



Summer News from the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence

Please Join Us for AAAI-21 / IAAI-21 / EAAI-21

We invite you to join us for the Thirty-Fifth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence, February 2-9. As of this writing, the conference is expected to be held physically at the Vancouver Convention Centre in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. However, in light of the current worldwide health crisis, AAAI will plan to offer virtual options for attendees who cannot attend physically, and will be prepared to hold the entire conference virtually should that become necessary. Please consult the website for the most up-to-date plans.

The Call for Papers for AAAI-21 will be available in June. Please take a moment to consult the important deadlines and mark them in your calendar. AAAI-21 General Chair Qiang Yang and AAAI-21 Program Cochairs Kevin Leyton-Brown and Mausam will continue the traditions of past years with a dynamic technical program, as well as strong outreach programs for students, underrepresented groups, women, and sister conferences. For complete details on submitting to the technical program, and to view the Call for Papers, please see aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI-21.

AAAI-21 will comprise a host of programs, including the Senior Member Track, the Technical Demonstration Program, the Sister Conference Track, the Tutorial and Workshop Programs, and several student programs, such as the Student Abstract and Poster

Program, the Doctoral Consortium, and the Undergraduate Consortium. The calls and deadlines for each of these programs will be available via the AAAI-21 conference site at aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI-21.

Colocated with AAAI-21 will be the Thirty-Third Annual Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-21), the Eleventh Symposium on Educational Advances in Artificial Intelligence (EAAI-21), and Fourth AAAI/ACM Conference on Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and Society. For information on activities in Vancouver and the surrounding area, please see the boxed inset.

The Sixteenth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Interac- tive Digital Entertainment (AIIDE-20)

Please join us for AIIDE-20, to be held virtually October 19–23, 2020. The AIIDE conference showcases interdisciplinary research on modeling, developing, and evaluating intelligent systems in entertainment. AIIDE-20 will provide a meeting place for AI researchers and practitioners to discuss the latest advances and contemporary issues in entertainment-focused AI. The conference has a long history of featuring research on artificial intelligence in computer games, and continues to grow into areas beyond games. AIIDE invites researchers, developers, and digital artists to share

ideas on topics at the intersection of all forms of entertainment and artificial intelligence. The program will include invited speakers, paper sessions, workshops, tutorials, playable experiences, artifact evaluation, panels, posters, AI competitions, and a doctoral consortium.

The special topic of this year's conference is Foundations for Shared Progress. When creating new intelligent systems for digital entertainment, it can be challenging to build on the work of others. AIIDE-20 encourages submissions of works that aim to improve this situation. Potential sub-topics include, but are not limited to: common frameworks, integrated perspectives, disambiguations of language, shared testbeds, practical considerations, and best practices for reporting new results.

AIIDE-20 registration information will be available at the AIIDE-20 website in July. The early registration deadline is scheduled for August 16. Please send inquiries to aiide20@aaai.org, General Chair Levi Lelis (Universidade Federal de Viçosa), or Program Chair David Thue (Carleton University).

HCOMP-20

The Eighth AAAI Conference on Human Computation and Crowdsourcing (HCOMP 2019) is currently planned to be held physically at the Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision in Hilversum, The Netherlands. However, alternate plans are also being made for a fully virtual conference



Join Us in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada for AAAI-21, IAAI-21, and EAAI-21!

AAAI-21 will be held at the Vancouver Convention Centre. Located on Vancouver's downtown waterfront with a dramatic mountain backdrop, the award-winning Vancouver Convention Centre offers one of the most beautiful settings in the world. The center is steps away from hotels, restaurants, and all the entertainment, retail, and nightlife that the city offers. Voted as one of the "Best City in the Americas" year after year, Vancouver is a vibrant, cosmopolitan city nestled between the Pacific Ocean and the soaring peaks of the North Shore Mountains. With the convention centre and Vancouver as home base, you will be well positioned to explore this unique region. Seaplanes, helicopters, ferries and cruise ships are just minutes away. Discover attractions like Victoria — British Columbia's capital — and the scenic Gulf Islands. Take a leisurely drive up the Sea-to-Sky Highway to Whistler, one of North America's top ski resorts, sample the award-winning vintages of the Okanagan wine country, or travel the Alaskan coastline. For complete information about options in Vancouver, please visit www.tourismvancouver.com.

