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MGA ACTIVITIES

An Overview of the IEEE ComSoc Distinguished Lecturer Program in Latin America 2024–2025

by Fabricio Braga Soares de Carvalho, IEEE ComSoc LA Region DLT and DSP Coordinator 2024–2025, Brazil

During the 2024–2025 biennium, several activities of the Distinguished Lecturer Program were organized by different ComSoc chapters in Latin America. The main goal of the Distinguished Lecturer Program is to offer the benefits of world-class lectures to IEEE members around the globe. Particularly in Latin America, due to limited access to in-person high-level presentations and courses, as well as the high costs of traveling to and attending major international conferences outside the region, the Distinguished Lecturer Program is a vital initiative for attracting new student and professional members to ComSoc. It also serves as a strong retention tool by highlighting the technical and professional value of being an IEEE ComSoc member.

A total of 13 Distinguished Lecturer Tours were approved and presented in Latin America by renowned speakers in 2024 and 2025, directly impacting ComSoc members and non-members in 7 different countries. The countries visited were Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Panama, and the outreach reached undergraduate and graduate students, faculty members, researchers, industry professionals, and local government representatives.

The wide range of themes presented by the renowned speakers was a perfect match for the diversity of the Latin American region and its local interests. Latin America Communications Society members were attracted by the experience, knowledge, and insights into the future of communications technology offered by the Distinguished Lecturers. Cutting-edge technologies such as wireless communications, 5G, 6G, the Internet of Things (IoT), communication networks, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, machine learning, non-terrestrial networks, and many other innovative areas were presented brilliantly by 12 ComSoc Distinguished Lecturers.

In 2024, the following DL tours were held in Region 9.

- Dr. Maxime Guillaud presented a tour in Brazil in July, visiting three cities (São José dos Campos, Fortaleza, and Rio de Janeiro) and discussing wireless channel charting and massive random access.
- The second tour of the year was conducted by Dr. Sudhir Dixit, who visited Panama, Guatemala, and Honduras in July, presenting on the Internet of Senses and how 6G is integrating with the human mind and body.
- Dr. Michele Nogueira presented a tour in October, offering lectures in Ecuador and Panama focused on machine learning and deep learning applied to cybersecurity and DDoS attack prediction.
- Dr. Fabrizio Granelli visited three cities in Brazil (Campinas, Rio de Janeiro, and Natal) between October and November, tackling themes such as automating network management in 5G networks, SDN and NFV in future communication networks, and digital twins in 6G.



Distinguished Lecturer Tour presented by Dr. Michele Nogueira in Ecuador (October 2024).



Distinguished Lecturer Tour presented by Dr. Fatima Houssein in Colombia (2025).



Distinguished Lecturer Tour presented by Dr. Mischa Dohler in Brazil (2025).

- Colombia was visited by Dr. Sinem Coleri in November, who presented lectures in Medellin and Bogota focused on artificial intelligence and its impact on 6G. Finally, Dr. Michele Nogueira concluded the year's tours by visiting three cities in Brazil (Rio Branco, Palmas, and Brasilia) in November to discuss data science for cybersecurity.

In 2025, the following Distinguished Lecturer tours were organized in Latin America.

- Dr. Carlos Cordeiro presented the first tour of the year in April, visiting two cities in Mexico (Cuernavaca and Monterrey) and discussing the evolution of Wi-Fi technology.
- Between September and October, Dr. Mischa Dohler visited Brazil and Colombia, offering three lectures on exciting topics involving the immersive internet, augmented reality, artificial intelligence, and other advancements contributing to 6G development.
- Dr. Majid Butt visited Brazil in September as part of a DL tour that included lectures in the United States; he discussed radio technologies for 6G.
- Dr. Baek-Young Choi presented lectures on the Internet of Things and related topics in Colombia and Panama in October.
- Dr. Ender Ayanoglou presented lectures in two Mexican cities (Monterrey and Puebla), also in October, where local members learned about the Shannon limit and related topics.
- In November, Dr. Gunes Kurt offered lectures in three cities in Mexico and Guatemala, concentrating on secure and sustainable non-terrestrial networks.
- Finally, in November and December, three cities in Colombia (Bogota, Cartagena, and Medellin) hosted Dr. Fatima Hussein, who highlighted emerging trends in cybersecurity and evolving threats in modern digital systems.

