

Sanmay Das: Bio and Statement for IFAAMAS Board Candidacy

Bio Sanmay Das is an Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at Washington University in St. Louis. He received a Ph.D. from MIT in 2006, and an A.B. from Harvard College in 2001, both in Computer Science. He was a postdoctoral scholar at UCSD, and has previously served on the faculty at RPI and Virginia Tech. Das' research is in artificial intelligence and machine learning, and especially their intersection with finance, economics, and the social sciences. He received an NSF CAREER Award in 2010 and the Department Chair Award for Outstanding Teaching at Washington University in 2017.

Involvement With AAMAS Sanmay's first conference experience was attending ICMAS 2000, which inspired him to apply to graduate school and embark on a career in academia. He has attended and published at AAMAS regularly. He was co-author, with his student Meenal Chhabra, of a paper that was a runner-up for the Best Student Paper award in 2011. Sanmay was AAMAS program co-chair in 2017, and has regularly served the community in many other roles (PC and SPC member, Sponsorships Co-Chair, doctoral consortium mentor).

In addition, Sanmay has been the vice-chair of ACM SIGAI since 2013. In this capacity he has been responsible on the ACM SIGAI side for coordinating activities related to the ACM Autonomous Agents Award. From 2013-2017 he was also responsible for maintaining in-cooperation status with ACM for AAMAS, and for arranging SIGAI funding for student travel scholarships to AAMAS. Sanmay has also been an active member of the broader artificial intelligence, computation and economics, and machine learning communities. He has regularly served as an Area Chair, SPC, and PC member for major conferences like IJCAI, AAI, EC, and ICML. He was co-chair of the IJCAI 2015 "Best Papers From Sister Conferences" track, workshops chair of EC 2011, and is a co-founder and steering committee member of the Conferences on Auctions, Market Mechanisms, and Their Applications (AMMA).

Goals If elected, Sanmay's main goals as an IFAAMAS board member would be to maintain and enhance the quality and reputation of the AAMAS conference, and to strengthen connections and maximize impact with non-profits, government organizations, social science academics, and companies that are interested in the societal use of algorithmic techniques broadly, and AAMAS-relevant technologies and models specifically.

The first goal depends on ensuring high-quality submissions and reviewing, and on working to ensure that AAMAS continues to be recognized as a top-tier venue in rankings, promotion and tenure cases, etc. Sanmay would seek ways, in the context of AAMAS, to rationalize the spiraling reviewing burden. He would also work on ways to continue encouraging the highest quality submissions, and to increasing awareness of the quality of AAMAS to the broader community.

A significant portion of the AAMAS community is becoming increasingly engaged in modeling and tackling problems of immediate relevance and importance to society, as evidenced by our engagement with communities including AI for social good, AI and engineering ethics, etc. Sanmay would like to foster and build such connections and help ensure cross-fertilization between academia and practice in these areas.