

IFAAMAS Board Nomination for PRADEEP KUMAR MURUKANNAIAH

Background: Pradeep Kumar Murukannaiah is an Associate Professor at TU Delft (2019–Present), where he is a member of the Interactive Intelligence group and a co-director of the Hippo Lab, a Delft AI Lab focusing on AI and Public Policy. Further, Pradeep holds key roles in the Hybrid Intelligence Center, a consortium led by top AI researchers from several universities in the Netherlands. Pradeep received an MS (2011) and a PhD (2016) in Computer Science from North Carolina State University.

Pradeep's research focuses on three key abstractions—values, norms, and context—necessary for engineering an ethical multiagent system. He works on both engineering methodologies for incorporating these abstractions in a multiagent system and machine learning these abstractions from natural language interactions among the stakeholders of a multiagent system. Accordingly, his publications span multiagent systems, natural language processing, and software engineering. Pradeep received the Best Blue Sky Paper award at AAMAS 2020 and the Best Paper award at HHAI 2022.

Professional service: Pradeep's first conference was AAMAS 2014, where he presented a paper and served as a student volunteer. Since then, Pradeep has served the AAMAS community in several roles: PC member (2018–2022), SPC member (2023, 2024, 2026), Area Chair (2025), and Doctoral Consortium Co-Chair (2026). Besides AAMAS, Pradeep has also served other closely relevant AI conferences, including AAAI, IJCAI, ECAI, and ACL in program and organizing committees. Further, Pradeep is an active member of the emerging Hybrid Human-Artificial Intelligence (HHAI) community (PC Chair for HHAI 2024 and Co-Chair of the HHAI Executive Committee).

If elected to the IFAAMAS board: Pradeep is passionate about working on four key issues.

Reforming the peer-review process We are at a critical juncture in the AAMAS (broadly, AI) community, where peer-review is a major bottleneck in the scientific process. With record-breaking number of paper submissions each year, our current peer-review practices are yielding unsatisfactory outcomes to both authors and reviewers, and are unsustainable. As a board member, Pradeep's key priority will be to help reform the peer-review processes by building on insights from ongoing efforts (e.g., mandatory reviewing for authors, primary paper initiative, etc.).

Building synergy among AI sub-communities Being a member of multiple AI sub-communities (e.g., the well-established AAMAS and NLP communities and the emerging HHAI community), Pradeep realizes, first hand, what the AAMAS community can offer to and how it can benefit from other research communities in AI and beyond. As a board member, Pradeep will strive to enhance the cross-fertilization between AAMAS and other research communities by identifying strategic communities and creating opportunities for these communities to interact.

Focus on societal applications Our work in the AAMAS community has much to offer to the society. For example, in his own work, Pradeep realizes how agent-oriented ideas (e.g., values and norms, negotiation, multi-objective RL) can play a pivotal role in addressing climate change. As a board member, Pradeep will strive to create opportunities to showcase the societal contributions of our community and encouraging the newer generation to work on societal applications.

Enhancing diversity and inclusion Pradeep strongly believes that a diversity of perspectives is essential to build a strong scientific community. Pradeep recognizes diversity not only in terms of key aspects such as gender, ethnicity, nationality, and physical abilities, but also in terms of the individual and social value systems. Pradeep is committed to work on enhancing the diversity of our community and creating a safe environment for our members to interact by reconsidering how we solicit various contributions, organize our events, and support outreach activities.