

I am Maria Gini, a Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Minnesota, where I hold the title of Distinguished Professor of the College of Science and Engineering.

I am honored to have received the ACM SIGAI Autonomous Agents Research Award this year. I am a Fellow of ACM, AAI, and IEEE. I have also received the AAI Distinguished Service Award. I have served the IFAAMAS community for many years. I was the President 2015–2019, and a member of the Board of Directors 2006–2012 and 2014–2020. I have also served as General Chair of AAMAS, Program Chair, and Local Chair and have been in the conference program committee for many years.

I am passionate about increasing the participation and recognition of women and members of underrepresented groups in AI and computing. I have repeatedly organized special events and meetings at AAI, AAMAS, and IJCAI, as well as mentoring activities for students at Doctoral Consortia. We need to grow our community in particular in the least developed countries and make it welcoming for everyone.

Last year we have celebrated 20 years of AAMAS. Our community is strong, but we need to strengthen the position of the AAMAS conference in the face of increasing competition with AAI, IJCAI, and other top AI conferences.