

IFAAMAS Nomination: Bio and Statement

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I am currently a Reader in Computer Science at the University of Manchester, UK where I lead the Autonomy and Verification research group.

My research focuses on the development and verification of autonomous systems including issues related to transparency, verification, and ethics with a particular emphasis on the agent paradigm for delivering these properties. I am the main developer of the MCAPL framework which enables building verifiable cognitive agent programs and provides a model-checker for verifying those problems. The tool is publicly available with an Open Source license.

I am conference coordinator for ACM SIGAI; a member of the EURAMAS board; and was previously Secretary for the AISB. I have been involved in standards and regulatory work, in particular as part of the IEEE working group for their P7001 standard for Transparency of Autonomous Systems.

While I do not believe IFAAMAS alone can solve the current crisis in AI publishing (too many papers; over-worked referees and a resulting fall in standards of review), if I were elected to the IFAAMAS board I would be keen to work with AAMAS conference organisers to see what can be done to maintain a fair review process while respecting the time of reviewers.

In my role as conference coordinator for ACM SIGAI, I have previously worked with Paolo Turrini and Amy Greenwald around establishing a system of volunteers to act as first points of contact for anyone who feels unsafe at AAMAS. I intend to continue this work, and would like to develop it as a model other AI conferences could adopt. If elected, I would like to enable AAMAS to track its diversity more explicitly – this should assist in informing AAMAS decision-making around policies and initiatives to improve this diversity. The Education and Training committee has a strong role to play in diversifying our community and attracting young researchers to it and I would be keen to contribute in this area.