In addition to the talks, the Distinguished Lecturers also had the opportunity to meet face-to-face with local students, faculty members, and industry representatives, and to visit important laboratories and universities in Latin America. The close interaction enabled by the Distinguished Lecturer Program has the potential to extend the frontiers of cooperation between these renowned speakers and the technical community in Latin America. Furthermore, the contact between these lecturers and IEEE student branches and local chapter volunteers motivates new activities and inspires the next generation.

The Virtual Distinguished Lecturer (VDL) Program is also of paramount importance to ComSoc. It serves as a valuable alternative when in-person lectures are not feasible due to logistical constraints. A key advantage of the VDL Program is the potential to reach a larger audience, as the lectures are offered free of charge to both IEEE members and non-members.

Four virtual lectures were organized by local chapters in 2025:



Distinguished Lecture presented by Dr. Maxime Guillaud in Brazil (July 2024).



Distinguished Lecturer Tour presented by Dr. Ender Ayanoglou in Mexico (2025).

- Dr. Damla Turgut presented on the participation of women and minorities in STEM (hosted by the Ecuador Chapter in March);
- Dr. David López-Perez presented on the fundamentals and impact of 6G (hosted by the Ecuador Chapter in May);
- Dr. Ertugrul Basar lectured on noise-driven communication (hosted by Brazilian chapters in November);
- Dr. Kai-Kit Wong presented on enormous fluid antenna systems (E-FAS) (hosted by Brazilian chapters in November).

These selected virtual lectures reflected how IEEE Region 9 members aim to stay connected to new technologies and developments in communications and networks.

The lectures presented in-person and virtually in 2024 and 2025 were acclaimed by the IEEE ComSoc community in Latin America, providing inspiration to organize future DL tours and to apply the presented concepts within the regional context. Feedback from the lecturers was also very positive, citing the interest, motivation, and active participation of attendees. This demonstrates the effectiveness of the Distinguished Lecturer Program for local communities and for the experts who volunteered to share their knowledge and time. The IEEE ComSoc Distinguished Lecturer Program in Region 9 aims to build on the success of the 2024–2025 period in the years ahead.

CHAPTER REPORT

Talks on Satellite IoT Communications at the IoT-UC Research Lab, Chile

by Miguel Gutiérrez Gaitán, IEEE ComSoc Chile Chapter Chair

The Internet of Things (IoT) Research Lab at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (IoT-UC), supported by the IEEE Communications Society Chile Chapter, recently hosted a series of invited talks on emerging challenges in IoT connectivity, with a focus on satellite communications and advanced wireless technologies.

This seminar series reflects ongoing collaborations across academia and international research initiatives involving the IoT-UC Research Lab, led by Prof. Miguel Gutiérrez Gaitán, including DORSAL-IoT (Downlink Optimization for Robust Direct-to-Satellite IoT) and Avanza UC SCORPIO (Satellite Communications and Radiopropagation for the Internet of



Oana Iova at her talk at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

Things), as part of the newly established Cyber-Physical Systems Research and Technology Center (CPS-RTC), the first center of its kind in Latin America.

The first talk was delivered by Prof. Oana Iova (INSA Lyon, INRIA) on November 24, 2025, titled “Terrestrial and Satellite Communications for the Internet of Things: Challenges and Advancements.” The presentation discussed how LPWAN technologies such as LoRa and LoRaWAN are evolving toward satellite-enabled global coverage, highlighting key challenges and recent advances enabling energy-efficient, large-scale IoT systems. This activity was conducted within the DORSAL-IoT project, a multi-institutional initiative in which César Azurdía (U. de Chile), Diego Dujovne (UDP), Samuel Montejo (UTEM), and Juan A. Fraire and Hervé Rivano (INSA Lyon, France) also participated.