For more information about AAAI-21 as it develops, please visit www.aaai.org/aaai21, or contact AAAI at aaai21@aaai.org. We look forward to seeing you in Vancouver next February!

www.aaai.org/aaai21

format, should that become necessary. Please consult the HCOMP website at www.humancomputation.com for the most up-to-date information.

HCOMP is the home of the human computation and crowdsourcing community. It is the premier venue for presenting latest findings from research

and practice into frameworks, methods and systems that bring together people and machine intelligence to achieve better results. While artificial intelligence (AI) and human-computer interaction (HCI) represent traditional mainstays of the conference, HCOMP believes strongly in fostering

and promoting broad, interdisciplinary research. The field is particularly unique in the diversity of disciplines it draws upon and contributes to, including human-centered qualitative studies and HCI design, social computing, artificial intelligence, economics, computational social science, digital

humanities, policy, and ethics. The conference promotes the exchange of advances in human computation and crowdsourcing not only among researchers, but also engineers and practitioners, to encourage dialogue across disciplines and communities of practice.

This year, the conference committee has invited works that will generate new insights into the quality (or qualities) of human-annotated datasets, including elements such as reliability and replicability of human computation and crowdsourcing experiments, novel metrics for aggregation of results, and holistic approaches to deal with bias, fairness and interpretability.

The program will include four keynote speakers: Julia Noordegraaf (University of Amsterdam), Anna Ridler (Artist), Chris Welty (Google), and Mounia Lalmas (Spotify). Works-in-Progress papers, Demo papers, and Blue Sky Idea papers are due August 7. For complete submission details, please consult the HCOMP website.

Registration information will be available in August. The early registration deadline is scheduled for August 28. Please send inquiries to hcomp20@aaai.org. The conference cochairs are Lora Aroyo (Google) and Elena Simperl (King's College London).

2020 AAAI Fall Symposium Series and 2020 Spring Symposium Series

The 2020 AAAI Fall Symposium Series and select symposia from the 2020 Spring Symposium Series will be held Wednesday through Saturday, November 11-14, at the Westin Arlington Gateway, Arlington, Virginia, adjacent to Washington, DC. As with all 2020 fall events, AAAI is closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation, and will announce plans for a virtual conference format, if needed, later this summer.

The usual 2.5-day schedule for symposia will be slightly shortened to accommodate the Spring Symposia on November 11-12, and Fall symposia on November 13-14. The topics of the fall symposia are available at aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss20.php. Please note that submissions are due July 30, 2020.

Due to the onset of the worldwide health crisis in March 2020, several AAAI Spring Symposia elected to reschedule in conjunction with the AAAI Fall Symposium Series. These include the following six symposia:

Applied AI in Healthcare: Safety, Community, and the Environment

AI Welcomes Systems Engineering: Towards the Science of Interdependence for Autonomous Human-Machine Teams
Challenges and Opportunities for Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning

Combining Machine Learning and Knowledge Engineering in Practice

Deep Models and Artificial Intelligence for Defense Applications: Potentials, Theories, Practices, Tools, and Towards Responsible AI in Surveillance, Media, and Security through Licensing

The AAAI Symposium Series provides a unique and intimate forum for colleagues in a given discipline. Participants will be expected to attend a single symposium. The series also provides an important gathering point for the AI community as a whole. Participation will be open to active participants as well as other interested individuals. Efforts are made to encourage participation by graduate students.

Complete registration and hotel information will be available in August at www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss20.php. Participants will be expected to register by September 17. The deadline for hotel reservations at the Westin is 5:00 PM EDT, October 16, 2020. The discounted room rate of \$205.00 per night (single/double) may not be available after this date. Contact information for the Westin will be included in the registration materials.

AAAI 2021 Spring Symposium Series

The 2021 Spring Symposium Series will be held March 22-24, 2021 at Stanford University. The Call for Proposals is located at www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/sss21. Proposals are due in July. The Call for Participation, including the list of accepted symposia, will be available in late August. Submissions will be due to the organizers on November 1, 2020. For more information, please contact the Symposium

Cochairs, Christopher Geib and Ron Petrick, at sss21chairs@aaai.org or AAAI at sss21@aaai.org.

