Nomination for the IFAAMAS Board: Felipe Leno da Silva (Leno)

Background: Leno is currently a Postdoc Reinforcement Learning Researcher at the Lawrence Livermore National Lab (LLNL), USA, where he actively researches on Reinforcement Learning for varied applications ranging from antibody therapeutics development to electronic circuit design. He holds a Ph.D. degree from the University of São Paulo, Brazil. Before joining LLNL, he held a Postdoc position at the Advanced Institute for AI (2019-2021), where he helped to approximate the industry and academic sectors in Brazil. During 2018-2019, he was a Visiting Researcher at the University of Texas at Austin, working with Prof. Peter Stone. He also interned at Borealis AI in 2019, where he worked with Prof. Matthew Taylor. Leno has worked on several AI topics, but he is better known for his research on Transfer Learning for Multiagent Reinforcement Learning, for which he was awarded third place in the Brazilian Thesis Competition on AI, edition 2018-2020. Additional awards received include an honorable mention as Best Student Poster at the AAAI conference, a Best Paper Award at the BRACIS conference, and two invitations as an Outstanding Young Researcher to the Heidelberg Laureate Forum.

Service to the field: Leno has served multiple times as a PC and SPC member for several conferences in the area, including AAMAS, IJCAI, AAAI, ICML, NeurIPS, and ICLR. He was also involved in the organization of several workshops, including the Adaptive Learning Agents (ALA) Workshop at AAMAS since 2020, the Scaling-Up Reinforcement Learning (SURL) Workshop series, and Latinx in IA at NeurIPS. He has been serving as a Guest Editor to the Special Issue on Adaptive and Learning Agents published by Neural Computing and Applications since 2020. As a student, Leno has served as a volunteer for AAMAS (and other AI conferences) multiple times. Being AAMAS his preferred publishing venue, Leno has attended the conference in most years since 2017, when he supported the organization of the Sao Paulo, Brazil, edition of the conference in his hometown.

Main Current Goals:

1. **Promoting inclusion and diversity in our community:** a small number of countries dominate our conference participation statistics, reducing the potential for crossbreeding of ideas, forging of new partnerships, and encounters between different communities (which are, after all, the main purposes of holding conferences). I will promote the dialogue for finding ways to address all issues preventing underrepresented members of our community from attending AAMAS. Possible solutions might include the expansion of our travel grants program, expanding the existing diversity programs, and promoting the organization of AAMAS editions in underrepresented geographical locations.

2. **Approximating the industry sector to AAMAS:** by working in several types of research roles ranging from purely academic to the intersection between industry, academia, and government, I have observed the beneficial impact that well-integrated industry and academia sectors might have on a research community. AAMAS has a relatively low number of industry partners when compared to other top-tier AI conferences. I will promote the expansion of partnerships with the industry sector.

3. **Promoting the publication of high-risk high-reward research:** finding the right balance between incremental advances and highly innovative and risky explorations is hard, especially when the former is relatively easier to publish. The Blue Sky Ideas track is a nice initial step in this direction, but I will promote further expansion of initiatives to attract high-risk high-reward research to AAMAS, which is necessary to ensure that our community will remain in the vanguard of scientific advances in the long term.