Nomination for the IFAAMAS Board: Rica Gonen

Background: Prof. Rica Gonen is a faculty member in the Mathematics and Computer Science Department at the Open University of Israel. She received her M.Sc and Ph.D. in Computer Science from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, focusing on computational game theory. Prior to joining the Open University, she was a postdoctoral researcher at Bell Labs and a Research Scientist in Yahoo! Research Labs, where her work on sponsored search mechanisms and online advertising markets resulted in six granted U.S. patents.

Rica is best known for her research bridging mechanism design theory, fair division, and practical resource allocation, where she focuses on two long-term research goals:
1) Advancing combinatorial auctions and markets, where her work identifies the fine line between possibility and impossibility in achieving both truthfulness, budget balance, and efficiency approximation in multi dimensional markets. Research that saved over $100 million when adopted by Alcatel-Lucent.
2) Developing mechanisms for extending fair division resource allocation to include parties with different entitlements. These mechanisms apply insights to endowment-influenced redistribution problems such as urban renewal projects through algorithmic strategies that minimize envy or disproportionality with payments and truthful elicitation to address theoretical impossibilities and support practical implementations.
Rica has published extensively at AAMAS, IJCAI, AAAI, and EC, as well as in JAAMAS and AIJ and received the Best Senior Program Committee Member Award at The Web Conference 2021. Rica chairs the Senior Faculty Union Executive Committee and serves as an elected member of the board of directors for Israeli national Woman University Professors' Forum.

Service to AAMAS and Other AI Communities: Rica has been an active AAMAS community member since 2017, with consistently escalating involvement. She served as Area Chair for the Game Theory and Economic Paradigms (GTEP) track at AAMAS 2025, as Senior Program Committee member at AAMAS 2019 and 2020, and as Program Committee member from 2019 through 2026. Rica has served as Program Committee member for several key AAMAS workshops, i.e., the Games, Agents, and Incentives Workshop (GAIW) and the International Workshop on Optimization and Learning in Multiagent Systems (OptLearnMAS), and has chaired sessions at the AAMAS conferences. Beyond AAMAS, Rica serves as an SPC and PC member for major conferences like AAAI and IJCAI, and has contributed to program committees for EC, COMSOC, and ECAI.

Issues of Interest: Rica is passionate about the interplay between computational social choice theory and mechanism design, encompassing fair division, market algorithms, and their practical applications in multi-agent systems. Her trajectory from theoretical mechanism design through industry research to her current work on real-world fair allocation problems has shown her both the power and the challenges of translating AAMAS research into solutions for real-world problems, and she believes the AAMAS community is uniquely positioned to tackle those challenges. Rica sees tremendous opportunity in the growing integration of AI with economic and social systems, where the community's expertise in strategic behavior, incentive design, fairness, and multi-party interaction can help develop innovative solutions that foster fair and equitable outcomes.
Therefore, if elected, she will focus on strengthening collaborations between the AAMAS community and stakeholders in AI policy, economics, and social applications to advance resilient, fair multi-agent technologies while identifying new research directions that benefit the broader community.