The second session, “Additive Manufacturing of Antennas for IoT and Space Communications,” was delivered by Prof. Romain Pascaud (ISAE-SUPAERO, France) on March 11, 2026. The presentation explored how additive manufacturing enables the design of complex antenna structures with controllable electromagnetic properties, opening new opportunities in antenna and microwave engineering. The session, conducted in collaboration with Prof. Francisco Pizarro (PUCV), enabled the local team to consider new antenna design options for future satellite IoT communications within the Avanza UC SCORPIO research project.

The most recent seminar featured Dr. Felipe Tondo (UFSC, Brazil), who presented the talk “Towards Scalable Uplink Access Strategies for Satellite IoT Networks” on March 13, 2026. His talk addressed scalable uplink access mechanisms for satellite IoT systems, focusing on coordination and capacity challenges. This activity was made possible by the invitation of Prof. Samuel Montejo (UTEM), as part of the joint CPS-RTC activities involving UTEM and IoT-UC, and aligns with ongoing collaborations under DORSAL-IoT and SCORPIO, with UFSC participating in both projects through Prof. Richard D. Souza.

Overall, this seminar series highlights IEEE ComSoc Chile’s role in fostering international and national collaboration, as well as its productive partnership with the IoT-UC Research Lab led by Prof. Miguel Gutiérrez Gaitán. The talks have had a strong impact on the local community, with active participation from members across multiple universities (UTEM, UDP, U. de Chile, and PUCV), engaging both undergraduate and graduate students in emerging topics in IoT and satellite communications, as well as in related research projects. These activities reflect IEEE ComSoc Chile’s success in strengthening collaboration, knowledge exchange, and community building in this rapidly evolving field.



From left to right: Miguel Gutiérrez Gaitán (PUC, Chile), Romain Pascaud (ISAE-SUPAERO, France), Francisco Pizarro (PUCV, Chile) and Christian Oberli (PUC, Chile).



From left to right: Camila Conde (PUC, Chile), Samuel Montejo (UTEM), Miguel Gutiérrez Gaitán (PUC, Chile), Felipe Tondo (UFSC, Brazil), and Diego Dujovne (UDP, Chile).

CHAPTER REPORT

6G, Mobility, and Global Connectivity at Tec de Monterrey

by Analia Gonzalez-Cantu, Cesar Vargas-Rosales, IEEE ComSoc Monterrey Chapter, Mexico

On November 3, 2025, as part of the IEEE ComSoc Distinguished Lecturer program and the IEEE Founder’s Day celebration of IEEE HKN, the Tecnológico de Monterrey, Monterrey Campus, was the epicenter of the discussion on the future of telecommunications, when it received three leading international experts in an academic meeting organized by the IEEE ComSoc Monterrey Chapter. Under the title “Next Generation Communication Systems for Mobility, Safety, and Global Connectivity,” the event delved into the technologies that will cement the next decade: 6G, IoT, non-terrestrial networks (NTN), and their applications for smart cities.

The conference had the participation of two IEEE ComSoc Distinguished Lecturers and a renowned IEEE Senior Member:

- Dr. Claudio Casetti (Politecnico di Torino, Italy), an expert in vehicular networks, presented crucial advances in V2X communications for road safety, with a special focus on the protection of vulnerable users, and the path between standards and implementation.



Gunes Karabulut Kurt, during her visit to the Space Technologies Lab, is engaging with students.

- Dr. Gunes Karabulut Kurt (Polytechnique Montréal, Canada), Satellite Systems and 6G Specialist, presented the critical role of non-terrestrial networks and Space Domain Awareness in achieving truly global and resilient coverage. Part of her presentation focused on Space Situational Awareness (SSA) and its relationship to Space Domain Awareness (SDA).
- Dr. Francisco Falcone (Faculty of Excellence in Telecommunications at Tec de Monterrey and Director of the Smart Cities Institute at UPNA, Spain) opened the sessions by framing the

relevance of these technologies in the smart grid ecosystem and their cross-cutting impact.

