



Winter News from the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence

Joint AAAI/ACM SIGAI Doctoral Dissertation Award Winners Announced

AAAI is pleased to announce that the winner of the 2019 AAAI/ACM SIGAI Dissertation Award is Jiajun Wu of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Wu is being honored for his work “Learning to See the Physical World.” Two runners-up are also honored: Aishwarya Agrawal of the Georgia Institute of Technology for “Visual Question Answering and Beyond,” and Li Dong of the University of Edinburgh for “Learning Natural Language Interfaces with Neural Models.” All winners will be honored during the AAAI-21 Conference.

AAAI and ACM SIGAI established the Joint AAAI/ACM SIGAI Doctoral Dissertation Award to recognize and encourage superior research and writing by doctoral candidates in artificial intelligence. The award is presented annually at the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence, and the winner is invited to present a talk at the conference. For more information about the award, please see aaai.org/Awards/dissertation-award.php.

Join Us for AAAI-21/ IAAI-21/EAAI-21

The Thirty-Fifth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-21), the Thirty-Third Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-21), and the Eleventh Symposium

on Educational Advances in Artificial Intelligence (EAAI-21) will be held virtually from February 2-9. The AAAI-21 conference chairs and organizers are working hard to make your conference experience as engaging and interactive as possible.

Registration Is Open!

AAAI-21 registration information is now available at aaai.org/aaai21, and online registration can be completed at aaaiconf.cventevents.com/aaai21. Accepted authors are required to register by December 18, 2020. The deadline for general early registration is January 15, 2021. Registrations made after January 15 are not eligible for discounted rates.

Technical registration includes admittance to all plenary, poster, and technical sessions, as well as interactive networking events. Technical registrants may sign up for tutorials and workshops at no extra charge, but must make their selections at the time of registration. Individuals interested in attending tutorials or workshops only may do so for an additional fee.

Complete tutorial and workshop schedules and information is available at the AAAI-21 website.

AAAI Code of Conduct for Events and Services

Mutual respect is important in a virtual environment too! AAAI is dedicated to providing a respectful and inclusive conference experience for everyone. Respectful behavior is always assumed and expected of community members during all conferences and events.

Conference participants and attendees are expected to interact with others in a respectful and courteous manner, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, national origin, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender presentation, physical appearance, religious affiliation, creed, marital status, differing abilities, medical conditions, personal characteristics, technology choices, or any other differentiating factors. For more information on the AAAI Code of Conduct, please see aaai.org/Conferences/code-of-conduct.php.

AAAI-21 Program

The program for the conference promises to be dynamic, including over 1,800 technical presentations in oral or poster format, senior member track presentations, 102 student abstract presentations, 46 demonstrations, 25 tutorials, 26 workshops, and much more.

Schedule Change

The schedule for the conference will be different than past years, partly due to the virtual platform, but also to make talks and other events more available to attendees. The overall conference is two days longer. Tutorials and workshops have been scheduled on separate days, with tutorials falling just before the technical program on February 3, and workshops commencing at the conclusion of the technical program on February 8 and 9. In addition, it is likely that poster sessions will be interspersed with paper presentations and question and answer sessions to encourage interaction with authors and other attendees in smaller settings.



AAAI Announces First Recipient of the AAAI Squirrel AI Award for AI for the Benefit of Humanity

For more than 100 years Nobel Prizes have been given out annually to recognize breakthrough achievements in chemistry, literature, medicine, peace and physics. As these disciplines undoubtedly continue to impact society, newer fields like artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics have also begun to profoundly reshape the world.

In recognition of this, AAAI is pleased to announce the winner of the inaugural AAAI Squirrel AI Award for Artificial Intelligence for the Benefit of Humanity, given to honor individuals whose work in the field has had a transformative impact on society. The recipient is Professor Regina Barzilay of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL), who is being recognized for her work developing machine learning models to develop antibiotics and other drugs, and to detect and diagnose breast cancer at early stages. AAAI will officially present Barzilay with the award at AAAI-21, which comes with an associated prize of \$1 million provided by the online education company Squirrel AI.

