



**Dr. Karen Renaud** is a Scottish computing Scientist at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, working on all aspects of Human-Centred Security and Privacy. She was educated at the Universities of Pretoria, and Glasgow. She is particularly interested in deploying behavioural science techniques to improve security behaviours, and in encouraging end-user privacy-preserving behaviours. She collaborates with academics in 5 continents and incorporates research findings and techniques from multiple disciplines.

**Title:** Moving from "Human as Problem" to "Human as Solution" in Cyber Security

**Sarah and John Graves Distinguished Lecture Series**

**Venue:** KEP 3065

**Time:** Noon to 1:00 pm – Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Lunch will be provided - All Welcome!**

**Abstract:** Cyber security has gained prominence, with a number of widely publicized security incidents, hacking attacks and data breaches reaching the news over the last few years. The numbers of cyber incidents shows no sign of abating. The cyber security industry treats all humans in the system as if they might well be malicious actors, and the solutions are designed to prevent insecure behaviors. This viewpoint demonstrates a “Human-as-Problem” mindset. It seems appropriate to take a look at the way cybersecurity is conceptualized and to consider whether there is a need for a mindset change.

We are proposing a paradigm change: "Human as Solution". This new mindset rests on recognition of the fact that the problem is actually the high complexity, interconnectedness and emergent qualities of socio-technical systems, and not a single component of the socio-technical system. The new mindset acknowledges the well-intentioned human's ability to be an important contributor to organizational cybersecurity and their potential to be “part of the solution” rather than “the problem”. The focus is on enhancing factors that contribute to positive outcomes and on building resilience rather than sheer resistance.

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