# Welcome Message from the Chairs

Welcome to AAMAS-2024, the 23th edition of the International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems!

AAMAS is the largest and most influential conference in the area of agents and multiagent systems, bringing together researchers and practitioners in all areas of agent technology and providing an internationally renowned high-profile forum for publishing and finding out about the latest developments in the field. AAMAS is the flagship conference of the non-profit International Foundation for Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (IFAAMAS).

After two attempts to hold AAMAS in New Zealand for the first time, which were forced online by the COVID19 pandemic, we are happy that the 2024 edition finally comes to Auckland, New Zealand. Previous editions were held in Bologna (2002), Melbourne (2003), New York (2004), Utrecht (2005), Hakodate (2006), Honolulu (2007), Estoril (2008), Budapest (2009), Toronto (2010), Taipei (2011), Valencia (2012), Saint Paul (2013), Paris (2014), Istanbul (2015), Singapore (2016), São Paulo (2017), Stockholm (2018), Montréal (2019), Auckland/online (2020), London/online (2021), Auckland/online (2022), and London (2023).

The main track of the conference includes peer-reviewed technical papers describing significant and original research on all aspects of the theory and practice of autonomous agents and multiagent systems, divided into the following areas of interest:

- Coordination, Organisations, Institutions, Norms and Ethics (COINE)
- Engineering Multiagent Systems (EMAS)
- Humans and AI / Human-Agent Interaction (HUMAN)
- Innovative Applications, in particular addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (APP)
- Knowledge Representation, Reasoning, and Planning (KRRP)
- Learning and Adaptation (LEARN)
- Markets, Auctions, and Non-Cooperative Game Theory (MA&NCGT)
- Modelling and Simulation of Societies (SIM)
- (Multiagent) Reinforcement Learning (RL)
- Robotics (ROBOT)
- Social Choice and Cooperative Game Theory (SC&CGT)

As in previous years, we worked with a three-tier programme committee, consisting of 23 area chairs, 89 senior programme committee members, and over 600 regular programme committee members. Their work was supported by a substantial number of auxiliary reviewers. When composing the committee, we followed the tradition of AAMAS of not having anyone serve in a senior programme committee or area chair role for more than two years in a row, and we were pleased to see that many senior colleagues accepted our invitation to serve as regular programme committee members.

For the main track, we received a total of 1113 submissions. Some didn't materialise and a few ended up getting desk-rejected (mostly due to anonymity violations and similar infringements of the rules laid down in the Call for Papers). The programme committee then reviewed the remaining 847 submissions. Most submissions received at least three reviews, as well as a meta-review summarising the assessment of the programme committee. Authors had the opportunity to respond to initial versions of their reviews during a rebuttal phase.

The programme committee accepted 230 submissions as full papers and a further 184 as extended abstracts, resulting in an acceptance rate of 20% for full papers and an overall acceptance rate of around 36%. Most of these contributions are included in this volume of proceedings (excluding a couple of papers that were later withdrawn by their authors). The submission numbers ($N$), acceptance rates for full papers (FP), and overall acceptance rates (FP+EA) per area of interest are as follows:

|          | $N$ | FP  | FP+EA |
| -------- | --- | --- | ----- |
| COINE    | 21  | 4%  | 10%   |
| EMAS     | 38  | 7%  | 13%   |
| HUMAN    | 66  | 14% | 26%   |
| APP      | 21  | 11% | 16%   |
| KRRP     | 85  | 28% | 50%   |
| LEARN    | 70  | 15% | 28%   |
| MA&NCGT  | 87  | 19% | 43%   |
| SIM      | 50  | 20% | 29%   |
| RL       | 242 | 26% | 50%   |
| ROBOT    | 56  | 8%  | 16%   |
| SC&CGT   | 110 | 39% | 61%   |

In addition to the main track, the conference has four special tracks---the Blue Sky Ideas track, the JAAMAS track, AAAI track, and the Demonstration track---as well as a Doctoral Consortium.

The focus of the Blue Sky Ideas track, which this year is chaired by Ann Nowé and Amal El-Fallah Seghrouchni, is on visionary ideas, long-term challenges, new research opportunities, and controversial debate.

The JAAMAS track, chaired by Amit Chopra and Viviana Mascardi, offers authors of papers recently published in the *Journal of Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems* (JAAMAS) that have not previously appeared as full papers in an archival conference the opportunity to present their work at AAMAS.

New this year was the AAAI track which provided authors of high quality papers related to AAMAS topics, that didn't make it into the AAAI2024 conference, a fast track for reviewing at AAMAS. This track was chaired by Sven Koenig and Yang Chen.

The Demonstration and Competitions track, chaired by Luis Gustavo Nardin and Vahid Yazdanpanah, allows participants from both academia and industry to showcase their latest developments in agent-based and robotic systems.

Finally, the Doctoral Consortium, chaired by Bahar Rastegari and Serena Villata, provides doctoral candidates with an opportunity to receive feedback on their research, to interact closely with senior figures in their own area of specialisation, and to broaden their professional network.

The accepted contributions for all of these tracks are included in these proceedings as well: 10 accepted papers out of 35 submissions to the Blue Sky Ideas track; extended abstracts of 8 recent papers published in JAAMAS; 5 papers accepted in the AAAI track; 10 accepted summaries out of 15 submissions to the Demonstration track; 24 accepted summaries to the Doctoral Consortium.

The first two days of the conference, 6-7 May 2024, will consist of a variety of satellite workshops, tutorials, and the Doctoral Consortium.

The main conference runs from 8-10 May 2024. During this time the authors of contributions to the main track, the Blue Sky Ideas track, the JAAMAS track, and the Demonstration track will present their work. We furthermore are looking forward to a panel session on ''20 Years of AAMAS'' as well as keynote addresses by Liz Sonenberg, Michael Winikoff, and Ann Nowé, as well as by this year's recipient of the ACM/SIGAI Autonomous Agents Research Award, Catholijn Jonker, and the presentation by the winner of the 2024 Victor Lesser Dissertation Award, Niclas Boehmer.

The conference will also feature a social event, a series of informal discussion sessions organised around specific topics, and the annual IFAAMAS Community Meeting. Let us conclude these introductory words with a heartfelt expression of gratitude to all those who played a role in the success of this conference. We extend our thanks to all those who submitted their work for review, as well as those who will present their work at the conference. A special acknowledgment is owed to the dedicated members of the program committee, the additional reviewers, the organizers of the satellite workshops, and the tutorial presenters. We also want to express our appreciation to the organizing committee, for their continued efforts to bring AAMAS to New Zealand, after two times that were forced online due to the COVID19 pandemic. Lastly, we extend our sincere thanks to all the sponsors of the conference for their contribution to the success of AAMAS.

We wish you a great conference and are looking forward to meeting everyone in Auckland!

Natasha Alechina & Virginia Dignum
*AAMAS-2024 Programme Chairs*

Mehdi Dastani & Jaime Sichman
*AAMAS-2024 General Chairs*