

Nomination for the IFAAMAS Board: William Yeoh

Background: William Yeoh is an Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at Washington University in St. Louis. He received his B.S.E. and M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from University of Pennsylvania, under Vijay Kumar's supervision, and his M.S. and Ph.D. in Computer Science from University of Southern California with Sven Koenig. He was also a post-doctoral researcher with Shlomo Zilberstein at University of Massachusetts, Amherst; a research scientist in the Living Analytics Research Center at Singapore Management University; and an Assistant Professor of Computer Science at New Mexico State University.

William is best known for his work on distributed constraint optimization, and he was recently featured in IEEE's 2015 AI's 10 to Watch list. One of his papers on this topic was nominated for the Best Student Paper Award at AAMAS 2009. His other research interests include planning under uncertainty, heuristic search, and multi-agent resource or task allocation problems. He has also published extensively on these topics in AAMAS, AAI, and IJCAI.

Service to AAMAS and other AI communities: William has been an active member of the AAMAS community, participating in almost all AAMAS conferences since 2008. Unfortunately, he missed a couple due to, in constraints' speak, "hard constraints" that could not be avoided – once because he was getting married at around the same time and twice because of the births of his two sons. He has served on the AAMAS program committee every year since 2011, co-organized the 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 Optimization in Multi-Agent Systems (OptMAS) workshops that were all held at AAMAS, and is currently a Scholarship co-chair at AAMAS 2018. In addition to his involvement with the AAMAS community, William is also an active member in the AAI and IJCAI communities, where he serves in their program committees as well. He also served as a Student Outreach and Activities co-chair at AAI 2015 and 2016; a Job Market co-chair at AAI 2017; and a Tutorial co-chair at AAI 2018.

Issues of Interest: William is very passionate about the involvement of students at conferences. Therefore, if elected, he will focus on improving the participation of students at AAMAS. The long-term sustainability of AAMAS requires students, as the next-generation of AAMAS researchers, to take up the mantle and execute the mission of AAMAS in the future. As such, it is important that new student attendees at AAMAS feel welcomed and included in the AAMAS community, and repeat student attendees establish AAMAS as one of their "home conferences." William plans to do so through the organization of a number of student-related activities that encourage students to interact and socialize with peers and senior researchers, with the goal of better integrating them into the AAMAS community. He is thrilled to see that some of his efforts at AAI (e.g., game night, speed networking, student roommate matching) were replicated at AAMAS (e.g., in AAMAS 2016) and he hopes to further enhance this effort at future AAMAS conferences.

More information on his website: <https://sites.wustl.edu/wyeoh/>