AAAI Fellows Nominations Solicited

The 2021 Fellows Selection Committee is currently accepting nominations for AAAI Fellow. The AAAI Fellows program is designed to recognize people who have made significant, sustained contributions to the field of artificial intelligence over at least a ten-year period. All regular members in good standing are encouraged to consider nominating a candidate. At least two references must accompany nominations. The nominator or one of the references must be a AAAI Fellow who is a current member of AAAI. For further information about the Fellows Program please contact AAAI at 650-328-3123; by fax at 650-321-4457; or by email at fellows21@aaai.org. Nomination materials are available on the AAAI web site at www.aaai.org/Awards/fellows.php. The deadline for nominations is September 25, 2020.

2021 Special Award Nominations

AAAI is pleased to announce the continuation of its special awards program for 2021. Nominations are currently being sought for all award categories. For a full overview of the AAAI Awards and links to online nomination forms, please see www.aaai.org/Awards/awards.php

AAAI Feigenbaum Prize

The 2021 AAAI Feigenbaum Prize is awarded biennially to recognize and encourage outstanding Artificial Intelligence research advances that are made by using experimental methods of computer science. The laboratories for the experimental work are real-world domains, and the power of the research results are demonstrated in those domains. The Feigenbaum Prize may be given for a sustained record of high-impact seminal contributions to experimental AI research; or it may be given to reward singular remarkable innovation and achievement in experimental AI research. The prize is \$10,000 and is provided



AAAI Member News

ACM Names Winner of the Athena Lecturer Award

AAAI congratulates AAAI Fellow Sarit Kraus, who has been named the ACM 2020-2021 Athena Lecturer for foundational contributions to artificial intelligence, notably to multiagent systems, human-agent interaction, autonomous agents and nonmonotonic reasoning, and exemplary service and leadership in these fields. Her contributions span theoretical foundations, experimental evaluation, and practical applications.

The Athena Lecturer Award celebrates women researchers who have made fundamental contributions to Computer Science. Each year ACM honors a preeminent woman computer scientist as the Athena Lecturer. The recipient gives an invited talk at a major ACM conference of her choice. The award carries a cash prize of \$25,000. Financial support for the Athena Lecturer Award is provided by Two Sigma.

Kraus is a professor of computer science at Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan, Israel, where her research is focused on intelligent agents and multi-agent systems. She received her Bachelor's, Master's and PhD degrees from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Kraus has written six books, 122 journal articles, and 176 conference papers, and has received nine patents. Twelve of her publications have won best paper awards and

two have won the IFAAMAS Influential Paper Award. She is a Fellow of ACM, the European Association for Artificial Intelligence (EurAI), and AAAI. Her honors include receiving the IJCAI Computers and Thought Award in 1995, the ACM SIGART Autonomous Agents Research Award in 2007, and the prestigious Israel EMET Prize in 2010. Kraus has served the research community in key roles for leading AI conferences, and has served on several editorial boards. In the spirit of the ACM Athena Lecturer Award, Kraus is also a recognized leader in efforts to increase the participation of women in science.

AAAI Congratulates New ACM Fellows

The Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) recently named 58 of its members as fellows for significant contributions in areas including artificial intelligence, cloud computing, combating cybercrime, quantum computing and wireless networking. Among the winners are several AAAI Fellows* and members, including

Diego Calvanese (Free University of Bozen-Bolzano)

For contributions to description logics and their applications in data management and software engineering

Elizabeth F. Churchill (Google)

For contributions to human-computer interaction and service to ACM

Philip R. Cohen (Monash University)*

For contributions to the theory and practice of multi-agent systems, human-computer dialogue, and multimodal interaction

Vincent Conitzer (Duke University)*

For contributions to game theory, social choice theory, and mechanism design

Lise Getoor (University of California, Santa Cruz)*

For contributions to machine learning, reasoning under uncertainty, and responsible data science

Maria L. Gini (University of Minnesota)*

For contributions to robotics and multi-agent systems and a lifelong commitment to diversity in computing

Subbarao Kambhampati (Arizona State University)*

For contributions to automated planning and human-aware AI systems and leadership within the field

Xiang-Yang Li (University of Science and Technology of China)

For contributions to the design, analysis and optimization of IoT and mobile systems

Sheila McIlraith (University of Toronto)*

For contributions to knowledge representation and its applications to automated planning and semantic web services

Rada Mihalcea (University of Michigan)

For contributions to natural language processing, with innovations in data-driven and graph-based language processing

Robin R. Murphy (Texas A&M University)

For contributions in founding and advancing the field of computing for disasters and robotics

Jeffrey S. Rosenschein (Hebrew University)*

For contributions to multiagent systems, in particular, the use of game theory in multi-agent systems

Dacheng Tao (The University of Sydney)

For contributions to representation learning and its applications

by the Feigenbaum Nii Foundation and administered by AAAI. The 2021 Feigenbaum Prize will be awarded in conjunction with the Thirty-Fifth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-21) in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The deadline for nominations is September 25, 2020.

