Sebastian Stein - IFAAMAS Board Election Statement

Bio: I am a Professor of Multi-Agent Systems at the University of Southampton, UK, where I lead the Citizen-Centric AI Systems team within the Agents, Interaction and Complexity research group. I am excited about applying agent technologies to societal challenges, such as building cleaner energy and transportation systems. My work draws on foundational approaches, including preference learning, incentives and mechanism design, but I also work across disciplines with colleagues in social science and HCI. As a UK Turing AI Fellow, I frequently advise policymakers (e.g., UK Parliament and UN) and have worked extensively with industry (e.g., Jaguar Land Rover, IBM, Toyota).

Over my career, I have published 150 papers, including 20+ papers at AAMAS, but also other related venues like AAAI, IJCAI, ECAI, CHI, JAIR and AIJ. These have won the AAMAS Best Innovative Application (2016), AAMAS Blue Sky Ideas Special Mention (2021), AIJ Prominent Paper (2021) and AAMAS Best Demo (2025) Awards.

Since working on my PhD under the supervision of Nick Jennings and Terry Payne, I have been a regular AAMAS attendee. I highly value the supportive, diverse and friendly atmosphere and look forward to meeting friends and colleagues from the community each year, some of whom attended the same AAMAS Doctoral Consortium as me in 2007.

Services to AAMAS/AI Communities: I frequently help organise AI conferences (AAMAS Publicity Chair (2017), AAMAS Local Co-Chair (2021), HAI Finance Chair (2018), PRIMA Programme Co-Chair (2024), DAI Programme Co-Chair (2025)). I was co-organiser of the AMEC workshop (2010-2013) and helped establish the C-MAS workshop at AAMAS (2023-2026), for which I co-edited a JAAMAS special issue. I am frequently SPC/AC for AAMAS, IJCAI and AAAI, and I am Associate Editor for Royal Society Open Science.

Agenda: If elected, I will focus on

- **Engaging with other AI communities:** "Agentic" AI and increasingly "Multi-Agent Systems" are now being used by other communities to refer specifically to LLM-based systems. This is narrow and often ignores the substantial body of relevant AAMAS work (spanning agent architectures, coordination, cooperation, mechanism design, negotiation, argumentation and much more). I will work to increase awareness and collaboration across communities, including by inviting relevant speakers and papers from other conferences and encouraging cross-community workshops/tutorials.
- **Ensuring top quality and visibility:** AAMAS recently lost its CORE ranking of A*. I will make it a priority to work on restoring this, as well as ensuring that we feature highly on other international conference lists (e.g., CCF). This will involve maintaining a high-quality review process, securing participation by leading international research groups, improving the general visibility of AAMAS, and cementing AAMAS as *the unique flagship* conference for multiagent systems.
- **Reaching out beyond academia:** Building on my own experience of working with industry and policymakers, I am keen to increase engagement beyond just the academic community. This will ensure that our work creates real-world impact and will further improve our visibility. I will support this by organising thematic panel sessions on industrial applications and policy implications, and by proactively reaching out to local, national and international organisations that could benefit from attending AAMAS. Public outreach, e.g., through media engagement or discussions open to the public, will also support our wider impact.