For more information about the award and Professor Barzilay's research, please see aaai.org/Pressroom/Releases/release-20-0923.php

Special Focus Areas

AAAI will again highlight research with a special track on artificial intelligence for social impact. In addition, the program will feature focus areas on neuro-symbolic AI, AI responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, and AI for conference organization and delivery.

Invited Talks

As always, AAAI-21 will include a distinguished invited speaker series. A preliminary partial list of talks includes the following:

Regina Barzilay (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

Recipient of the 2021 AAAI Squirrel Award for Artificial Intelligence for the Benefit of Humanity

Regina Barzilay is a professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and a member of the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her research interests are in natural language processing. Currently, Barzilay is focused on bringing the power of machine learning to oncology. In collaboration with physicians and her students, she is devising deep learning models that use imaging, free text, and structured data to identify trends that affect early diagnosis, treatment, and disease prevention. Regina Barzilay is poised to play a leading role in creating new models that advance the capacity of computers to harness the power of human language data.

Daphne Koller (insitro, Inc.)

Digital Learning Coming to Life

Daphne Koller is the chief executive officer and founder of insitro, a machine-learning enabled drug discovery company, and the cofounder of the online education platforms Engageli and Coursera. Koller was the Rajeev Motwani Professor of Computer Science at Stanford University, the co-CEO and president of Coursera and chief computing officer of Calico.

Please visit aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI-21 for developing news about the AAAI-21 program.

Expanded IAAI-21 Program

In an effort to better address the needs of the IAAI community, the

2021 program has been expanded to include not just the traditional deployed and emerging tracks, but also the following three new tracks:

Innovative Tools for Enabling AI Application: Papers will describe tools to improve applied AI innovation and deployment of AI systems.

Innovative Interdisciplinary AI Integration: This track is devoted to the integration of AI components with the focus on how the orchestration of methods from different AI silos requires the adaptation of existing technologies to allow them to work together well for application of AI in practice.

AI Best Practices, Challenge Problems, Training AI Users: Papers will review best practices when deploying AI, communicating novel challenge applications, and reviewing contributions that lower the barrier to applying AI by practitioners outside the AI community.

EAAI-21

The Symposium on Educational Advances in Artificial Intelligence enters its eleventh year in 2021. The main track will feature a broad range of papers on teaching AI and teaching with AI. Special tracks include Demos, Software Tools, and Activities for Teaching AI in K-12, the Gin Rummy Undergraduate Research Challenge, and Model AI Assignments. The winner of the 2021 AAAI/EAAI Outstanding Educator Award will present an invited talk during the course of the symposium.

Sister Conference Track Returns

AAAI is pleased to welcome back its Sister Conference Track, featuring short talks by representatives of sister conferences and competitions. Presentations are expected to be summaries of papers first presented at sister conferences, including, but not limited to AAMAS, ACL, AISTATS, COLT, CoRL, CP, CPAIOR, CVPR, EC, ECAI, ECML, EMNLP, HCOMP, HRI, ICAPS, ICCV, ICDM, ICLR, ICML, ICRA, ICWSM, IJCAI, IROS, IUI, KDD, KR, NAACL, NeurIPS, RLDM, RSS, SAT, SIGIR, WWW, WSDM, and UAI.

Initiative for Diversity and Inclusion

As part of AAAI's initiative for diversity and inclusion, AAAI-21 will include several activities specially targeted at

broadening participation by underrepresented groups in AI.

A partial list of these activities includes *Girls and Grandmothers*, a virtual workshop for women from under-resourced communities to identify financial problems they experience and build AI-based prototypes to address the problems; *Try AI*, a workshop for high-school students to learn about AI, college, research opportunities, and career paths; *Reframing Diversity in AI: Representation, Inclusion, and Diversity*, a workshop to get a better understanding of barriers to diversity that exist in technology and explore ways to increase the power of underrepresented individuals in AI; and *The Second Workshop on Artificial Intelligence — Diversity, Belonging, Equity, and Inclusion*, a workshop to foster links between participants from underrepresented populations, which in AI are not only women, but LGBTQ+ persons, and people of color (for example, lack in AI, WiML, LatinX in AI, Queer in AI).

