Indian National Bar Association.

YASMEEN AHMAD

USA

Yasmeen Ahmad, a seasoned strategist and change leader, currently serves as a product leader for Data, Analytics, and AI at Google Cloud. She drives product strategy, focusing on redefining Google's portfolio in the GenAI era and launching new products. With expertise in executive stakeholder management, she bridges business and technical disciplines, delivering multimillion-dollar value to Fortune 500 companies.

Yasmeen prioritizes customer-focused outcomes, aiding organizations in transitioning to AI, analytics, and cloud services. Recognized as one of the Top 50 Data Leaders by the Information Age, she's celebrated for shaping the future of technology. Additionally, honoured as Data Scientist of the Year by Computing Magazine and a Finalist for Innovator of the Year in the Women in IT Awards, she is a trailblazer in the industry.

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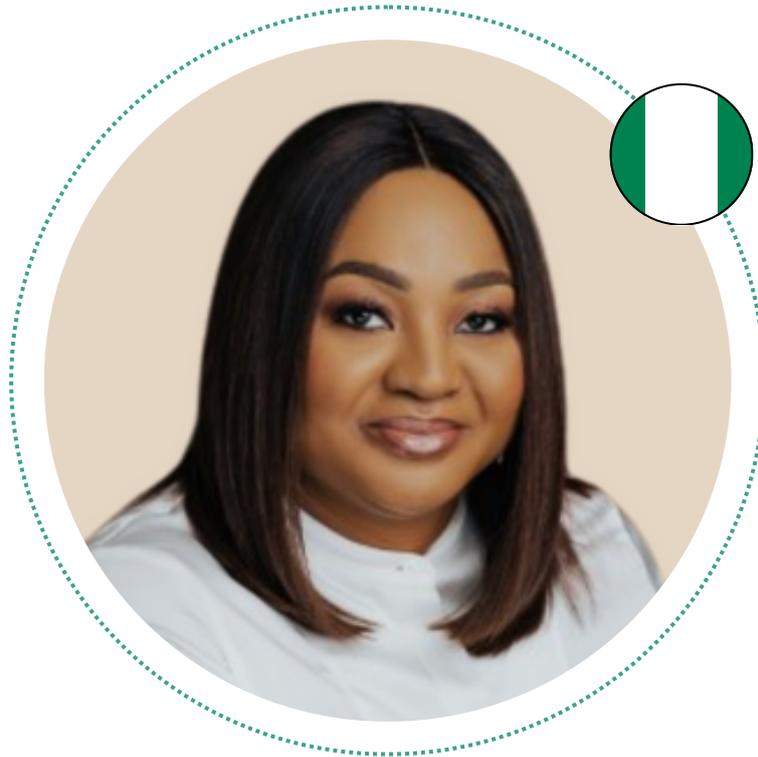
TOYOSI ODUKOYA

NIGERIA

Toyosi Odukoya is a seasoned Strategy, Innovation, Analytics, and Digital Transformation Business Leader, adept at leveraging insights for organizational growth. Leading multicultural teams globally, Toyosi has implemented data and analytics across the Telecommunications, FMCG, and development sectors, driving smarter decisions. Notable achievements include spearheading MTN Nigeria's Big Data Project and Coca-Cola's African digital transformation.

As a Forbes Technology Council member, she shares data and analytics insights. Named the most influential woman in data by Insights Success in 2022, Toyosi currently leads Program Planning, Operations, and Business Intelligence at Mastercard Foundation, enhancing performance management and digitization. A sought-after speaker, she shares insights at Analytics and Leadership conferences worldwide and serves on the Board of the WAAW Foundation, advocating for women's and children's empowerment.

JOHANNA HUTCHINSON

UK

Johanna Hutchinson, an accomplished Data Specialist, boasts a distinguished career in public/government administration with expertise in Analytics, Sustainability, Public Administration, Data Analysis, and Lecturing. Holding a Ph.D. in Comparative Psychology from the University of Liverpool, Johanna combines theoretical knowledge with practical experience.

