

Nomination for the IFAAMAS Board — Zinovi Rabinovich

Bio: Zinovi Rabinovich is currently an Assistant Professor at the School of Computer Science, Carleton University, Ottawa, where he moved from an analogous position at the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. His prior experience also includes: the Research and Development Department of Mobileye Vision Technologies Ltd.; a Postdoctoral Researcher appointment at the Department of Computer Science at the Bar-Ilan University with Sarit Kraus; and a Research Fellow position with the School of Electronics and Computer Sciences at the University of Southampton with Nicholas R. Jennings. His PhD in Computer Science was conferred by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 2008, based on a thesis supervised by Jeff Rosenschein. Zinovi has been publishing papers since 2003 at such venues as AAMAS, AAAI, IJCAI, and NeurIPS, as well as JAAMAS, AI Journal, and others.

Service in the AAMAS/AI Community: Zinovi has published dozens of papers in AI, nearly half of which appeared at AAMAS, while AAAI and IJCAI absorbed most of everything else. He has co-designed and presented several iterations of two AAMAS tutorials: "Decision Making in Multiagent Settings" and "Voting and Candidacy Games"; and played an organisational role for such workshops as GAIW and MSDM. He also persistently served as a member of AAMAS, AAAI and IJCAI program committees in roles ranging from a reviewer to an area chair. His expertise was called upon by such grant agencies as NSF (US), Tri-Council (Canada), and ISF (Israel).

Focus Areas:

AAMAS Individuality: AAMAS mission, while broad, has always been unique in its pursuit of AI autonomy and multi-agent capabilities. Our sister conferences (AAAI and IJCAI) provide an opportunity for researchers to view *specialist* papers across the AI spectrum. AAMAS, on the other hand, served as a fusion venue, where expertise crossed boundaries in service of AAMAS mission. While we still marked papers by their "source" expertise, the impact on autonomous capabilities and the insight into agent interactions were key for publication. Unfortunately, in recent years, we have witnessed a spill-over of narrow specialist papers from other venues into AAMAS, nearly destroying AAMAS individuality.

AAMAS Innovation: Another issue of concern is the low degree of innovation carried by the slew of recent publications. One may argue that it stems from our inability to handle rapidly rising submission numbers and the infamous "spill-over" from other giants, such as NeurIPS, AAAI, and IJCAI. Alas, there seems to be a general "salami"-flavoured publishing trend. In part, related to the deep learning revolution, which is mistakenly treated as publishing every recombination of techniques that yields some performance increase, and insight and novelty be damned. Today, BlueSky Ideas track looks closer to what the main AAMAS track is supposed to be.

To both of these problems, I'd like to seek remedies. Be that by modified review processes, by changes in conference publicity practices, or by severe restructuring of tracks, we must face these difficulties.