

SIGAI Annual Report (July 2024-June 2025)

Sanmay Das, Louise Dennis, Matt Luckcuck, Nick Mattei, and Alan Tsang

DOI: 10.1145/3795125.3795128

Introduction

ACM SIGAI continues to further the mission of promoting and supporting the growth and application of artificial intelligence (AI) principles and techniques throughout computing research. Each year, we submit a report on SIGAI's activities to the ACM. We like to share this with our membership so you can stay in the loop on the many activities we engage in. In this report, we summarise and highlight SIGAI's activities over 2024/25.

Executive Summary

SIGAI sponsored 7 AI conferences in 2024/25, will sponsor 7 more in 2026, and supported 23 cooperatively organised conferences. We continue to recognise outstanding AI research with our 3 major awards, as well as best paper awards at our conferences. Furthermore, we participate in broader efforts to help the wider AI community thrive, such as sponsorship of AIHub, and coordinating with major AI organisations via a seat on the Artificial Intelligence Scientific Organizations Coordinating Council.

Health and viability of SIGAI

SIGAI sponsors and co-sponsors several conferences that are important in their communities and thriving (we note especially that AIES grew remarkably this year, with the number of submissions more than doubling). SIGAI plays an important role as a “connector” between the AI community (including organizations like AAAI and IJCAI) and many other ACM SIGs – several of our conferences are co-sponsored with other SIGs as well as other professional societies. We support the community through grants for special activities, sponsorship of AIHub, and, especially, generous student support for conference attendance.

Efforts related to diversity, equity, and inclusion

We often fund special projects that support inclusivity in the community. For example, we provide funding for those working in AI Education, which tends to be a less well-funded area, to attend EAAI. We are particularly conscious of trying to broaden participation in our travel award scheme. In the last year, we subsidised the travel expenses and registration of 41 students and one post-doctoral researcher to a variety of conferences. 9 of the students came from institutions in the Global South. Of those whose gender is recorded, 25% identified as female.

Awards and recipients

SIGAI presents three 3 major awards annually. Complete details and nomination procedures for all awards are available at the SIGAI awards page: <https://sigai.acm.org/main/sigai-awards/>

ACM SIGAI Autonomous Agents Research Award

This award is presented for excellence in research in the area of autonomous agents. The recipient is invited to give a talk at the International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS).

The **2025 ACM SIGAI Autonomous Agents Research Award** was presented at AAMAS 2025 in Detroit, Michigan, USA to Professor Shlomo Zilberstein, professor of Computer Science and former Associate Dean of Research at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. His work established the field of decentralized Markov Decision Processes (DEC-MDPs), laying the groundwork for decision-theoretic planning in multi-agent systems and multi-agent reinforcement learning (MARL). These contributions have become a cornerstone of multi-agent decision-making, influencing researchers and practitioners alike. A Fellow of AAAI and the ACM, Professor Zilberstein has received numerous awards, including the UMass Chancellor's Medal, the IFAAMAS Influential Paper Award, and the AAAI Distinguished Service Award.

ACM SIGAI Industry Award for Excellence in AI

ACM SIGAI also sponsors the ACM SIGAI Industry Award for Excellence in AI, an annual award which is given to an individual or team in industry who has created a fielded AI application that demonstrates the power of AI techniques, via a combination of the following features: novelty of application area, novelty and technical excellence of the approach, importance of AI techniques for the approach and actual and predicted societal impact of the application. The award was not presented in 2025 and we are currently searching for a new lead for this award.

AAAI/ACM SIGAI Doctoral Dissertation Award

Finally, we also sponsor, jointly with AAAI, the AAAI/ACM SIGAI Doctoral Dissertation Award to recognize and encourage superior research and writing by doctoral candidates in AI. This annual award is presented at the AAAI Conference on AI in the form of a certificate. The awards for 2022-2024 were announced in early Fall of 2025.

The **2024 AAAI/ACM SIGAI Dissertation Award** goes to Shunyu Yao (Ph.D. from Princeton University), whose dissertation "Language Agents: From Next-Token Prediction to Digital

Automation” is recognized for foundational contributions to the study and design of autonomous intelligent agents incorporating large language models.

The committee also awarded Honorable Mentions to Frederik Kunstner (Ph.D. from the University of British Columbia), and Sewon Min (Ph.D. from the University of Washington)

- Frederik Kunstner’s dissertation “Why Do Machine Learning Optimizers That Work, Work?” is recognized for resolving a long-standing open question on the complexity of EM, one of the most widely used AI algorithms, and for theoretical explanations of the behavior of popular neural network optimization routines..
- Sewon Min’s dissertation “Rethinking Data Use in Large Language Models” is recognized for pioneering work on the science and engineering of language models, including better understanding in-context learning and designing nonparametric models for improved retrieval capabilities.

The **2023 award** is shared by Gabriele Farina (Ph.D. from Carnegie Mellon University) and Jonathan Frankle (Ph.D. from Massachusetts Institute of Technology).

