

## Nomination Statement for IFAAMAS Board

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January 30, 2026

**Introduction.** I am a Senior Lecturer at Lancaster University in the UK. I obtained a PhD in Computer Science from North Carolina State University in 2008. I was a postdoc at the University of Trento in Italy and worked in industry before starting doctoral studies.

I am well-known for my work and intellectual leadership in the area of *Engineering Multiagent Systems* (EMAS). I am driven by the belief that multiagent abstractions, such as *norms* and *interaction protocols*, can be vastly more effective for purposes of engineering software than the ones currently in favor with practitioners. Many of my research contributions have appeared in AAMAS conferences and workshops and are supported by publicly-available software. These contributions have attracted attention from tech startups in finance.

**AAMAS Service.** I have served the conference in several organizational roles. I have been an AAMAS PC or SPC member every year since 2010. I have been an Area Chair twice. I have also served as the Sponsorship and the Publicity Cochair, each twice. I have cochaired seven AAMAS workshops, including COIN and EMAS. Since 2024, I have been a member of the EMAS Steering Committee. I have also given several tutorials at AAMAS.

**Challenges.** The AAMAS community is faced with major challenges today.

- How can we maintain our relevance and intellectual diversity in the face of Generative AI and associated paradigms such as Agentic AI? Agentic AI, a practitioner-led paradigm, boasts our terminology but none of our techniques. What kind of activities will help bridge this gap with practitioners?
- How can we attract students to take up research in multiagent systems? It was difficult enough to get multiagent systems research funded. Generative AI has made it harder still. How can we get our research funded in all its diversity?
- Conference attendance costs have risen considerably but research funding (including discretionary support from one's own department) is considerably diminished and less evenly spread. How can we keep the conference accessible to under-resourced participants, especially authors?
- In the fortunate scenario where we are inundated with submissions (as other AI conferences have been and our Blue Sky track was this year), how will we maintain reviewing quality without significantly increasing reviewing load?

If elected, my actions will be informed by these and other challenges, with the aim of growing our community, maintaining our diversity, and enhancing AAMAS's status as a top venue for AI and multiagent systems research.