



2 July 2025, 17:00-18:30 |online

The Power of Perspective, moderated by Carineh Ghafafian and Betty (Eleftheria) Papadaki

In this session, we will unpack the beauty of layers. We will define the in-between world - between different disciplines, between different cultures, between different interests, and so on. We will discuss the feeling of being in a situation where you feel like you have to translate (not necessarily between languages) between multiple parties that are in dialogue without at first understanding why there is a need for translation at all. We will dive into experiences where skills learned in a completely different context turn out to be essential in unexpected situations. Through conversation, we will massage sometimes uncomfortable feelings of being in the in-between world into a powerful toolkit of skills that can be used to help improve our surroundings in an unexpected manner. Carineh and Betty will present their experiences followed by a discussion.

Moderators Bios:

Carineh Ghafafian completed her PhD in Mechanical Engineering at the Technical University of Berlin in 2022, where she worked on the mechanical behavior of composite materials for wind turbine blade repairs. As an Armenian who grew up in Glendale, CA, the largest concentration of Armenians outside of Armenia, with friends and daily life with a myriad of immigrant families in the vibrant Los Angeles carpet, she found herself seeking challenges outside her comfort zone. She has lived, worked, and studied across three engineering disciplines and in four countries, finding herself again and again in situations where a different perspective has been the key element.

Betty (Eleftheria) Papadaki holds a PhD in Psychology from the Free University of Berlin, where she researched how musical training shapes brain networks. Originally trained in Greek philology and linguistics, her curiosity about the deeper "how" behind her interests led her to cognitive neuroscience. Her interdisciplinary journey—through humanities, abandoned studies in biophysics, and science technology society studies—made her realize that maybe it is not a weakness to follow paths out of interest and that intellectual detours can be a strength.

Please register until 30 June: petra.metz@hu-berlin.de