

***Our LEO PhD brings you up to date on her recent work
Following her graduation with a doctorate from Middlesex University in 2022,
Elisabetta Mori describes some of her varied and interesting work in the IT field***

Over the last few years, I've had the privilege of contributing to various international projects: academic research programmes, academic publications, outreach and public engagement activities. I do hope that the Society is going to be pleased to read about the results of their support and investment in my professional development.

I was excited recently to be awarded the prestigious Juan de la Cierva postdoctoral fellowship (2024-2026) at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona. I am working in Prof. Daniele Cozzoli's History of Science and Modern Culture Research Group. My ongoing research is on the emergence and development of the European computer industry, and its relationship with academia and politics.

I have recently taken on several important roles, including serving as an associate editor for the IEEE Annals of the History of Computing. In addition, I became senior research fellow at The National Museum of Computing - TNMOC, Bletchley Park, a member of the IEEE Computer Society History Committee and of the History of Computing working group of AICA - Associazione italiana per il Calcolo Automatico. From January to May 2025 I returned to the UK as a member of the Modern History of Mathematics Programme at the Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences in Cambridge [1].

Looking back, in 2022-23, I had the opportunity to serve as a visiting scientist at Software Heritage in Paris, where I worked on testing and developing the SWHAP process and contributed to the Software Stories initiative in collaboration with UNESCO and Inria. These projects focus on source code preservation, highlighting the critical role software has played in shaping the contemporary world. On that occasion I also organised an international event in Paris on the current state of software preservation, SWHAP Days [2].

Also in this period, I was awarded a grant from the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists - WCIT, with the support of Archives of IT. My research on the History of British Human-Computer Interaction included recording new oral histories and an article, titled *From Punch Cards to Brain-Computer Interfaces: 75 years of Human-Computer Interaction and its Impact on Society* [3]. A short video teaser about the research is also available [4]. My research on the subject has been recently presented in Barcelona at the 11th Conference of the European Society for the History of Science (September 2024) [5], at the Computer Conservation Society in London [6] and at an event at the WCIT (February 2025).

In 2023 I wrote an article for *The Guardian*, celebrating the life of *Yorick Wilks*, an important figure in British artificial intelligence [7]. In 2024, I contributed an entry on internet pioneer Peter T. Kirstein to the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* [8]. These public science contributions allowed me to reach a wider audience and share the rich history of computing with people outside the academic world.

In October 2024, I taught a course at the University of Pisa entitled *Storia dell'informatica e riflessioni sulla disciplina*, engaging with Italian computer science teachers, offering them new insights on how to use history to teach mathematical and computer concepts to high school students. My classes used the collections of the University of Pisa Museum of Computing Machinery, offering hands-on insights and suggesting interactive forms of education. This experience relied also on my previous employment with the Museum, where I had collaborated on their research project on Italian pioneers of Computing. Amongst its

results I co-authored the podcast *Pionieri dell'Informatica*, based on interviews I recorded, highlighting the stories of key figures in the Italian early history of computing [9]. My international collaborations have also included recording oral histories for FOSSDA, The Free and Open Source Stories Digital Archive Foundation in the United States [10].

Looking at the future, this summer I'll be presenting my work at the International Congress of History of Science and Technology - ICHST 2025 in Dunedin, New Zealand [11]. My talk, *Knowledge Transfers in the European Computer Industry* includes the case of EDSAC and LEO. I'm also excited about my upcoming paper showcasing original research on the LEO Computers, *The Influence of Organisation & Methods on Early Business Computing*, which will be published in 2025 as part of the book *Computing Cultures: Knowledges and Practices (1940–1990)*, edited by Arianna Borelli and Helena Durnová.

[1] <https://www.newton.ac.uk/event/mhm>

[2] https://www.softwareheritage.org/2024/09/09/swhap_days_2022

[3] Mori, E., *From Punch Cards to Brain-Computer Interfaces: 75 years of Human-Computer Interaction and its Impact on Society*, September 2023.

<https://archivesit.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/From-Punch-Cards-to-Brain-Computer-Interfaces.pdf>

[4] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=veA9kGBNJCw>

[5] <https://eshs.org/11th-eshs-conference>

[6] <https://www.computerconservationsociety.org/lectures/2024-25/20250220.htm>

[7] Mori, E., Yorick Wilks obituary, The Guardian, UK, 9th June 2023.

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2023/jun/09/yorick-wilks-obituary>

[8] <https://doi.org/10.1093/odnb/9780198614128.013.90000381652>

[9] <https://pionieri.unipi.it>

[10] <https://fossda.org>

[11] <https://www.ichst2025.org>

[12] Mori, E., "The Influence of Organization and Methods on Early Business Computing" in Borrelli, A, Durnová, H. (Eds.), *Computing Cultures: Knowledges and Practices (1940–1990)*, Meson Press, 2025 (forthcoming).