

BIO SKETCH. Alessio Lomuscio (<http://www.doc.ic.ac.uk/~alessio>), PhD in 1999, is full professor in the Department of Computing at Imperial College London (UK) since 2011. In the Department he has covered a number of roles including Head of Strategy and Planning and Deputy Head of Department. He is a Fellow of the European Association of Artificial Intelligence and Fellow of the British Computer Society. He currently holds a Royal Academy of Engineering Chair in Emerging Technologies and held an EPSRC Leadership Fellowship between 2010 and 2015. He is a member of the Future of Computing Council of the World Economic Forum and of the steering board of the UK Network on Verification and Validation of Autonomous Systems.

He has published over 150 papers in leading conferences in artificial intelligence (including AAMAS, AAI, IJCAI, ECAI), verification and formal methods (CAV, SEFM), and services (ICSOC, ICWS) and over 30 journal papers in leading journals (JAAMAS, AIJ, JAIR, etc). Lomuscio contributed to the development of verification techniques for agent-based systems from 2002 onward. Beside his work on agent-based systems, he has made contributions in other AI and CS areas, including logic and complexity, symbolic AI, knowledge representation, verification of swarm systems, service-oriented computing, and security.

PERSONAL STATEMENT. While I enjoy participating to other conferences, I feel AAMAS is my home community. I have attended all AAMAS conferences since Bologna 2002 and several ATAL workshops before then. AAMAS is the conference where I published most papers (32 up to 2017) and where I genuinely enjoy meeting so many colleagues, old and new. Since 2002 I have served in various roles including PC Co-Chair in 2014, Area Chair, SPC, and PC. It is my belief that, thanks to the efforts of our community, the AAMAS conference is in good standing. It is regarded as a leading conference in CS and AI (see, e.g., by its A* rating on CORE). Its scientific content is well-regarded in AI and beyond. It is our responsibility to ensure our high scientific standards are maintained.

I also think we need to be aware AAMAS faces increased competition from other areas of AI, SE, and beyond. While we have seen IJCAI, AAI, ECAI, NIPS, etc booming with numbers of attendees that we have not witnessed at AAMAS. Yet, the topics of agency and distributed AI, which are at the heart of the present AI explosion, are topics we have much contributed to over the years. I believe that our community has a lot to offer to our colleagues in nearby areas, as well as learn from them, and we should try to facilitate this exchange.

I would be honoured to serve on the board. If elected, I will try to work with other board members to help the conference grow and ensure that a healthy scientific exchange continues to develop both with fellow researchers and industrialists. Concrete actions that I would advocate include:

- * exploring whether the conference can be held in nations of high potential whose numbers appear under-represented at AAMAS at this time (e.g., China and other parts of SE Asia).
- * exploring whether any co-location with other key conferences can usefully be held, particularly if this involves joint sessions (e.g, as we did in Toronto in 2010 with KR and ICAPS, NMR, etc).
- * continuing to develop synergies with top journals, notably JAAMAS, JAIR, AIJ, and explore whether other conferences would like to see a selection of top AAMAS papers presented there.
- * revisiting the number and themes of our annual special tracks to ensure they are well-placed to foster the present scientific needs and interests.

At the same time, we need to ensure our own community prospers. For this, I would advocate:

- * locating the conference, whenever possible and compatibly with the above, in easily accessible cities with low registration costs for attendees.
- * continuing to ensure that all conference budget is fully used by the community (low fees, students grants, etc) and the annual conferences do not end up in profit from overcautious budgeting.
- * ensuring we recognise and give internal and external visibility to our research stars at all levels from junior to senior level via invited talks, annual awards, and beyond.