Fernando P. Santos
Assistant Professor
Informatics Institute — University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
f.p.santos@uva.nl I https://fp-santos.github.io

Bio: I am Fernando P. Santos, Assistant Professor at the Informatics Institute of the University of Amsterdam. I am part of the Socially Intelligent Artificial Systems (SIAS) group, where I lead the Prosocial Dynamics Lab and manage the Civic AI Lab. I teach on 1) Data Science, 2) Fairness, Accountability, Confidentiality and Transparency in AI, and 3) several modules/guest lectures on evolutionary game theory, multiagent systems and network science. My research lies at the interface of AI and Complex Systems: I study behavioral dynamics in systems of adaptive learning agents and aim at designing prosocial/fair AI. Previously, I was a Postdoctoral Fellow at Princeton University. I completed my PhD in Computer Science and Engineering (2018) at Instituto Superior Técnico, University of Lisbon, with Francisco C. Santos, Jorge M. Pacheco, and Ana Paiva.

Connections to AAMAS: I attended every AAMAS edition since the first year of my PhD (AAMAS 2015, Istanbul). I contributed as a PC member (2021-2023) and more recently (2024) Senior PC member. I co-organized the Adaptive Learning Workshop (ALA) co-located with AAMAS in 2020, 2021 and 2022. In 2023, I participated in the Career Panel of the 2023 AAMAS Doctoral Consortium (chaired by Ulle Endriss and Maria Gini). Finally, I am honored to have received the IFAAMAS Victor Lesser Distinguished Dissertation Award in 2018.

Goals:
- Strengthen the position of AAMAS as a leading AI conference: AAMAS faces increasing competition from general AI (AAAI, IJCAI) and machine learning (NeurIPS, ICML, ICRL) conferences. AAMAS offers, however, a unique space to progress AI, by combining multiple sub-fields advancing different aspects of multi-agent systems (from game theory to human-agent interaction; from multi-robot systems to knowledge representation and communication, and many others). The uniqueness of combining these fields in a major conference should be highlighted: I will strive to improve AAMAS visibility as the flagship venue to discuss multi-agent systems and a leading community advancing AI.

- Bridge communities: I hope to contribute to create bridges inside the AAMAS community and between AAMAS and adjacent fields. Within AAMAS, we can have special bridge sessions to explore connections between the different AAMAS areas of interest. At the same time, as it become increasingly evident that advancing AI requires multidisciplinary contributions, AAMAS is in a unique position to be a bridge between AI and other disciplines, attracting researchers working on disciplines of interest to multi-agent systems (e.g., evolutionary biology, behavioral economics, or psychology).

- Foster an inclusive and welcoming environment at AAMAS: I will advocate the use of scholarships and awards to improve participation in AAMAS from underrepresented groups. I hope to contribute to create spaces where junior researchers feel comfortable to discuss their work with peers and more senior colleagues. Initiatives such as the "AAAI Lunch with a Fellow" program could serve as an inspiration to create spaces at AAMAS where junior colleagues get together, expand their network at AAMAS, while having an incentive to reach out to more senior peers.