

IFAAMAS Board Nomination: Bio and Statement

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Background and Bio

I am a Professor of Computing Science and Chair at the University of Aberdeen, as well as a Bridges Professor at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS). I earned my PhD from King's College London in 2009 and held a postdoctoral position at Carnegie Mellon University. My research focuses on autonomous agents, automated planning, and plan recognition. My work has been recognized with the 2024 AI Journal Prominent Paper Award and several Best Paper awards, including the Best Blue-Sky Paper at AAMAS 2024. I am a Senior Member of AAAI and ACM, and I served as an elected Councillor for the AAAI Executive Council from 2021 to 2024. My career has taken me across the UK, USA, and Brazil, with ongoing collaborations with academics in Europe, the Middle East, Australia and New Zealand, giving me a global perspective on the cultural and policy issues that shape AI research today.

Service to AAMAS and the AI Community

AAMAS is the community where I have served the longest, having been an active member for seventeen years. During this time, I have served as Area Chair, Demonstration Track Co-Chair, and COIN Workshop Co-Chair. My reviewing service for AAMAS includes multiple terms on the Senior Program Committee and the Program Committee. In 2021, I received the Best SPC Member Award for my work within this community.

Beyond AAMAS, I have served the broader AI community for over thirteen years. This includes service as an Area Chair for AAAI, IJCAI, and ICAPS. In 2025, I received a Best Area Chair award from ICAPS for my contributions to the planning community. My leadership also extends to co-chairing the AAAI Demonstrations Track and serving as a Board Member for the Special Committee on AI of the Brazilian Computer Society (SBC).

Goals and Issues

If elected to the IFAAMAS Board, I will address these three priorities:

- 1. Intellectual and Geographic Diversity** True diversity requires inclusion across both geographic and intellectual boundaries. Having navigated the AI ecosystem from Brazil, I have seen substantial talent wasted due to disparities in resources and institutional provenance. I will advocate for initiatives that lower these barriers, such as expanded summer schools and improved hybrid access models. We must ensure that researchers from underrepresented regions can participate fully in the global conversation.
- 2. Strengthening Cross-Community Collaboration** The agent community thrives at the intersection of various AI sub-fields. I will leverage my active roles in ICAPS and AAAI to foster stronger ties between these communities and AAMAS. By promoting bridge sessions and joint workshops, we can better integrate advances in automated planning and reasoning into the core of multi-agent systems research.
- 3. Upholding Scientific Integrity in the GenAI Era** The recent surge in paper submissions has strained the peer review process. I will push for structural changes to recognize and incentivize constructive, high-quality reviewing while addressing the decline in review standards. Furthermore, we must establish clear guidelines for the use of Generative AI in both research and reviewing. IFAAMAS should lead in maintaining the integrity of human-led scientific discourse while cautiously adopting new tools.