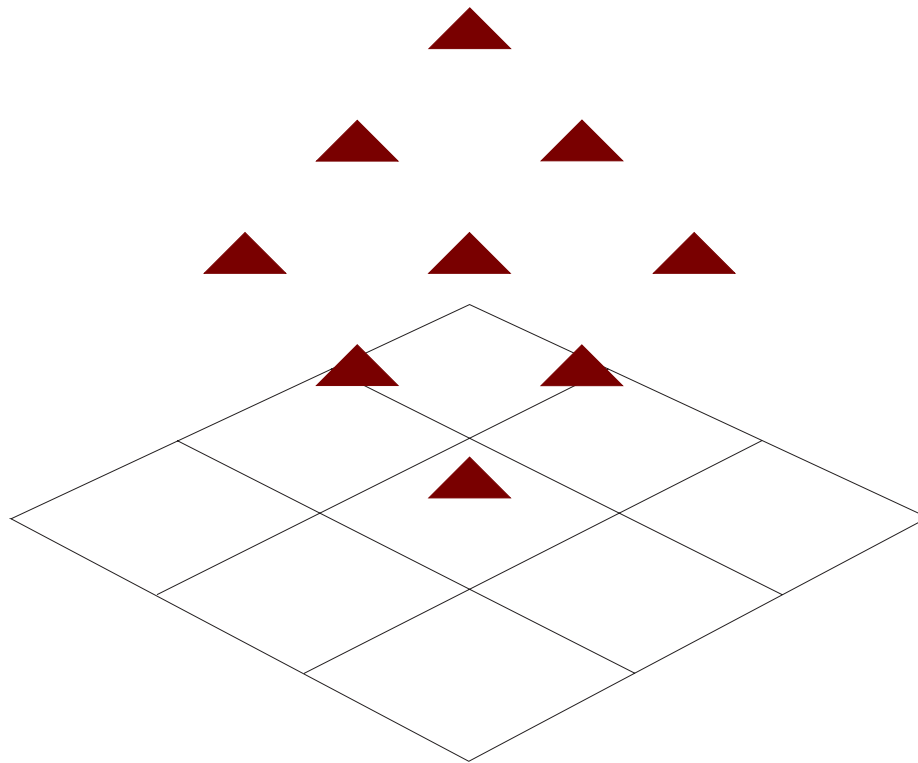
The full list will be posted available soon at aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI-21/aaai-21-diversity-inclusion.

Student Activities

As part of its outreach to students, AAAI-21 will continue several special programs specifically for students, including the Undergraduate Consortium, the Doctoral Consortium, the Student Abstract Program, Lunch with a Fellow, and the Volunteer Program. For information on each of these programs, please see Student Programs at aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI-21.

AAAI-21 Volunteer Program

AAAI is pleased to announce the continuation of its Student Volunteer Program for 2021. The Student Volunteer Program is an essential part of the conference and student participation is a valuable contribution. Volunteers will support AAAI organizers in the virtual conference format. In 2021, a limited number of complimentary technical program registrations will be available for students who volunteer during the conference. Preference will be given to participating students for the volunteer positions. However, all eligible students are encouraged to apply. AAAI membership is required for eligibility.



Join Us for the AAAI 2021 Spring Symposium!

The Thirty-Third AAAI Spring Symposium Series will be held virtually March 22-24, 2021. The ten symposia are as follows:

- Applied AI in Healthcare: Safety, Community, and the Environment*
 - Artificial Intelligence for K-12 Education
 - Artificial Intelligence for Synthetic Biology
 - Challenges and Opportunities for Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning*
 - Combining Machine Learning and Knowledge Engineering*
 - Combining Machine Learning with Physical Sciences
 - Implementing AI Ethics
 - Leveraging Systems Engineering to Realize Synergistic AI/ML Capabilities
 - Machine Learning for Mobile Robot Navigation in the Wild
 - Survival Prediction: Algorithms, Challenges and Applications
- *Symposia rescheduled or combined with SSS-20 symposia*

For additional information, and links to the supplementary websites for each symposium, please see www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/sss21.php. Registration information will be available by January 8, 2021. The final registration deadline for participation will be March 5, 2021. For more information, please write to sss21@aaai.org.

