Rym Z. Wenkstern -- IFAAMAS Board Nomination Statement

Bio

Dr. Rym Zalila-Wenkstern is an Associate Professor at the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science, University of Texas at Dallas. She holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Ottawa, Canada and a Doctorat de Spécialité (Ph.D.) in Computer Science from the University of Tunis, Tunisia. Dr. Wenkstern is also the Director of the Multi-Agent and Visualization Systems lab at the University of Texas at Dallas. Her research focuses on all aspects of engineering large, complex, real-world systems using the agent paradigm with an emphasis on Smart Cities challenges. Dr. Wenkstern's research on Agent-based intelligent Transportation Systems (ATS) recently received media attention with a news segment on *CBS 11 News*, press articles in *Dallas Innovates* and *Community Impact*, and interviews with the *Dallas Business Journal* and *Smart Cities Connect*. In addition, Dr. Wenkstern research on ATS received a *Smart 50 Award* (2019) which annually recognizes the most innovative and influential global smart projects, and was a finalist at the *Tech Titan Awards* which recognizes the elite in North Texas technology. Her work on agent-based simulation systems received the *AAMAS'13 Best Demo Award*, *Best Paper Award* at Agent-Directed Simulations'12, and *Overall Best Paper Award* at Spring Simulation Conference'12.

Service to the Community

Rym has attended every AAMAS conference since 2013. She has served on the AAMAS Program Committee from 2014-2017, the AAMAS Senior Program Committee (main track and Engineering Multi-Agent track) since 2018, the AAMAS Engineering Multi-Agent Systems (EMAS) workshop Program Committee since 2015, and the EMAS Steering Committee since 2017. She was the co-chair of EMAS 2016, co-chair of the AAMAS 2017 Demo Track, and co-chair of the AAMAS 2020 JAAMAS Track.

From a broader perspective, Rym has served the community in various capacities, including PC and SPC for IJCAI, IEEE/ACM IAT and IEEE ICAS, co-Program Chair of the International Conference on Principles and Practice of Multi-Agent Systems (PRIMA 2019), and a member of the editorial advisory board of Advanced Intelligent Systems.

Issues to Address

Rym's main interest is to investigate ways to increase the representation of women at AAMAS. This focus may include the promotion of AAMAS at women-focused conferences (e.g., Grace Hopper Conference, ACM Women in Computing) and summits (e.g., Women in Tech Summit, Women Impact Tech) as well as the organization of seminars/talks (e.g., with local chapters of the IEEE, ACM, SWE) to encourage female students and young researchers who work on AAMAS-related topics to participate in the conference.

Rym is also interested in determining ways to entice a new generation of Software Engineering researchers to join the MAS field by supporting the understanding that the various MAS research areas are complementary. Her perspective also includes promoting attendance at EMAS and helping with the definition of critical challenges for the systematic engineering of real-world agent-based systems.