Beyond enabling students, academics, and experts to interact directly, the event fostered meaningful dialogue among the speakers. In this exchange, European and American viewpoints converged and contrasted on some of the most urgent technological frontiers: driving ultra-low latency, mastering spectral efficiency, ensuring seamless interoperability across diverse systems, and advancing transformative applications such as autonomous mobility and integrated satellite networks.

By bringing together highly relevant topics and the expertise of seasoned specialists, the event cultivated a vibrant atmosphere of exchange. The speakers' ability to distill complexity into accessible insights inspired active participation and opened space for genuine dialogue with the audience. The conference served as a powerful forum for knowledge transfer and collaboration, offering firsthand exposure to the future of global telecommunications.

The feedback extended beyond the auditorium. During a subsequent visit to the laboratory of Space Technologies, Dr. Karabulut Kurt learned first-hand about innovative projects developed by students in the Concentration on Space Technologies, for engineering students, and offered valuable recommendations based on her extensive international experience.

The realization of this meeting was possible thanks to the management of Dr. César Vargas-Rosales, head of the IEEE ComSoc Monterrey Chapter and Faculty Advisor of the IEEE-HKN Lambda-Rho, Tecnológico de Monterrey Chapter, who



Karabulut Kurt, Casetti, and Vargas-Rosales with students after the presentations.

promoted and coordinated the participation of the distinguished speakers. Logistical and venue coordination at the Monterrey Campus of Tecnológico de Monterrey was handled by the Faculty of Excellence Coordinator, M.Sc. Analía González-Cantu.

These initiatives reinforce IEEE and Tecnológico de Monterrey's commitment to technological vanguard, enriching both academic research and the training of the next generation of communications engineers.

CONFERENCE REPORT

33rd International Conference on Software, Telecommunications and Computer Networks (SoftCOM 2025)

September 2025, Split, Croatia

by Dinko Begusic, Josko Radic, Matko Saric, Katarina Babic, Sinisa Krajnovic, Croatia; Pascal Lorenz, France; Joel J. P. C. Rodrigues, Brazil, Portugal

The 33rd International Conference on Software, Telecommunications and Computer Networks - SoftCOM 2025 was held in Radisson Blu Resort, Split, Croatia, September 18 to 20, 2025. The conference has been technically co-sponsored by the IEEE Communications Society (ComSoc) with the support of the Technical Committee on Communications Software (CommSoft) and the IEEE Croatian Section. The Conference was organized by the University of Split, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture (FESB) and Croatian Communications and Information Society (CCIS) under the auspices of the Croatian Academy of Engineering. Researchers from academia and industry from all over the world shared their efforts in advancing science, technology, and education in the field of ICT. The Mediterranean ambiance of Split and the Adriatic coast has been a perfect setting for such a meeting.

The technical program featured twenty-six conference sessions. The general conference program involved six sessions: 5G&B5G Technologies, Optical Communications and Networking, AI for Communications and Networking, Information and Data Processing, Image and Signal Processing, and Software Development. Three special sessions were dedicated to: New Trends in Satellite and Space Communication and Navigation, Ad Hoc and Sensor Networks and Internet of Things, and Advanced Educational Technologies. The program featured six symposia, including: Next Generation Wired and Wireless Networks, Security and Digital Forensics, Green Networking and



Panel discussion "Building Croatia's Digital Future: Opportunities and Challenges of the ICT Sector," moderated by Sinisa Krajnovic

Computing, Robotics and ICT Assisted Wellbeing, and the Simpozij Environmental Electromagnetic Compatibility: Prof. Maja Matijasevic, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, University of Zagreb, and Prof. Erich Leitgeb, TU Graz, Austria, coordinated the organization of the ConTEL Symposium with three thematic sessions: Smart Environments, User Behaviour, and Services, AI/ML and Advances in Optical&Wireless Communication Systems, and CEEPUS - Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies session. The 1st Workshop on Optical and Wireless Sensor Networks (OWIN6G) was organized by Prof. Stanislav Zvanovec, Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Republic, and Prof. Zabih Ghassemlooy, Northumbria University, UK.

