

Kagan Tumer

Nomination for the IFAAMAS BOARD (2016)

Kagan Tumer is a Professor at Oregon State University, and the director of the multi-disciplinary Graduate Robotics Program (OSU is one of only five universities in the US granting PhDs in Robotics). Prior to joining OSU in 2006, he was a senior research scientist at NASA Ames Research Center. He received his PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering from The University of Texas, Austin in 1996. His work focuses on learning and coordination in multiagent systems, with contributions ranging from algorithmic (difference rewards for multiagent systems), theoretical (evolutionary game theoretic analysis of reward shaping), to applications (adaptive multiagent system for air traffic control). He has published over 180 articles and has a google h-index of 35.

Involvement with the AAMAS community: Kagan has attended every AAMAS conference dating back to the first one in Bologna in 2002. He has also published in every AAMAS (with the exception of 2011 where he was program co-chair), for a total of 33 AAMAS papers (19 short, 14 full), including the paper titled “Distributed Agent-Based Air Traffic Flow Management” which received the **Best Paper Award at AAMAS 2007**.

He serves on the editorial Board of JAAMAS (since 2010), and has been on the PC or SPC of AAMAS since 2004, including roles in the Robotics, Demos and the Blue Sky tracks. He was the AAMAS workshops chair in 2010, the **AAMAS program co-chair in 2011**, and the scholarships co-chair for North America in 2014. He has also chaired and served on the program committee of many AAMAS workshops, including the steering committee of the Adaptive and Learning Agents (ALA) workshop for the last 6 years. He has given invited talks in two AAMAS workshops (ALA 2008 and OPTMAS 2013).

Issues to address as member of IFAAMAS Board: If elected, he will focus on two related challenges. The first is to strengthen the connections among different communities *within* AAMAS. For a community of its size, AAMAS is uniquely non-uniform. The breadth of the topics that make up AAMAS is staggering, but as we mature, we run the risk of codifying our differences, in essence running many mini-conferences within AAMAS. Kagan would like to revisit format changes to AAMAS to introduce more mixed topic tracks, increase single-track sessions, and increase the number of invited talks that bring the community together.

The second, which builds on the same theme as the first challenge, is to increase the connection *between* AAMAS and related communities. Though there has been increased communication “upstream / downstream” within AI, leading to conversations about a large federated AI event in 2018, there has been less “peer to peer” communication, linking sub-conferences directly to one another. AAMAS is in a unique position to facilitate this, as it already harbors most of the related fields. He would like to establish regular exchanges with peer conferences, with a particular emphasis on conferences that can be viewed as potential “consumers” of AAMAS research, such as IROS, ICRA, HRI etc.