As Chief Data Officer at BAE SYSTEMS, she shapes data strategies and fosters innovation. Her roles at the UK Health Security Agency and the Joint Biosecurity Centre reflect her dedication to public health and data-driven decisions.

Johanna's expertise extends to The Royal Statistical Society, where she serves as a Trustee, advancing statistics for societal benefit. Recognized as one of DatalQ's Top 100 Data Leaders in 2019, Johanna's career underscores her commitment to data-driven excellence and societal impact.

LATIFA SALEH ALSHEHHI

UAE

Latifa Saleh AlShehhi, a data-driven decision-maker, heads Data Management at the Roads and Transport Authority in Dubai, focusing on enhancing data culture and literacy. She spearheaded digital transformation at the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Center, Ministry of Cabinet Affairs, and established the UN Global Platform for Big Data and Data Science in MENA.

Latifa's initiatives include the UAE open data portal "bayanat.ae" and the statistical data exchange platform "Emirates Data Network." She serves in leadership roles such as the UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science, Women in AI UAE, and the Open Data Institute. A graduate of the UAE Government Youth Leadership Program, Latifa champions data analytics and AI, contributing to global discussions on governance.

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PARUL PANDEY

INDIA

Parul Pandey is a distinguished Data Specialist with a background in electrical engineering, currently serving as a Principal Data Scientist at H2O.ai.

As one of the authors of the O'Reilly book "Machine Learning for High-risk Applications," Parul is committed to promoting responsible AI practices. With expertise in machine learning and a Kaggle Grandmaster in the notebooks category, Parul is recognized as one of LinkedIn's Top Voices in the data science community. Her contributions to data science education and mentorship, coupled with her industry experience, position her as a leader in driving ethical and impactful AI solutions.

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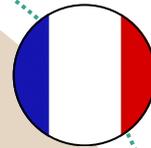
CHAFIKA CHETTAOUI

FRANCE

Chafika Chettaoui currently serves as the Chief Data Officer at AXA France. Previously, she served as SUEZ's Chief Data Officer, where she drove transformation through capitalizing on data to enhance performance, customer satisfaction, and the development of new business models.

With a background in Mathematics and Computer Science, she commenced her career by providing consultancy services to prominent corporations in industries such as banking, insurance, retail, and pharmaceuticals, focusing on initiatives related to data governance and data science. Her journey led her to L'Oréal in 2010, where she played a pivotal role in establishing the strategy and data infrastructure for the Research & Innovation department. Subsequently, she assumed the leadership of the Analytics team at Teradata Group in France in 2017, a renowned provider of analytical solutions worldwide, aiding major corporations in their digital transformation endeavours.

LINDSAY MURPHY

CANADA

Lindsay is a committed and intelligent data expert. As one who enjoys reading, researching, and learning, Lindsay is always looking to help and upskill professionals. She currently tutors people on how to scale their teams and workflows with DBT.

Lindsay co-founded Toronto Modern Data Stack Meetup, where she hosts data professionals in the Toronto area for networking, and they also speak on topics surrounding the modern data stack.

She currently hosts a podcast, Women Lead Data. According to her, Women Lead Data is an investigation into the underrepresentation of female leadership in the data industry.

Lindsay Murphy is passionate about uncovering helpful tips and advice for overcoming barriers to growth and she also inspires women who are curious about entrepreneurship in the data industry to take the leap.

PRISCILA J. PAOLINELLI

BRAZIL

With over 23 years of experience in information technology, focusing on BI, Analytics, AI, and Data Literacy projects in various segments, Priscila currently holds the position of Head of Data Analytics at Vallourec, a multinational in the steel sector, where she leads Data Awareness activities to strengthen the company's strategy and decision-making process.

