



EurAI Bulletin #1, 2017

ACAI Summer School 2017

7-14 October 2017, Nieuwpoort, Belgium

We're happy to announce that this year's ACAI summer school will be solely devoted to Reinforcement Learning (basics and recent developments), a branch of machine learning that focuses on learning from interaction with an uncertain environment and potential peers. The school will be organized from 7th until 14th October 2017 in Nieuwpoort, Belgium.

Recent progress and successes, such as e.g. AlphaGo, have revived strong interest in Reinforcement Learning (RL) and have pushed the boundaries of the state-of-the-art. Unfortunately, in typical machine learning courses and text books only the very basics of RL are covered. To bridge the gap between basic RL algorithms, such as for instance Q-learning, and the RL architecture that allowed to beat some of the best human Go players, this summerschool will introduce various advanced RL techniques, such as: batch and policy search techniques, shaping and inverse RL, RL for multi-agent systems and robotics, and Deep Reinforcement Learning. These topics will be taught by top scientists and experts in RL.

Interested in learning more about RL? but unsure about your basic RL knowledge? No worries, we got you covered: you can opt for the additional two days before the actual start of the school to make sure you have the necessary background and skills before diving into the more advanced topics.

We have chosen for an on-site approach, where all participants and lectures stay at the same location and spend a full week together to 'learn' RL and jointly participate in social activities. If you want to know more about the school and the registration process: check out the website at <https://ai.vub.ac.be/ssrl2017>

EurAI fellows 2017 – Call for Nominations

Deadline for nominations: Wednesday 15 March 2017

INTRODUCTION

Nominations are sought for EurAI Fellows 2017. The EurAI Fellows program was initiated in 1999 to recognize individuals who have made significant, sustained contributions to the field of artificial intelligence (AI) in Europe. The EurAI Fellows Program honors only a very small percentage of the total membership of all EurAI member societies (up to a maximum of 3%). Each Fellow will receive a Certificate signed by the EurAI Chair. The names of the recently elected Fellows

are published each year on the EurAI Webpages and in the EurAI Bulletin. At each ECAI conference a Fellows lunch will be sponsored by EurAI to honor the recently elected Fellows.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO BE AN EurAI FELLOW?

To be eligible for consideration, candidates **must** be a current member of an EurAI member organisation (see <http://www.eurai.org/member/> for a list of member societies). Usually only individuals who have made contributions to AI for a decade or more after receiving their PhD (or are at an equivalent career stage) will be selected.

WHO CAN MAKE A NOMINATION?

There are two ways that an individual can be nominated:

- A nomination can be made by an EurAI member society. See <http://www.eurai.org/member/> for a list of member societies. Please, note that for each member society the number of nominations is limited to a maximum of **three**.
- A nomination can be made by two EurAI fellows, who must be from different countries.

WHAT IS THE NOMINATION PROCESS?

A nomination must be a **single** PDF document, including the following:

- a statement confirming which EurAI member society the candidate is currently a member of;
- a comprehensive current CV of the candidate;
- three separate letters of reference, each of which should clearly make the case why the individual is considered appropriate for EurAI fellowship.

The nomination document should be submitted via EasyChair:

<https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=fellows2017>

(the system will ask for an abstract - this can be omitted). Please include the name of the nominee in the title of the submission.

Nominations must be submitted no later than

Wednesday March 15, 2017.

We hope to complete the evaluation process by May 2017. The nominators will be informed of the decision for any nomination(s) they made.

HOW WILL NOMINATIONS BE EVALUATED?

All nominations will be evaluated by the EurAI fellows committee. The key criterion of evaluation will be whether the nominee has achieved exceptional distinction in AI in Europe. Distinction may be evidenced in several ways -- fellows' accomplishments range from pioneering advances in the theory of AI, to unusual accomplishments in AI technology and applications. Leadership in EurAI or EurAI member societies, support of forums for the exchange of ideas, and exceptional service for the international AI community may also be considered in the selection process.

Most fellowship nominations are for technical contributions, and for most of these, the case is usually based on the nominee's scientific achievements as documented in their publication record. In evaluating such a publication record, the fellowship committee will look for clear evidence of scientific excellence, which may, for example, come in the form of a citation record that indicates a profound influence on the field, a publication record of exceptional quality, or technical results of unusual depth, insight, and impact. Note that other forms of technical contribution evidence will also be considered, such as patent awards or statements of longstanding contribution to an industrial AI group effort that has been influential in the field generally; again, clear evidence should be provided of such influence.

