

Bio & Background:

Pradeep Varakantham received his PhD in 2007 from University of Southern California with Prof. Milind Tambe. He did a postdoctoral fellowship with Stephen Smith at Carnegie Mellon University until 2009 and currently, he is an assistant professor in the School of Information Systems at Singapore Management University. His research goal is to develop agent based systems for improving efficiency in urban environments. More specifically, Pradeep is interested in providing decision support for individual agents with respect to planning/scheduling in urban environments, where there is uncertainty and multiple agents. He is author or co-author of more than 50 rigorously reviewed publications at top conferences (AAMAS, AAI, IJCAI, ICAPS, UAI, NIPS) and journals (JAIR, JAAMAS) in Artificial Intelligence. Given his research focus, a major chunk of his publications (>25) are published at AAMAS with at least a full paper at each of the last 9 conferences. Pradeep has attended nine of the last 11 AAMAS conferences since 2004.

He was one of the finalists for the best senior program committee member award at AAMAS'13 and one of his papers was nominated for best student paper at AAMAS'09.

Prior Service:

Pradeep is the local organization chair for AAMAS 2016 and is also organizing the workshop on Optimization in Multi-Agent Systems, OptMAS 2016. Pradeep has served as co-chair for the International Workshop on Multiagent Sequential Decision Making under Uncertainty in 2007 and 2008, and also the AAI Symposium on Multi-Agent Coordination under Uncertainty in 2011. He has also served on the (senior) program committees of most major conferences (AAMAS, AAI, ICAPS, IJCAI) and does reviews for most major journals (JAIR, AIJ, JAAMAS) in Artificial Intelligence since 2007. Since 2007, he has also served on the program committee for many workshops at AAMAS including MSDM, OPTMAS, MASS. He was also the chair for a game theory session at AAMAS'13.

Issues of Interest:

As a board member, Pradeep's key issues of focus would be:

- (a) Assisting with increasing participation of researchers from Asian countries at AAMAS and also increasing attendance for AAMAS when organised in Asian countries;
- (b) Given his involvement in AAMAS 2016, he aims to assist in improving the overall process of conference organization (specifically with respect to local organization) to make it more efficient and streamlined;
- (c) If feasible, he would be very interested in facilitating discussions on identifying more real world applications of research developed in the AAMAS community and also adapting the process to appropriately review system based papers.