In addition to her professional work, she is also a Qlik Luminary and Qlik Educator Ambassador. Priscila has international recognition for her expertise and influence with the Qlik platform.

Since 2016, she has also taught postgraduate students at PUC-MG in the fields of market intelligence, IoT, business intelligence, and management and strategic data analysis. Her goal is to enable individuals to become data literates and turn information into actionable insights. Priscila is recognized as a LinkedIn top voice and a Global data speaker.

CLAUDIA VOLPETTI

ITALY

Claudia currently works at Leroy Merlin as the Chief Data Officer, where she has held positions such as Head of Data, Lead Data Scientist, and Senior Data Scientist. She is skilled in applying artificial intelligence and machine learning to various business domains.

At Politecnico di Milano, she also held a Ph.D. candidate position in Teaching and Research, emphasizing Artificial Intelligence, Deep Learning, and Natural Language Processing.

She has published multiple papers in international conferences and journals and has attended prestigious summer schools and workshops in the field of AI and ML. Claudia co-founded Women in Machine Learning & Data Science (WiMLDS), and the motive is to support and promote women and gender minorities who are practising, studying, or are interested in the fields of machine learning and data science.

DR. MATINA THOMAIDOU

GREECE

Dr. Matina Thomaidou serves as Vice President and Head of Data Science at Verve Group. She led data science groups at Accenture, Microsoft, and IBM as Data Science Leader for Europe, and Meta (Facebook Ireland/Ad Auction, Data Science, Gaming) before joining Verve Group.

She is one of the co-founders of Greek Women Do Tech, an international organization that serves as a global network to support Greek women employed globally in the tech industry.

Her vision is to inspire younger women (especially Greek) who are just entering the STEM world. She mentioned in an interview how she wants to drive as much as she can a cultural shift in matters such as parenthood, inclusion & diversity, mental health, and work-life balance inside the innovative tech world.

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WURAOLA OYEWUSI

UK

Wuraola Oyewusi is a Data scientist, Technical Instructor and Pharmacist. She is a passionate professional committed to advancing AI practice. She is recognized as a UK Global Talent in AI, Machine Learning, and Data Science.

Her drive to contribute to AI through Data Science research is unrivaled, she also has this uniqueness of simplifying tech concepts in her local dialect (Yoruba). Wuraola was honoured by the Data Scientist Network (Data Science Nigeria), as a Nigerian Female Leader in Artificial Intelligence for Development.

She has held roles in AI Research (Data Science & Data Curation) at the Imperial College London and previously led Research and Innovation at Data Science Nigeria. She is the Author and Instructor of the Hand-on Natural Language Processing, Advanced AI: NLP Techniques for Clinical Datasets, and Hands-on Data Science.

ALEX WANG

AUSTRALIA

With over seven years of experience, Alex Wang has held various Data Science roles at UTS, Deloitte, and most recently, Quantium. She holds an M.Eng in Data Science from the University of Sydney, an MIT from the University of Technology Sydney, and a BS from Tianjin University of Technology.

Currently serving as the director of AI4Diversity, a non-profit initiative, Alex engages and educates diverse communities about AI for global benefit. In 2021, she was honoured by ISODS as the most influential young Data Scientist of the year.

Alex actively shares her data science journey on LinkedIn, aiming to guide young professionals in harnessing the power of data. Through her bi-weekly newsletter, "Learn with AI," she curates learning materials on AI, ML, and Data Science to inspire and educate her audience.

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SALEMA RICE

USA

Salema Rice serves as the Chief Executive Officer and founder of CDO Today, a membership-based organization providing mentorship and thought leadership to data and analytics professionals. Throughout her 25-year career, she has excelled as a builder, lawmaker, and strategic driver in the Data and AI realm.

Having held esteemed roles such as Global Managing Director and Chief Data and Analytics Officer at Accenture, as well as Global Chief Data and Analytics Officer at Bain Capital, Salema is renowned as the DataDiva for her expertise in directing data management strategies and AI transformations for Fortune 500 companies.

