**ICYMI: Two inspirational women working in OR share their career stories**

In January and February WORAN hosted fantastic events which are now available on the OR society YouTube channel [bit.ly/woranplaylist](https://bit.ly/woranplaylist)

**Overcoming the Career Break Penalty: Professor Kathy Kotiadis & Dr Katie Perry CEO from the Daphne Jackson Trust**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YcWYyob65wY&list=PLo52A9r56pbvf9WilzP5AqsGW6moIMDQt&index=29>

An opportunity to hear Kathy’s story where she gives honest and passionate reflections on the challenges she faced in her career, and how through support from the Daphne Jackson Trust was able to return to research.

Starting with a successful career as an assistant professor and winner of the OR Society KD Tocher medal winner for simulation, she found herself in a very demanding work environment as well as new mum. Lacking encouragement and networks, with feelings of being a failure, despite conducting successful research, she experienced burn out and found no way out but to leave.

Her career break was over several years without a job to go back to. She overcame the struggle and fear of failure and chose to speak to WORAN to reach out to others.

25 Daphne Jackson fellowships are awarded every year, to support research returners after a career break of two years or more taken for family, caring or health reasons. Word of mouth is how people find out about this opportunity to spread the word and share with your colleagues. They have given people their confidence back and stepping-stone back into work.

The experience was a transformation for Kathy and she is now a champion for Women in STEM and a force for change.

**From Dream to Dominance: Ana Sofia Pereira Co-Founder of Wide Scope**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ngiw8tw2ikM&list=PLo52A9r56pbvf9WilzP5AqsGW6moIMDQt&index=28>

Starting with a background in OR and working on supply chain software, Ana saw an opportunity within Portugal to create her own business. It started with a dream to create a new market with operational research products, Ana openly describes the early challenges of starting a new company.

specialising in scheduling and logistics, Wide Scope achieved several awards and recognitions including Wide Scope being one of the most innovate and financial stable companies in Portugal. Clearly lives up to hype of dominance!

Ana is extremely open in the Q&A about balancing a family and a start-up and barriers of being a young woman in this environment and offers important insights on future proofing her business, and advice to those with a dream “never give up”.