

IFAAMAS Board Statement

Ioannis Caragiannis

I am a professor at the Department of Computer Science of Aarhus University (since August 2020), where I also serve as the Head of the research group on Computational Complexity and Game Theory (since June 2021). Before joining AU, I was a faculty member at the Department of Computer Engineering and Informatics of the University of Patras, where I served as the Director of the Division of Foundations of Computer Science and Applications (2017-20) and as the Deputy Director of the graduate program in Data-Driven Computing and Decision Making (2018-20). My current research interests include the algorithmic and game-theoretic foundations of AI, focusing on fair division, voting, matchings, and mechanism design. I have published more than 180 papers in conferences and journals. These include more than 50 papers in the conferences EC, AAAI, IJCAI, and AAMAS and journal publications in TEAC, AIJ, JAIR, and JAAMAS. For my research in fair division and voting, I have received the 2024 Kalai Prize, the Artificial Intelligence 2022 Prominent Paper Award, and a Distinguished Paper Honorable Mention at IJCAI 2019.

I have been a member of the broad AI community since 2010. I have been involved in the IFAAMAS community since 2015 when I served on the program committee and had my first paper published at AAMAS 2015. In recent years, I have been a senior PC member in AAMAS 2020, 2021, 2023, and 2024, while in AAMAS 2022, I served as track chair for Markets, Auctions, and Non-Cooperative Game Theory. I was a mentor and PC member at the Doctoral Consortiums of AAMAS 2022 and 2023, respectively. I recently joined the editorial board of JAAMAS. If elected to the IFAAMAS Board of Directors, some issues I would like to work on are:

Strengthening AAMAS. To ensure that AAMAS attracts the very best of multi-agent system research, we need to strategically revise its timing (and its deadline dates) compared to the related conferences. These include not only the major AI/ML conferences but also smaller ones in the several subcommunities. The concept of extended abstracts and its benefit so far should be evaluated and reconsidered. In my opinion, the incentive their existence creates is not the right one. Furthermore, lobbying systematically at organizations that publish conference and journal rankings so that AAMAS and JAAMAS appear as highly as possible therein is important and would have a positive impact on faculty hires of our community members.

Ensuring more sustainable reviewing. The recent exponential increase in research output poses challenges to the quality of reviewing. First, reviewers are nearly impossible to find for journal submissions. In conferences, junior and/or inexperienced reviewers are inevitably called to help; usually, this introduces more randomness in the decision process than a few years ago. This is an issue that IFAAMAS needs to solve. Increasing self-filtering from the authors' side seems to be the answer here.

Achieving higher inclusiveness. As one who started his career in the distant field of theoretical computer science, I have benefited the most from the openness of the AI community to newcomers. I believe that this welcoming spirit to outsiders should be continued by IFAAMAS, without changing our high standards. There is a lot of high-quality foundational or applied work related to multi-agent systems in non-AI venues that could be an added value for the IFAAMAS publication venues.

In conclusion, I am eager to serve as a member of the IFAAMAS Board of Directors. I feel capable of contributing to any committee I am asked for if elected, with a preference for the awards, education and training, and conference bids committees.