The authors of selected papers have been invited to extend their papers and submit them for publication in the Journal of Communications Software and Systems (JCOMSS).

The interdisciplinary Symposium on Information Security and Intellectual Property has been organized in collaboration

with the University of Split, Faculty of Law, and the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing.

During the opening ceremony, the audience was addressed by Prof. Dinko Begusic, SoftCOM 2025 General Co-Chair, Prof. Branimir Lela, Dean, FESB Split, and Prof. Nikša Jajac, Vice Rector of the University of Split, MSc Gordana Kovacevic, CEO of the Ericsson Nikola Tesla company, Prof. Mario Kusek, IEEE Croatia Section, professor Ivo Bilic, Deputy Mayor of the City of Split, Blazenko Boban, Governor of the Split-Dalmatia County, Damir Habijan, Minister of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation, and Andro Krstulovic-Opara, on behalf of the President of the Croatian Parliament.

As part of the plenary session, the keynote talk titled “Status and (desired) evolution of the Telecommunications sector and thus of the related research” was delivered by Professor Nicola Blefari Melazzi (University of Rome Tor Vergata). Professor Blefari Melazzi, as the president of leading national institutions in the area of telecommunications in Italy (CNIT, RESTART), presented his view on the development of the telecommunications sector with an emphasis on key trends and challenges in the research work and associated areas. The keynote talk has been moderated by Sinisa Krajnovic, Ph.D., SoftCOM 2025 General Co-Chair.

The accompanying SoftCOM 2025 Business Forum featured professional workshops, project presentations, and panel discussions, with participation from experts and institution representatives. The 31st Workshop on ICT featured presentations of professional papers and posters in the field of ICT. The 1st Workshop on Computer Vision and Artificial Intelligence in Fruit Cultivation was organized by Professor Vladan Papic, FESB Split. The workshop topic is related to HRZZ IP-2024-05-6393 (COVIO) - Computer Vision in Olive Fruit Detection and Yield Estimation project. Panel discussion “Building Croatia’s Digital Future: Opportunities and Challenges of the ICT Sector” was moderated by Sinisa Krajnovic, Ph.D.. The panelists were Damir Habijan, Minister of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation; Irena Weber, Director General, Croatian Employers’ Association; and Ana Katalinić Mucalo, Ph.D., Deputy Executive Director, HAKOM, and Valerio Frascolla, Ph.D., Director Research and Innovation, Intel Labs, Germany.



An evening in Split: the historic ambiance of the 17th-century-old Diocletian's Palace was a perfect place for the SoftCOM 2025 participants to enjoy local food and music.

The SoftCOM 2025 Ph.D. Forum for doctoral students in the area of ICT was organized as a poster session, preceded by a brief introduction from each student. The organization has been coordinated by Prof. Maja Matijasevic (University of Zagreb) and moderated by Assoc. prof Maja Skiljo (University of Split). A special part of the program was aimed at master’s level students. Ericsson Nikola Tesla Summer Camp 2025 Workshop featured presentations of four student projects completed during the summer camp. The workshop was moderated by Andrej Grgurić and Duje Aja, Ericsson Nikola Tesla, Croatia.

The demonstration of the project DIGIPHY (Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing and Ericsson Nikola Tesla company) titled “XR Communication and Interaction Through a Dynamically Updated Digital Twin of a Smart Space – DIGIPHY” was presented by Lea Brzica.

More information about the SoftCOM 2025 conference may be found at the address <https://2025.softcom.fesb.unist.hr/>

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