

Kobi Gal

Nomination for IFAAMAS Board Candidacy

Bio: [Kobi Gal](#) (full CV at [this link](#)) is an Associate Professor at the Department of Software and Information Systems Engineering at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, which he joined in 2009, and an Associate of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences at Harvard University. He holds PhD and SM degrees from Harvard University (2007 and 2002, respectively) and a BSc from Bar-Ilan University (2001). His research investigates representations and algorithms for making decisions in heterogeneous groups comprising both people and computational agents. He has published over 70 papers in peer refereed venues. He was awarded the 2014 [Krill Prize](#), awarded by the Wolf foundation for research excellence among young Israeli faculty members. Gal and his co-authors received the best paper award at EC 2016, and the best student paper award at EDM 2014.

Service to IFAAMAS and community: Kobi feels a special relationship with AAMAS, having published his first academic paper at AAMAS-03 in Melbourne, and having maintained a sustained publication record in AAMAS ever since. He's served AAMAS as an SPC member (4 times), and PC member (twice). He has twice co-chaired the AAMAS doctoral consortium events. Kobi contributes often to JAAMAS, and has reviewed 16 papers for the journal. Beyond IFAAMAS, Kobi is chairperson (since 2017) of the [Israeli Association of Artificial Intelligence](#), which promotes the study and teaching of AI in Israel and includes faculty and students from all of Israel's academic institutions. In this role Kobi is working to strengthen collaboration between Israeli and academia (for example, he launched a best PhD dissertation award in collaboration with General Motors, Israel) as well as increase student outreach and AI education programs. Kobi also serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research (JAIR).

If Elected: Kobi plans to direct efforts in three key areas. First, *strengthening ties between the MAS and the cognitive and learning sciences communities*. There is increasing interest in these communities in computational models of planning and decision-making in groups comprising people and computer agents. Kobi plans to leverage his standing in both camps and promote exchange of ideas between communities, whether by issuing special tracks in JAAMAS and AAMAS and by designing and giving tutorials. Second, Kobi will work towards encouraging *scientific best-practices in the MAS community*. To this end he will promote shared depositories of data sets and code, and facilitate comparing algorithms and methodologies among MAS researchers from different areas. Third, *promote student outreach and MAS education*. Kobi would like to provide opportunities to attract undergraduate students to do research in MAS. He will work to develop multi agent system projects in undergraduate courses, and will encourage the involvement of undergraduate students in AAMAS activities, such as competitions and demos. He will also work to initiate a summer school aimed for undergraduates who will learn the basic tenets of MAS.