



Alice Recoque

1929-2021

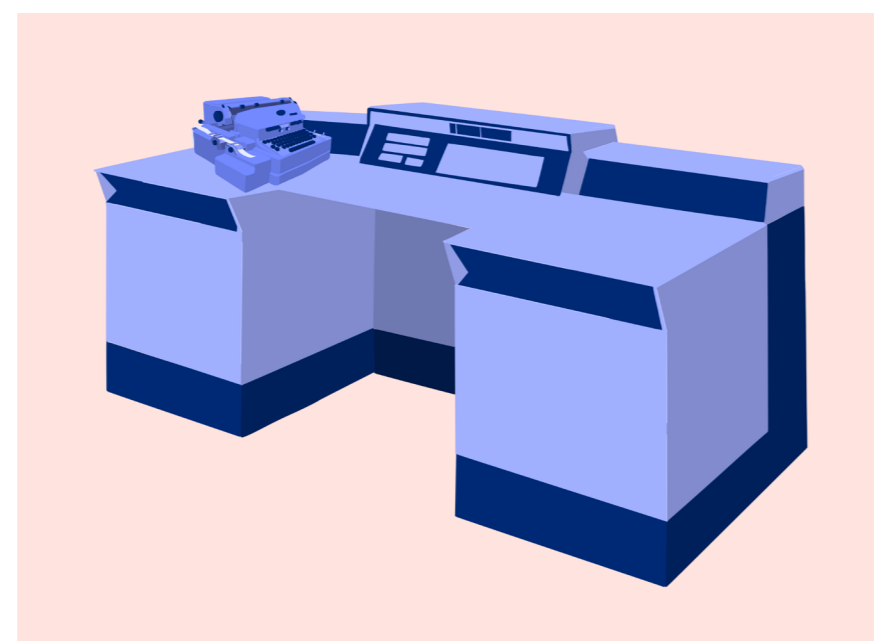
Pioneer of minicomputer development, parallel systems and artificial intelligence.



Studies

1954

Graduated from the ESPCI, a physics and chemistry school, as **one of only six women** in a class of around 40 students.



Making computers more accessible

1959

Contributed to the development of the **CAB 500**, one of Europe's early compact scientific computers, at a time when computers still filled entire rooms.



Computing enters industries

1971

Led the design and industrialisation of the **Mitra 15**, France's first minicomputer dedicated to industrial control. **Nearly 8,000 units were sold.** Computing was no longer confined to research centres.

Technology needs safeguards

1978

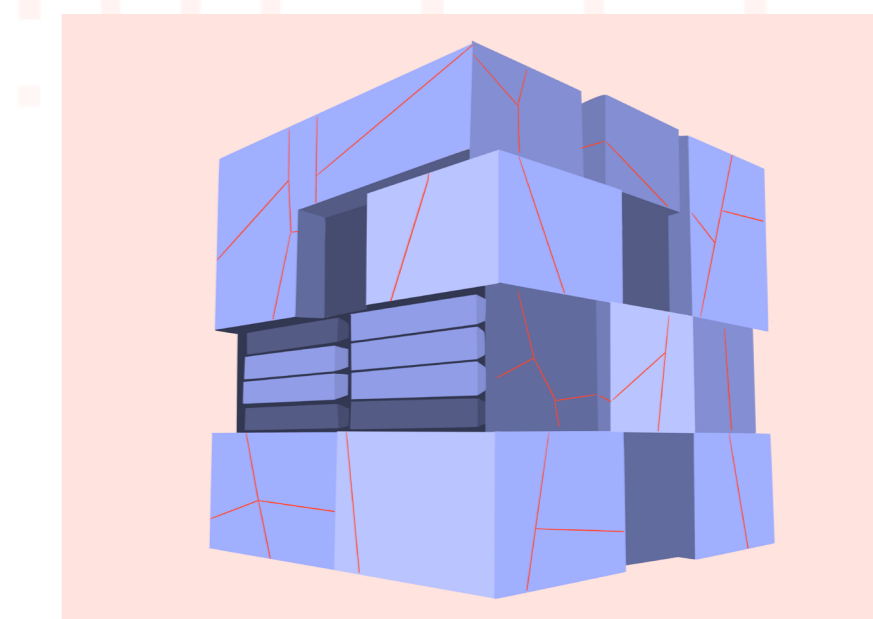
Took part in the meeting that founded the **CNIL**, France's personal data regulator and warned against **"the growing surveillance power of companies and States"**.

Pioneer in AI

1985

Appointed **Director of Bull's AI mission** leading a team of over 200 people, in collaboration with public institutions such as **INRIA**.

Contributed to the development of **Prolog II**, a logic-based programming language **still used in AI today**, particularly for natural language processing and reasoning systems in research and specialised applications.



Exascale Supercomputer "Alice Recoque"

2025

Following her passing, an exascale supercomputer was named in her honour, capable of performing **one billion billion calculations per second** for scientific simulation.

Sources

Carré, M. (2024). [Qui a voulu effacer Alice Recoque ?](#)

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Bull. (2025, November 18). [Eviden and AMD to power Europe's new exascale supercomputer, the first based in France](#)
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