

Awards

At AAMAS 2023, multiple awards were presented. These included the Best Paper Award, the Pragnesh Jay Modi Best Student Paper Award, the IFAAMAS Influential Paper Award, the ACM/SIGAI Autonomous Agents Research Award, and the IFAAMAS Victor Lesser Distinguished Dissertation Award.

Influential Paper Award

Awarded annually, the IFAAMAS Influential Paper Award recognises a paper or papers in the area of autonomous agents and multi-agent systems that has stood the test of time and had significant impact on later work.

The 2023 IFAAMAS Influential Paper Award committee (Maria Gini (chair), Jeff Rosenschein & William Yeoh) recommended the following paper for the 2023 award.

Claus, Caroline and Craig Boutilier. "The dynamics of reinforcement learning in cooperative multiagent systems". AAAI 1998, 746–752.

The paper, which has received more than 1,500 citations, laid the foundations for multi-agent reinforcement learning (MARL). Specifically, it introduced methods for agents which learn individual Q-functions and for agents which learn Q-functions over all agent actions. These concepts are widely used in modern MARL systems.

ACM/SIGAI Autonomous Agents Research Award

The ACM/SIGAI Autonomous Agents Research Award is an annual award for excellence in research in the area of autonomous agents. The award is intended to recognise researchers in autonomous agents whose current work is an important influence on the field.

The selection committee for the ACM/SIGAI Autonomous Agents Research Award was pleased to announce that *Professor Edith Elkind* is the recipient of the 2023 award.

At the time of AAMAS'23, Edith Elkind is a Professor of Computer Science at the University of Oxford, UK. Her work provides fundamental understanding of economic paradigms in multiagent systems, with a particular focus on computational social choice and game theory. She has made important contributions to the computational analysis of cooperative games, as well as to the studies of structured domains in elections, and hedonic games. Professor Elkind supervised two PhD theses that won the Victor Lesser Distinguished Dissertation Award. Her service to the community has been extraordinary; among many other roles, she has served both as a program chair and a general chair for AAMAS, and as a programme chair for IJCAI, ACM EC, WINE and COMSOC.

Victor Lesser Dissertation Award

The Victor Lesser Distinguished Dissertation Award is given for dissertations in the field of autonomous agents and multiagent systems that show originality, depth, impact, as well as quality of writing, supported by high-quality publications.

The 2022 Victor Lesser Dissertation Award prize committee (Paolo Turrini (chair), Gita Sukthankar, F.P. (Fernando) Pascoal Dos Santos & Ann Nowé) recommended the following recipient for the 2023 award:

Jiaoyang Li, whose thesis titled "Efficient and Effective Techniques for Large-Scale Multi-Agent Path Finding" was supervised by Sven Koenig at the University of Southern California, USA.

Dr Li's work impressed the committee for technical depth and real-world impact. The achievements on multi-agent path finding are ground-breaking with "new heuristics that can speed up the state-of-the-art optimal MAPF algorithm by up to 50 times; and three symmetry-reasoning techniques that can speed up the above-mentioned algorithm and its variant with the admissible heuristics by up to 4 orders of magnitude".