IFAAMAS Board Statement

Gauthier Picard
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Short Bio

Gauthier Picard received a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Toulouse in 2004, and the Habilitation degree in Computer Science from the University of Saint-Etienne in 2014. He obtained full professorship in Computer Science at Mines Saint-Etienne and was researcher at Laboratoire Hubert Curien UMR CNRS 5516, until 2020. Now, he is Senior Research Scientist (Directeur de Recherche) at ONERA, The French Aerospace Lab, and is coordinating of its Artificial Intelligence Lab, on highly multi-disciplinary topics.

He has been contributing to the Agents and Multiagent Systems community for about 20 years, firstly to Self-organizing MAS and Engineering MAS topics, then on Distributed Problem Solving and Coordination. In these 20+ years, he has authored papers published in reference conferences such as AAMAS, IJCAI, and ECAI in cooperation with different international research groups across the community.

His research delves into coordination, cooperation, resource allocation, task allocation, adaptation and distributed optimization, with a keen focus on translating these theoretical concepts into real-world applications, such as Internet-of-Things (IoT) networks, smart grid management, Earth observation satellite constellation operations, multi-UAV airspace coordination, and multi-robot exploration missions.

Service to IFAAMAS and Community

In these 20+ years, he served as regular member of Program Committees of the AAMAS conference (Main track, Blue Sky Ideas track, Demonstration track), different AAMAS workshops (e.g. Opt(Learn)MAS, EXTRAAMAS) and sister conferences (IJCAI, ECAI, AAAI, PAAMS, EUMAS). He has been contributing to multiple tutorials at AAMAS and IJCAI about Distributed Constraint Optimization.

He is strongly involved at the national level in the multi-agent and AI community as elected member of the board of the French Association for Artificial Intelligence (AFIA), and has been in the Senior Committee of the French Conference on Multi-Agent Systems for 5 years.

Pledge

My primary aspiration for serving on the IFAAMAS Board is to advance ideas and visions that I have consistently championed for the Agents and Multiagent Systems community, primarily focusing on:

- Intensifying efforts to *showcase the real-world applications* of agents and multiagent systems through initiatives and ideas that encourage the development and demonstration of agent-based systems, as I did for the past few years, in domains such as Internet-of-Things and Space. This could be implemented through the organization of dedicated tracks and workshops.

- Fostering the development of *open publication processes, datasets, models, and algorithms*, as well as supporting fruitful competition events, and enable (i) a better positioning and comparison of scientific contributions, and (ii) a smoother dissemination to target industries and societies.

- Strengthening connections and interactions with *industry and society*, particularly to encourage AAMAS solutions related to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and thus moving towards Responsible Agents and Multi-Agent Systems.

- Rethinking conferences and events to adapt to the current climate by adopting a hybrid approach and striking a delicate balance between in-person engagement, environmental responsibility, and *fair access for our community*.