

Words
and
Automata
Research
Group

Seminar Announcement

Teaching Informatics at School as a Scientific Discipline

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Thursday 19th March 2015, 3 p.m. Room 7, Via Archirafi 34, 90123 Palermo

While informatics and computational thinking have the potential to be very formative for pupils, and several core aspects of computing are sufficiently basic to be taught as a fundamental subject in all the secondary schools, the scientific aspects of the discipline are often blurred by the use of office automation tools, or the Internet communication facilities and their social impact. However, being fluent in using a given computer application is largely independent from the knowledge one may have in the discipline: to be able to read a clock one needs virtually no knowledge about the laws of pendulum!

In this talk we propose some teaching activities aimed at presenting and discussing the core of informatics as the "automatic processing of information", in order to show to pupils the appeal of informatics as a rigorous scientific discipline, providing its own peculiar key to interpret reality and its specific approach to problem solving.

Violetta Lonati is among the founders of ALaDDIn, Laboratorio di Didattica e Divulgazione dell'Informatica del Dipartimento di Informatica dell'Università degli Studi di Milano.

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