Recognized as one of the Top 30 Most Inspiring Women in AI and a Top 50 Influencer by Women in Tech, Salema focuses on leveraging AI for societal betterment.

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KARIN IMMENROTH

GERMANY

Karin Immenroth, a leading figure in German research, data, and analytics, serves as Chief Data and Analytics Officer at RTL Deutschland GmbH. With over 20 years of experience, she oversees a team of specialists. Karin studied Communication, Analytics, Insight, Econometrics, and Data Analysis at Ludwig-Maximilians Universität and holds a master's from IU International University of Applied Sciences.

Since October 2019, she has driven data strategy and analysis at RTL Deutschland, leading viewer, market, and media research for Mediengruppe RTL. Her team is pivotal for data and research for Ad Alliance.

Previously at MEC, Karin held senior roles, including Chief Analytics Officer. She sits on the Supervisory Board of AGFA and chairs the Foundation Board of European Net ID. A global thought leader, she advocates for aligning technology, data, and business processes to drive strategic transformation.

PEGGY TSAI

USA

Peggy Tsai, with over 18 years of experience, is a leading expert in leveraging data for business transformation. As Chief Data Officer at BigID, she drives data governance strategy and business development. Previously, she held C-suite positions at Morgan Stanley, AIG, and S&P Global Ratings.

Peggy holds a Bachelor of Arts from Cornell University and a Master of Science from New York University. She's a member of the Data Governance Professional Organization and mentors Cornell freshmen in data and analytics.

Co-author of "The AI Book," Peggy's thought leadership is featured in platforms like Business of Data, CDO Magazine, and the New York Business Journal. She co-hosts "The Data Transformers" podcast and advocates for women in data and technology, reflecting her commitment to giving back.

ESTHER MUNYI

SOUTH AFRICA

Esther Munyi is the Chief Data and Analytics officer at Sasfin where she oversees the data strategy, governance, architecture, and operations, as well as the development and implementation of cutting-edge data solutions and insights that enable Sasfin to achieve its strategic objectives and deliver value to its clients and stakeholders.

Esther Munyi has had a distinguished professional career, expanding well over 10 years. She was recognized as the CDO of the Year 2023 at the FINNOVEX South Africa Awards and as one of the Global Data Power Women in 2023. For Esther, success means being able to see that she has changed something in someone, whether it's inspiring them to pursue their dreams, sharing knowledge that helps them meet their goals, or simply making it easier for them to achieve greatness.

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CASSIE KOZYRKOV

USA

As the CEO of Data Scientific, Cassie Kozyrkov empowers leaders to optimize their most critical choices. Cassie made history as Google's first Chief Decision Scientist, where she championed the field of Decision Intelligence and trained over 20,000 Googlers in the art of data-driven decision-making.

Cassie's fascination with data began early, by a curiosity about the connection between data and making choices. This led her on an academic journey, starting with statistics at age 15 and more studies across economics, psychology, and cognitive neuroscience.

As a speaker and writer, she has enlightened millions, earning her recognition as a LinkedIn Top Voice and a leading AI writer. Now, at Data Scientific, Cassie continues to empower leaders and organizations. Her recently launched course on Maven shows her commitment to bridging the data gap, ensuring everyone has the tools to make smarter decisions.

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NOLLIE MAOTO

SOUTH AFRICA

With over 15 years of experience in the Financial Services and Management Consulting sectors, she brings a wealth of expertise to her role. Beyond her contributions to FNB, Nollie holds a prominent position in the data and analytics community across South Africa, Africa, and globally.

She is celebrated for her leadership and mentorship, particularly championing women in data and analytics across Africa. Notably, she made history as the sole South African speaker at Open Data Science Europe in both 2020 and 2022. Her influence transcends borders, as she has delivered keynote addresses at prestigious conferences worldwide, including in the United States, the Netherlands, and Dubai.

