

Bio and Background

Alessandro Farinelli is associate professor at University of Verona, Department of Computer Science, since December 2014. He received his PhD in Computer Science at Dipartimento di Informatica e Sistemistica (DIS), University of Rome La Sapienza in 2005, working with Prof. Daniele Nardi. He was a post-doc researcher in the same institution until 2007 and he was a research fellow with Prof. Nick Jennings and Prof. Alex Rogers at the University of Southampton between 2007 and 2009. From 2009 to 2014 he was an assistant professor at the University of Verona.

His research interests comprise theoretical and practical issues related to the development of Artificial Intelligent Systems applied to robotics.

His main scientific achievements in the last decade are rooted in the development of innovative approaches for the development of autonomous, intelligent systems. In particular, together with his colleagues he developed several approaches for coordinating low-power devices, such as robots or sensors which operate in uncertain, unpredictable environments and are part of large scale systems. These approaches have been published in a series of papers in top AI conferences and journal (such as AAAI, AAMAS, IJCAI and JAAMAS) and one of these work won the award for best Industrial Demo at AAMAS 2008. Moreover, he has a strong background on developing autonomous robots that can operate in different scenarios such as rescue, environmental monitoring and so forth. The development of such systems is based on a broad range of techniques and in particular optimization algorithms, reinforcement learning techniques as well as symbolic approaches to represent robots' behaviors. Also this line of work has been published in top conferences for AI and robotics and one of this work was nominated as a best paper for the innovative application track in AAMAS 2015.

Involvement with AAMAS community

Alessandro Farinelli attended AAMAS almost yearly since 2005 with 11 full paper, 3 extended abstract and 4 demo papers published in collaboration with a broad range of colleagues from various institutions. He served as a PC every year from 2008 until 2013, he was an SPC for AAMAS 2014 and mentor for the doctoral symposium in the same year. He was co-organizers for the workshop ADAPT in 2009, co-organizer of the workshop OPTMAS (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013), co-organizer of the workshop ARMS (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016). He was Co-chair for the AAMAS robotics tracks in 2015 and 2017 and Co-chair for Demo Track in 2018. He offered a tutorial at EASSS 2012 (European Agent Systems Summer School) on Distributed search and constraint handling.

Goals

If elected he will focus on two main aspects.

The first one is to enlarge the AAMAS community aiming to attract more interest on agent technologies from highly related disciplines. This is particularly important given the current strong interest from industries and society on Artificial Intelligence in general and autonomous systems in particular. This is obviously a great opportunity for AAMAS to grow and have a stronger impact, but we must also face the challenge to avoid losing the strong methodological and theoretical aspects that are key features of the conference. One possible direction would be to plan special tracks or workshops on key interdisciplinary topics and possibly link those with special issues of leading journals for AI (including of course JAAMAS).

The second key aspect is to foster a stronger link with industry. It is crucial for a leading conference in AI to be attractive for people that develop innovative technologies and that apply such technologies to practical problems. As mentioned above there is now an incredible interest toward AI techniques from industry and as a consequence there is a significant number of novel companies, start-up and also specific branches of big companies that consider AI as their core-technology. AAMAS should be attractive for this audience. A key step would be to engage them to make the agent and multi-agent technology visible outside of the AAMAS academic community.