AAAI Classic Paper Award

The 2021 AAAI Classic Paper Award will be given to the author of the most influential paper(s) from the Twentieth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence, held in 2005 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA. The 2021 AAAI Distinguished Service Award will recognize one individual for extraordinary service to the AI community. Awards will be presented at AAAI-21 in Vancouver, Canada. The deadline for nominations is September 25, 2020. For additional inquiries, please contact Carol Hamilton at awards21@aaai.org.

Robert S. Engelmore Memorial Lecture Award

The Robert S. Engelmore Memorial Lecture Award is presented annually at the IAAI conference in honor of Dr. Robert S. Engelmore's extraordinary service to AAAI, AI Magazine, the AI applications community, and his contributions to applied AI. The Award includes a certificate and a \$1,000 honorarium. The lecture is linked to a subsequent article in *AI Magazine*; thus the award recipients are selected jointly by IAAI and *AI Magazine*.

The committee is seeking nominations for individuals of exceptional stature who have exhibited the spirit of Bob Engelmore through a long-term track record of major contributions. The ideal candidate will have demonstrated a breadth of contributions spanning AAAI, the AI community, and applied AI. Nominations should include a brief statement of the qualifications of the candidate for the award, specifically referring to contributions to AAAI, the AI community, and applied AI. Nominations may optionally include supporting information, such as the URL of the nominee's home page, and other documentation of contributions. Nominations should be sent electronically (as PDF files) to

rseaward21@aaai.org by September 25, 2020.

AAAI/EAAI Outstanding Educator Award

The AAAI/EAAI Outstanding Educator award will be presented for the sixth year during AAAI-21 in Vancouver. This award recognizes a person (or group of people) who has made major contributions to AI education that provide long-lasting benefits to the AI community. Examples include innovating teaching methods, providing service to the AI education community, generating pedagogical resources, designing curricula, and educating students outside of higher education venues (or the general public) about AI. The award consists of a certificate, a \$1,000 honorarium, complimentary one-year AAAI membership (new or renewal), and free conference registration to the upcoming EAAI conference and co-located AAAI conference. For complete information, please see www.aaai.org/Awards/eaai-award.php or write to eaaiaward@aaai.org. The submission deadline is September 25, 2020.

AAAI Senior Member Grade of Membership

AAAI is now taking applications from regular members for the AAAI Senior Member grade of membership. This status is designed to recognize members who have achieved significant accomplishments within the field of Artificial Intelligence.

To be eligible for nomination for Senior Member, candidates must be consecutive members of AAAI for at least five years and have been active in the professional arena for at least ten years. Applications should include information that details the candidate's scholarship, leadership, and/or professional service. At least two references, one of which must be written by a AAAI Fellow or a current AAAI Senior Member must accompany the senior member application. References should be submitted by colleagues who know the candidate, and are familiar with their work and accomplishments. Each year a maximum of 25 members will be elected to the Senior Member status. All applications and references must conform to the requirements listed

on the form, and must be received by September 25, 2020. For complete details and an application form, please see www.aaai.org/Awards/senior.php, or contact Carol Hamilton at seniormember21@aaai.org.

AIHub Launched

AAAI is pleased to announce its partnership in the new website Aihub.org. This website is aimed at connecting the AI community to the public. By providing free, high-quality technical and accessible information about AI, Aihub.org aims to improve public understanding so that everyone can have a meaningful discussion about the deployment of AI in society.

Aihub.org hosts daily updates about the latest news, opinions, tutorials, and events in artificial intelligence. All information is produced by those working directly in the field, without filter or intermediary. Check here (aihub.org/contribute) for ways in which you can contribute stories, podcasts, videos, tutorials, and more.

AAAI is a founding supporter of the site with Michela Milano and Michael Littman serving as liaisons (AIHub Trustees representing AAAI). Aihub.org is also supported by NeurIPS, IMLS (ICML), AIJ/IJCAI, ACM SIGAI, and RoboCup and is establishing additional connections with European initiatives and associations.

Please see aihub.org for complete information, or write to aihuborg@gmail.com.