Additionally, Nollie's commitment to empowering women in leadership is evident in her contribution as an author to "Breaking the Glass Ceiling", a book to inspire women in leadership positions.

MEGAN LIEU

USA

Megan Lieu isn't just a Data Scientist, she wears many hats – a communicator, a top LinkedIn Data content creator, and an inspiring educator. Currently, she is a Data Advocate at Deepnote and an Instructor at LinkedIn Learning. Through her engaging content, informative courses, and insightful writing, Megan empowers individuals and organizations to transform data into actionable insights.

Megan transitioned from an academic and career background in finance into data science & analytics. Never one to keep the knowledge to herself, Megan transitioned into Developer Relations at Deepnote. As a LinkedIn Learning Instructor and Top Voice, she has continuously connected with and inspired aspiring data scientists. Looking ahead, Megan is on a mission to bridge the gap in data science knowledge and empower a new generation of data enthusiasts.

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UJJYAINI MITRA

INDIA

Ujjyaini Mitra is an innovative professional, who has spearheaded groundbreaking initiatives in Data Science, AI, and digital transformation. As the Founder and CEO of Deltacube.ai and SETU School, she is renowned for her commitment to crafting 'Next in Class' solutions that redefine industry standards. With over 17 years of leadership experience, Ujjyaini has cemented her expertise in establishing data-driven cultures within large organizations.

Ujjyaini's was recognized among the Top 50 Most Influential Women in Media, Marketing, and Advertising by Impact. She also actively mentors aspiring data scientists and managers, sharing her invaluable industry experience. As she continues to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and emerging industry skill demand with SETU School, she paves the way for more professionals in the industry.

RENATA BIAGGI
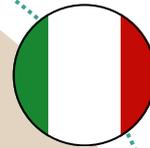
ITALY

Renata Biaggi is known for data-driven innovations, with a focus on AI solutions to address emerging business challenges. As the Tech Lead in Data Scientist & AI Solutions at Celfocus, she drives the development and deployment of machine learning models in diverse sectors. With over 6 years of hands-on experience, Renata is celebrated for her ability to transform complex data into actionable insights, leveraging her proficiency in AI, statistics, and Python.

She has launched her own online courses, EBA (Estatística do Básico ao Avançado) and PED (Preparatório para Entrevistas em Dados), catering to aspiring data scientists seeking to deepen their understanding of statistics and prepare for job interviews. Her accomplishments include the development of an advanced anomaly detection framework for time series analysis, which has been instrumental in driving process efficiencies across industries such as telecom and healthcare.

SUNDAS KHALID

USA

Sundas Khalid, is a data science leader at Google. Her career spans across renowned companies like Google and Amazon, where she's known for her contributions in analytics and experimentation. As the first woman in her family to graduate college, Sundas is a passionate advocate for diversity in tech. She champions initiatives both within and outside Google, and her achievements have been recognized by Forbes.

Despite overcoming a six-year gap in education, she became a distinguished student leader and valedictorian at the University of Washington. This drive to empower others continues at Google, where she leads search engine analytics and champions programs like IamRemarkable. Her influence extends beyond work with educational content and inspiring speeches, reaching over 20,000 individuals. Sundas is committed to using her platform to break stereotypes and uplift individuals from underprivileged backgrounds.

