

Ana Maria Paiva

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Ana Maria Paiva is an Associate Professor at the Department of Computer Engineering, IST (“Instituto Superior Técnico”) in the Technical University of Lisbon, a founder and Coordinator of the internationally-leading research group GAIPS – “Intelligent Agents and Synthetic Characters Group” at INESC-ID. Her group works with methodologies for building complex systems, using an agent-based approach, with a special focus on synthetic characters. GAIPS was one of the first European groups in this area, for example producing the affective Dolphin characters Tristan and Iseult for the Lisbon World Expo back in 1998. . GAIPS is widely-known internationally for its research and for the innovative applications created in the fields of agents and synthetic characters.

Ana has been working on agent technology for more than twelve years, publishing over 100 papers in our field, an impressive number of 13 alone at the past AAMAS conferences. Most noteworthy, she was winner of the Best Demo Award at AAMAS 2007 for a system that supports social learning through role play with virtual agents.

Since 2004, Ana has been actively involved in community service for AAMAS every year. She was an SPC member in 2006 and 2010, a PC member in 2004, 2005, and 2007, and Virtual Agents Track Chair in 2009. She organized AAMAS 2008 (International Conference on “Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems”) which attracted 740 participants. In addition, Ana has also served as a PC member of numerous other agent-related events, including the International Conference on Intelligent Virtual Agents. As the Organization Chair of AAMAS 2008, she initiated a Special Track on Intelligent Virtual Agents.

Ana has been the main organizer of an impressive number of workshops on agent-related technology and one of these resulted in a book published in Springer’s Lecture Notes in Computer Science. Furthermore, she was the editor of a Special Issue on User Modeling and Intelligent Agents for the prestigious journal User Modeling and Adaptive Interaction bringing our field to the attention of a larger research community.

Ana focuses her research on techniques that make the creation of agent-based complex systems possible, in particular, systems that can establish natural interactions with users. In this area, Ana has coordinated the participation of INESC-ID and IST (“Instituto Superior Técnico”) in a striking number of Portuguese and European projects and Networks of Excellence, such as the Storyteller (Portuguese Science Foundation), IDEALS (funded under the Telematics program), NIMIS (an I3-ESE project), DiViLab, Safira, VICTEC, COLDEX (IST- 5th Framework), ELVIS, KALEIDOSCOPE, HUMAINE (in progress), MindRACES, eCircus and LIREC, among others.

To summarize, Ana has not only established as a leader in the agent technology field, but also continuously provided valuable services to the agent community over the past ten years. We therefore strongly highly recommend her for the IFAAMAS board.