

2020 BOARD NOMINEE

Kamelia Aryafar

Executive Vice President and Chief Algorithms Officer,
Overstock.com



CRA
Computing Research
Association

Awards and Honors and Year Received

- NA

Involvement in CRA Activities

- No

Other Relevant Experience

- Member, Board of Directors, Overstock.com, 2019- Present
- Member, Board of Directors, Persian Women in Tech (non-profit), 2019- Present
- Advisory Board Member, Initiative for Analytics and Data Science Standards (IADSS), 2019- Present
- Advisory Board Member, Retail Management Institute at Santa Clara University, 2019- Present

Research Interests

- Learning to Rank
- Information retrieval
- Applied Machine Learning
- Recommender Systems
- Predictive Modeling
- Deep Learning

Personal Statement

I'm an industry executive and leader focused on integration of machine learning, data science and analytics across Overstock's entire \$2 billion e-commerce platform. I'm passionate about increased collaboration between academia and industry around machine learning and data science. In addition to that I deeply care about diversity in the computer science community. In my role as an industry leader with an academic background, I hope to bring more diversity, closer collaboration and an industry perspective to CRA.

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Bio

As Overstock.com's Executive Vice President and Chief Algorithms Officer, Dr. Kamelia Aryafar leads the company's machine learning, data science, data engineering, technology and analytics functions across the entire organization. Since joining Overstock.com in 2017, Dr. Aryafar's teams have integrated state-of-the-art machine learning and artificial intelligence algorithms across product teams that focus on organic and sponsored search ranking, personalization, pricing algorithms, recommender systems, marketing tech, CRM, advertising technologies, email, sourcing and supply chain.

Dr. Aryafar holds a Ph.D. and M.Sc. in computer science and machine learning from Drexel University and a B.Sc. in computer engineering from Sharif University of technology in Iran. She has published several papers in scientific journals. As an active member of the machine learning community, she frequently speaks at academic and industry conferences focusing on advancing the field of applied machine learning and artificial intelligence.

Kamelia has an impressive portfolio within the applied AI/ML community, having published dozens of academic papers. She is extremely passionate about closing the gap between research and implementation of AI in academia and industry. You can find a list of her publications here. Following her Ph.D. program at Drexel University, Dr. Aryafar joined Etsy as a Senior Data Science Lead where she helped grow the organization through the implementation of machine learning and algorithms across various product teams.

Kamelia believes in the importance of building diverse teams and has been instrumental in creating a diverse culture at Overstock, joining Overstock's Women Network and Women in Tech series. She has spoken on several large stages on the importance diversity brings to organizations and to solving problems effectively. As a recently naturalized American citizen from Iran, she has worked her way in a heavily male dominated industry to lead the technology department of a two-billion dollar online retailer.

Kamelia serves as a member of Overstock's board of directors in addition to her role as EVP and CAO. She also serves on the board of directors for Persian Women in Tech (non-profit), Initiative for Analytics and Data Science Standards (IADSS) and Retail Management Institute at Santa Clara University.