# Nomination for IFAAMAS Board: Nisarg Shah

**Bio:** Nisarg Shah is an Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Toronto. He is also a Research Lead for Ethics of AI at the Schwartz Reisman Institute for Technology and Society and a Faculty Affiliate of the Vector Institute for Artificial Intelligence. His research has received recognition through awards such as the 2024 Kalai Prize by the Game Theory Society, 2022 "Innovators Under 35" by MIT Technology Review Asia Pacific, 2020 "AI's 10 to Watch" by IEEE Intelligent Systems, 2016 Victor Lesser Distinguished Dissertation Award by IFAAMAS, and 2014-15 Facebook PhD Fellowship.

Nisarg conducts research at the intersection of computer science and economics, addressing issues of fairness, efficiency, elicitation, and incentives that arise when humans are affected by algorithmic decision-making. His recent work has developed theoretical foundations for fairness in fields such as voting, resource allocation, matching, and machine learning. He has co-developed the not-for-profit website Spliddit.org, which has helped more than 250,000 people make provably fair automated decisions in their everyday lives. Nisarg earned his PhD in computer science at Carnegie Mellon University and was a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University.

More information can be found at: https://www.cs.toronto.edu/~nisarg/

**Involvement in AAMAS and AI communities:** Nisarg has been an active member in the AAMAS community and, more broadly, in several AI communities. He has published 9 papers at AAMAS/JAAMAS since 2013. He organized a tutorial at AAMAS 2022 and co-organized one at AAMAS 2020. Nisarg was a Senior PC Member in three of the last four AAMAS (2024, 2022, 2021). He has also served as an Area Chair and a Focus Area Co-Chair at AAAI as well as a Senior PC Member at IJCAI. He is an editor for the Artificial Intelligence Journal (AIJ). Nisarg was the winner of the 2016 IFAAMAS Victor Lesser Distinguished Dissertation Award.

**Agenda:** If elected, I will focus on a range of issues that relate to (a) improving the AAMAS experience for authors, reviewers, and attendees, and (b) better promoting AAMAS among academic and industrial communities to solicit high-quality research and increased sponsorship. I am particularly committed to two specific issues:

- **AI ethics and safety.** With the advent of advanced AI systems, there is a growing concern that progress in ethics and safety research not keeping pace with progress in capabilities research. To tackle this, I will (a) promote a dedicated AI ethics and safety track at AAMAS, and (b) promote holding a special event at the AAMAS conference where researchers can interact with industry leaders and regulators on the practice of AI ethics and safety.

- **MAS in education.** Despite the mind-blowing progress in research on multiagent systems and its practical significance, MAS is largely introduced in graduate-level computer science curricula. I am currently working on introducing AI and MAS modules to K-12 education in Toronto, and as an IFAAMAS Board Member, I will be able to significantly expand these initiatives to promote creation and dissemination of MAS pedagogical content in K-12 and undergraduate curricula.