The fellowship committee will in all cases ultimately make decisions based on their professional judgment of the overall quality of the case.

EurAI: call for conference sponsorship

EurAI sponsors invited talks at international conferences. The guidelines for eligibility and duties of sponsored conferences can be read at https://www.eurai.org/apply_for/conference_sponsorship

Conference organizers who want to apply to funding for a conference that takes place before the end of December 2017 should apply ****before April 12, 2017****.

The submission Web site for EurAI Sponsorship 2017 is:

<https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=euraisponsorship17>

There is no need to upload a pdf: you may simply provide the required information in the abstract.

There will be another call later in the autumn of this year for conferences that take place in the first half of 2018.

EurAI Artificial Intelligence Dissertation Award 2016

Nominations are invited for the 2016 Artificial Intelligence Dissertation Award sponsored by EurAI, the European Association of Artificial Intelligence. Please take a moment to nominate your students, or to recommend to your colleagues to nominate their students.

This Award includes a certificate signed by the EurAI President and 1500 Euros (which includes the travel grant for the Award ceremony). Nominations are due by **May 1, 2017** by submitting a single PDF file as described below listing both the NOMINATED candidate and the NOMINATOR as the AUTHORS through EasyChair at: <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=aidissertationaward2>

Eligible doctoral dissertations are those defended after **December 1, 2015** in the general area of Artificial Intelligence. The dissertation must have been defended at a European university and the author must be a personal member of a EurAI member society. In case a thesis is nominated for another national or international award before or during its review for the EurAI dissertation award, the author is requested to inform the EurAI dissertation award committee about this fact.

To be considered, a dissertation must be nominated by the thesis supervisor, who must submit the following items as a SINGLE PDF file in the order:

- Nomination cover-page that includes: the name, affiliation, and contact details of the nominator; the date of the defense of the dissertation; and the names of the jury/examiners involved in its defense;
- nomination letters, either digitally signed or scanned original, from two referees supporting the submission and stating their assessment of why the thesis should win the award.
- if the thesis was not written in English the nomination must include an English paper describing the core ideas of the thesis that has been submitted for publication in an international journal or a prestigious conference.
- the full nominated dissertation.

The selection will be based on the originality, impact, and written quality of the work. Work that has been submitted to and/or accepted at workshops, conferences, or journals will be considered more favourably. Work that is primarily attributed to the student's own initiative will also be considered more favourably. Finally, the quality of the written document will be considered.

Please address your queries to Barry O'Sullivan - [b.osullivan\[at\]cs.ucc.ie](mailto:b.osullivan@cs.ucc.ie)

The deadline for receipt of submissions is **May 1, 2017**.

The outcome will be announced by the first week of July.

The Award will be presented during IJCAI 2017.

AI-related conferences

16th International conference on Autonomous Agents and Multi Agent Systems, AAMAS 2017

San Paulo –Brasil May 8-12, 2017

<http://www.aamas2017.org/>

International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence IJCAI 2017

Melbourne, Australia | August 19-25, 2017

<http://ijcai-17.org/>

23rd International Conference on Principles and Practice of Constraint Programming, CP 2017

Melbourne, Australia | August 28 to September 1, 2017

<http://cp2017.a4cp.org/>

33rd International Conference on Logic Programming ICLP 2017

Melbourne, Australia | August 28 to September 1, 2017

<http://iclp17.a4lp.org/>

20th International Conference on Theory and Applications of Satisfiability Testing SAT 2017

Melbourne, Australia | August 28 to September 1, 2017

<http://sat2017.gitlab.io/>

27th International Conference on Automated Planning and Scheduling, ICAPS 2017

Pittsburgh, USA - June 18 - 23, 2017

<http://icaps17.icaps-conference.org/>

Special Issues

Journal of Automated Reasoning

Special Issue On Automated Reasoning Systems

<https://www.mpi-inf.mpg.de/JARS17/>

Magazines

AI Magazine Vol 37 n. 4

<http://www.aaai.org/ojs/index.php/aimagazine/issue/view/216>

AI Magazine Vol 37 n. 3

<http://www.aaai.org/ojs/index.php/aimagazine/issue/view/215>

AI Communications Volume

Volume preprints

<http://content.iospress.com/journals/ai-communications/Preprint/Preprint>

Contact Information

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For advertising AI-related conferences, schools and journal issues, please contact the editor.