

**Nomination for the IFAAMAS Board: Felipe Leno da Silva (Leno) -
felipe.leno1@gmail.com**

Background: Leno is currently an incoming Principal Applied Scientist at Microsoft Corporation (Effective Feb 9th). He has worked for the Lawrence Livermore National Lab (LLNL), USA, for the past five years, acting as a Senior Staff Reinforcement Learning Researcher and the Data Science Institute Outreach Coordinator. During this time he has actively applied Reinforcement Learning for varied applications of national interest. He holds a Ph.D. degree from the University of São Paulo, Brazil. Before joining LLNL, he held a Postdoc position at the Advanced Institute for AI (2019-2021), where he helped to approximate the industry and academic sectors in Brazil. During 2018-2019, he was a Visiting Researcher at the University of Texas at Austin, working with Prof. Peter Stone. He also interned at Borealis AI in 2019, where he worked with Prof. Matthew Taylor. Leno has worked on several AI topics, but he is better known for his research on Transfer Learning for Multiagent Reinforcement Learning, for which he was awarded third place in the Brazilian Thesis Competition on AI, edition 2018-2020. He has been involved in the organization of several Latinx in AI workshops (mainly @ ICML and NeurIPS) since 2019. In summary, his experiences range across academia, industry, and government research.

Service to the field: Leno is the Silver Jubilee Chair for AAMAS-26 and has been long associated with the AAMAS conference. Leno has served for many years as a PC, SPC, and AC member for several conferences in the area, including AAMAS, RLC, IJCAI, ECAI, AAAI, ICML, NeurIPS, and ICLR. He was also involved in the organization of several workshops, including the AI for Critical Infrastructure and Government (AAMAS-26 and IJCAI-24), Adaptive Learning Agents (ALA) Workshop at AAMAS between 2020-2022, the Scaling-Up Reinforcement Learning (SURL) Workshop series (2017 and 2019), and several editions of Latinx in IA at NeurIPS and ICML. As a student, Leno has served as a volunteer for AAMAS (and other AI conferences) multiple times. Being AAMAS his preferred publishing venue, Leno has attended the conference in most years since 2017, when he supported the organization of the Sao Paulo, Brazil, edition of the conference in his hometown.

Main Current Goals:

1. *Promoting inclusion and diversity in our community:* a small number of countries dominate our conference participation statistics, reducing the potential for crossbreeding of ideas, forging of new partnerships, and encounters between different communities (which are, after all, the main purposes of holding conferences). I will promote the dialogue for finding ways to address all issues preventing underrepresented members of our community from attending AAMAS. Possible solutions might include the expansion of our travel grants program, expanding the existing diversity programs through partnerships with affinity groups such as Latinx in AI, Black in AI, Women in AI, and Queer in AI, and promoting the organization of AAMAS editions in underrepresented geographical locations.

2. *Promoting changes in the review process:* The explosion in submissions in our field has led some conferences to adopt controversial (and in my opinion most of them harmful) such as forcing authors to review or charging a submission fee. I will promote dialog to find scientific and reasonable approaches to deal with the number of submissions without harming the quality of the selection process, or making conference participation even more difficult for researchers of underrepresented regions.

3. *Promoting the publication of high-risk high-reward research:* finding the right balance between incremental advances and highly innovative and risky explorations is hard, especially when the former is relatively easier to publish. The Blue Sky Ideas track is a nice initial step in this direction, but I will promote further expansion of initiatives to attract high-risk high-reward research to AAMAS, which is necessary to ensure that our community will remain in the vanguard of scientific advances in the long term.