The deadline for volunteer applications is December 21, 2020.

For further information about the Student Volunteer Program, please contact AAAI at volunteer21@aaai.org.

AAAI/ACM SIGAI Job Fair at AAAI-21

The 2021 AAAI/ACM Job Fair is a place for students and professionals looking for internships or jobs to meet with representatives from over 25 companies and academia in an informal meet-and-greet atmosphere. For further information, please contact organizers John Dickerson (University of Maryland, USA), Michael Albert (University of Virginia, USA), and Matthew Taylor (University of Alberta, Canada) at aaai21jobfair@aaai.org.

The 2021 AAAI/ACM Job Fair will be held during the course of the AAAI-21 Exhibit Program, tentatively scheduled for Friday, February 5. The 2.5-hour event will include an opportunity for a short presentation by participating employers as well as informal mingling. The Job Fair is open to all AAAI-21 technical registrants.

AAAI sponsors and exhibitors will post company and employment information on the AAAI/ACM SIGAI Job Fair website. Conference attendees are encouraged to contact participating employers directly to set up interviews or for more information.

Be a AAAI Sponsor or Exhibitor!

AAAI invites you to participate as a sponsor or exhibitor at AAAI-21. Your participation will give you instant visibility to this diverse group of AI professionals, representing a host of research areas such as search, planning, knowledge representation, reasoning, natural language processing, robotics and perception, multiagent systems, statistical learning, and deep learning, as well as applications in diverse domains such as healthcare, sustainability, transportation, and commerce. In 2021, AAAI will highlight research with a special track on artificial intelligence for social impact, as well as focus areas on neuro-symbolic AI, AI responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, and AI for conference organization and delivery. Sponsors and exhibitors enjoy a host of benefits, including complimentary technical registrations.

To participate, please notify AAAI of your intent to participate as soon as possible. The final deadline for notifications is January 15, 2021.

For More Information about the Conferences and Programs

For complete details about all of these programs, please visit aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI-21 or write to AAAI at aaai21@aaai.org. We look forward to your participation!

AIES 2021

The Fourth AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society will be held virtually May 19-21, 2021. AIES addresses the impact of AI in our lives and in society through the multidisciplinary lens of ethics, philosophy, economics, sociology, psychology, law, history, and politics. AIES is cosponsored by AAAI and ACM. For more information, please see www.aies-conference.com. Submissions are due January 15, 2021.

ICWSM-21

The Fifteenth International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM-21) will be held June 7-10, 2021 at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. For information about paper submissions, as well as the planned program, please refer to icwsm.org

AIIDE-21

The Seventeenth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment (AIIDE-21) will be held in the fall of 2021. Complete details will be available at aide.org in the spring of 2021.

HCOMP-21

The Ninth AAAI Conference on Human Computation and Crowdsourcing will be held in the fall of 2021. Following on the great success of the recent 2020 virtual meeting, HCOMP is currently deciding on the platform for 2021. For an update on specific dates, as well as other important deadlines, please visit the HCOMP website at humancomputation.com.

Call for Nominations for 2021 Executive Council Election

The 2021 Nominating Committee is seeking nominations from the AAAI membership for the position of AAAI Executive Councilor. In 2021, AAAI members will elect four new councilors to serve three-year terms on the AAAI Executive Council. All elected officers and councilors are required to attend all council meetings each year (usually 1-2 in person and 2-3 via telecon), and actively participate in AAAI activities. Nominees must be current members of AAAI. The Nominating Committee encourages all regular AAAI members in good standing to place an individual's name before them for consideration. (Student and institutional members are not eligible to submit candidates' names.) The Nominating Committee, in turn, will nominate eight candidates for councilor in early spring. In addition to members' recommendations, the committee will actively recruit individuals to provide a balanced slate of candidates. AAAI regular members will vote in late spring, and the new members of the Executive Council will be installed in the summer of 2021.

To submit a candidate's name for consideration, please use the online form at aaaiforms.wufoo.com/forms/s13hmyf00aghh4c/ or contact AAAI at nominations21@aaa.org. Nominators should contact candidates prior to submitting their names to verify that they are willing to serve, should they be elected. The deadline for nominations is March 1, 2021.