

Sven Koenig's IFAAMAS Board Nomination Statement

Bio

Sven is a professor in computer science at the University of Southern California and was also a program director at the US National Science Foundation from 2010 to 2012. Most of his research centers around techniques for decision making (planning and learning) that enable single situated agents (such as robots or decision-support systems) and teams of agents to act intelligently in their environments and exhibit goal-directed behavior in real-time. Sven has co-authored more than 250 publications on this topic and related topics.

Sven received his Ph.D. degree in computer science from Carnegie Mellon University and M.S. degrees from the University of California at Berkeley and Carnegie Mellon University. He is a fellow of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI), the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). He is also past chair of the ACM Special Interest Group on Artificial Intelligence (ACM SIGAI), a member of the advisory board of AI Magazine, an associate editor of the Artificial Intelligence journal, and an editor of the Communications of the ACM. He was program co-chair of the 2015 AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence, the 2016 and 2017 Symposia on Educational Advances in AI, and the 2018 International Conference on Automated Planning and Scheduling.

Service to the AAMAS Community

Sven has attended AAMAS conferences for as long as he can remember but not yet served on the IFAAMAS Board of Directors. He has co-authored around 30 AAMAS papers and served repeatedly as session chair, PC member, SPC member, and area chair of AAMAS. He served as AAMAS program co-chair in 2005 and AAMAS conference co-chair in 2018. He has also participated regularly in the AAMAS Doctoral Consortia as mentor, given two tutorials at AAMAS, and been involved in several AAMAS workshops, including about 7 times in the Workshop on Optimization in Multi-Agent Systems (OptMAS), where he also gave an invited talk in 2011. He has been a JAAMAS associate editor since 2010.

Issues to Address

Sven is passionate about helping students and young researchers to get a good start in their careers and thus intends to make sure that AAMAS extends its mentoring programs and new student attendees of AAMAS continue to get integrated quickly into the AAMAS community. For example, he helped to introduce the "Lunch with an Expert" option for student attendees of AAMAS in 2018. Sven also loves interdisciplinary research and intends to reach out to related groups to work toward joint activities, for example, joint tutorial programs at AAMAS (and elsewhere) and joint summer schools. Such groups include organizations that run other AI-related conferences (for example, in planning or reasoning under uncertainty) but also professional organizations in neighboring disciplines (for example, the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society in robotics or INFORMS in operations research). Such outreach might also help IFAAMAS to increase the number of AAMAS attendees over time, allowing AAMAS to grow at the same rate as other AI conferences (such as IJCAI and AAAI). Finally, Sven intends to intensify the collaboration of IFAAMAS with ACM SIGAI, the group that sponsors the ACM SIGAI Autonomous Agents Research Award at AAMAS.

Additional information on Sven can be found on his webpages: idm-lab.org.