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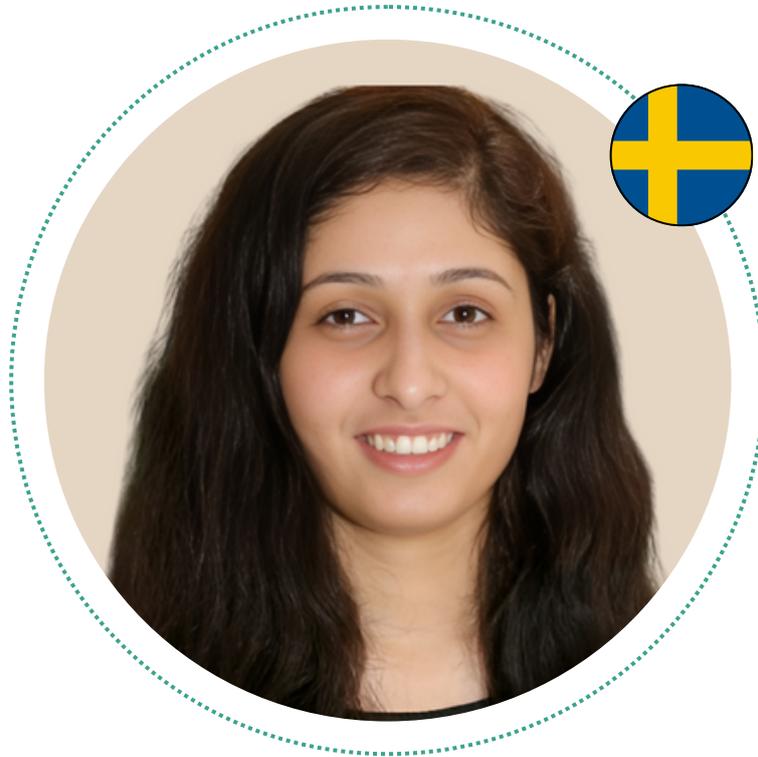
SMRITI MISHRA

SWEDEN

Smriti Mishra is a Data Engineer & Scientist at Adage, where she uses her expertise in cloud computing, Python programming, and artificial intelligence to drive transformative data analytics projects. With a background in electronics and communications engineering, and a strong foundation in data structures and algorithms, she actively engages in initiatives promoting diversity and inclusion in AI, as a mentor at Google for Startups and director at AI4Diversity.

She embarked on a career path that led her to roles at organizations such as Adage and PostNord, where she spearheaded Data Analytics initiatives and embraced her passion for fostering an inclusive AI community. She continues to make significant contributions to the global tech community. Recognized as a LinkedIn Top Voice in Tech & Innovation and honoured in Forbes' 30 Under 30 STEM & Healthcare, Smriti inspires individuals worldwide.

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ADEDAYO ADEFULU

NIGERIA

Adedayo Adefulu, Vice President of Strategy at Coca-Cola West African Business Unit, brings extensive experience from Bain & Company and JP Morgan Chase. With over four years at Coca-Cola, she oversees business strategy and development. Previously, as Head of Strategy & Insights, West & Central Africa, she played a key role in driving actionable insights at Coca-Cola.

Dayo holds an MBA from Northwestern University and a Bachelor of Science from Morgan State University. Recognized for her leadership potential, she received the "Analyst of the Year award" at JP Morgan. She was also named one of the "Top 100 Career Women in Nigeria" by 9to5Chick.

Passionate about education, Adedayo serves as a Program Manager, supporting disadvantaged youth in Africa through the Azariah Foundation.

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ELISA SAI

UK

Elisa, a Vice President at Capgemini Invent, leads transformative Data and AI projects across sectors. With diverse career paths, including time as an oboe player and academia, she champions data-driven insights for organizational and societal impact. Elisa is a vocal advocate for gender diversity in Data, mentoring, and driving initiatives for increased female participation in STEM.

With over a decade of experience, Elisa's roles include Senior Director and Vice President at Capgemini Invent, where she leads Analytics and AI projects. Previously, as a Senior Manager at Accenture Applied Intelligence, she crafted Data and AI strategies across industries, showcasing expertise in business development and project management.

Before her corporate roles, Elisa lectured at the University of Bristol while pursuing her PhD in Historical Studies. Holding a Master's degree in History with Distinction, she blends academic rigor with industry acumen, exemplifying a holistic approach to data-driven innovation.