Podcast Name: *ACM ByteCast*
Episode: Nuria Oliver - Episode 29

Welcome to the *ACM ByteCast* podcast, a series from the Association for Computing Machinery! The podcast features conversations with researchers, practitioners, and innovators at the intersection of computing research and practice about their experiences, lessons learned, and visions for the future of computing. The driving question behind this episode is this: "What good is artificial intelligence if it doesn't benefit humanity?"

In this show, *ACM ByteCast* host, Rashmi Mohan, interviews Nuria Oliver. Nuria is the first female Science Director at Telefonica R&D, Chief Data Scientist at Data-Pop Alliance, cofounder of Alicante ELLIS Unit, devoted to research on "Human(ity)-centric Artificial Intelligence." Her work involves building computation models of human behavior, studying computer human interactions, and using data for social good. Nuria has over 40 patents and many awards, the most recent ones being the Abie Technology Leadership Award, King James I Award in New Technologies. She led Valencian Region on AI Strategy and Data Science to fight COVID-19. Nuria is the first woman computer scientist from Spain.

The episode begins as Nuria introduces herself and shares her background. Since childhood, Nuria was fascinated by the idea of investigating and solving unsolved problems. She looked up to historic figures such as Leonardo da Vinci and Albert Einstein, but was ultimately inspired by her brother's best friend as she chose a career in technology. Nuria began inventing technology that would help people, such as developing computers that recognize expressions, smart cars, and even smart clothes which understand and interpret sign language. By 2007, she moved back home to Spain with the goal of using data for social good.

In Spain, Nuria helped develop evidence-based policies and was instrumental during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Learn how she reached out to the government, offering ideas, and guiding decision making. Nuria highlights her experience with teams and why a flat structure seems to work best.

Rashmi asks Nuria about her experience with the Data-Pop Alliance, an initiative created by MIT lab in order to use data for social good. Listen to how they are developing economies, bettering education and outreach. Additionally, Nuria highlights her passion - inspiring young girls in computer science. She believes we have a societal challenge to tackle. Women are not represented well in technology and we are failing to inspire young girls into this field. Nuria hopes to change this. As the conversation closes, discover what most excites Nuria about the future of her career.

Key Takeaways:
00:50 - Rashmi introduces Nuria.
02:00 - Nuria explains how she was inspired by da Vinci, Einstein, and her brother's friend.
06:00 - Nuria highlights her past work on smart cars, smart rooms, and smart clothes.
13:40 - How Nuria's experience with data helped with the COVID-19.
20:30 - Why little bureaucracy and a flat structure helped her team thrive.
25:40 - How to measure the efficacy of work.
31:40 - Nuria discusses the Data-Pop Alliance.

34:30 - Why diversity on the team is essential.
38:50 - How and why we must inspire young girls in computer science.
44:50 - What most excites Nuria about the future.

Links:
Learn more about [Nuria Oliver](#).
Learn more about the [Association](#) for Computing Machinery (ACM) at [acm.org](#).
Learn more about the ACM ByteCast podcast at [acm.org/bytecast](#).

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