- Gabriele Farina’s dissertation “Game-Theoretic Decision Making in Imperfect-Information Games” is recognized for fundamental contributions, in both theory and practice, to learning and equilibrium computation in imperfect-information games.
- Jonathan Frankle’s dissertation “The Lottery Ticket Hypothesis: On Sparse, Trainable Neural Networks” is recognized for significantly advancing our understanding of neural network sparsity, pruning, and training dynamics, including the formulation of the lottery ticket hypothesis.

The committee also awarded an Honorable Mention to Ulrike Schmidt-Kraepelin (Ph.D. from Technische Universität Berlin), whose dissertation “Models and Algorithms for Scalable Collective Decision Making” is recognized for significant contributions to problems of scaling in computational social choice.

The **2022 award** is shared by Alane Suhr (Ph.D. from Cornell University) and Erik Wijmans (Ph.D. from Georgia Tech).

- Alane Suhr’s dissertation “Reasoning and Learning in Interactive Natural Language Systems” is recognized for developing foundational algorithms for continual natural language learning through interaction.
- Erik Wijmans’ dissertation “Emergence of Intelligent Navigation Behavior in Embodied Agents from Massive-Scale Simulation” is recognized for pioneering advances in reinforcement learning for robotics from ultra-large scale simulations.

List of significant papers on new areas from SIGAI conferences

To illustrate the excellent work published in SIGAI sponsored conferences, we list here a selection of the award winning papers from conferences proceedings in 2024-25.

A Simple, Statistically Robust Test of Discrimination

Johann Gaebler and Sharad Goel

Best Paper EAAMO 2024

Automating Food Drop: The Power of Two Choices for Dynamic and Fair Food

Marios Mertzanidas Alexandros Psomas, and Paritosh Verma

Best Student Paper EAAMO 2024

Red-Teaming for Generative AI: Silver Bullet or Security Theater?

Michael Feffer, Anusha Sinha, Wesley H. Deng, Zachary C Lipton, Hoda Heidari

Best Paper AIES 2024

Automate or Assist? The Role of Computational Models in Identifying Gendered Discourse in US Capital Trial Transcripts

Andrea W Wen-Yi, Kathryn Adamson, Nathalie Greenfield, Rachel Goldberg, Sandra Babcock, David Mimno, Allison Koenecke

Best Student Paper AIES 2024

Text-to-Image Generation for Vocabulary Learning Using the Keyword Method, Nuwan T. Attygalle, Matjaž Kljun, Aaron Quigley, Klen Čopič Pucihar, Jens Grubert, Verena Biener, Luis A. Leiva, Juri Yoneyama, Alice Toniolo, Angela Miguel, Hirokazu Kato, Maheshya Weerasinghe, **Best Paper IUI 2025**

A picture is worth a thousand words? Investigating the Impact of Image Aids in AR on Memory Recall for Everyday Tasks, Elizaveta Lukianova, Jae-Yeop Jeong, Jin-Woo Jeong, **Best Paper IUI 2025**

Conference activity

Every year, ACM SIGAI sponsors and supports numerous conferences, covering a wide thematic and geographical range across the international AI community. In 2024/2025, ACM SIGAI sponsored the following 7 conferences:

- International Conference on Intelligent Virtual Agents ([IVA 2024](#))
- IEEE/ACM International Conference on Automated Software Engineering ([ASE 2024](#))
- AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society ([AIES 2024](#))
- ACM Conference on Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanisms, and Optimization ([EAAMO 2024](#))
- ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction ([HRI 2025](#))
- ACM International Conference on Intelligent User Interfaces ([IUI 2025](#))
- ACM International Conference on Neuromorphic Systems ([ICONS 2025](#))

ACM SIGAI supported the following 23 conferences:

- AI & the Future of Education ([AIFE 2024](#))
- International Conference on Mathematics & Machine Learning ([ICMML 2024](#))
- International Joint Conference on Knowledge Discovery, Knowledge Engineering and Knowledge Management ([IC3K 2024](#))
- International Conference on Informatics in Control, Automation and Robotics ([ICINCO 2024](#))
- International Joint Conference on Computational Intelligence ([IJCCI 2024](#))
- International Conference on Explainable AI for Neural and Symbolic Methods ([EXPLAINS 2024](#))
- International Conference on Information Education and Artificial Intelligence ([ICIEAI](#))
- IEEE Conference on AI and Extended & Virtual Reality ([AIXVR 2025](#))
- International Joint Conference on Biomedical Engineering Systems and Technologies ([BIOSTEC 2025](#))
- International Conference on Agents and Artificial Intelligence ([ICAART 2025](#))
- International Conference on Pattern Recognition Applications and Methods ([ICPRAM 2025](#))
- International Conference on Robotics, Computer Vision and Intelligent Systems ([ROBOVIS 2025](#))
- International Conference on Applied Mathematics, Modeling, and Intelligent Computing ([CAMMIC 2025](#))
- International Conference on Enterprise Information Systems ([ICEIS 2025](#))
- International Conference on Image Processing and Vision Engineering ([IMPROVE 2025](#))
- International Conference on the Foundations of Digital Games ([FDG 2025](#))
- International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems ([AAMAS 2025](#))
- International Conference on Data Science, Technology and Applications ([DATA 2025](#))
- International Conference on Simulation and Modeling Methodologies, Technologies and Applications ([SIMULTECH 2025](#))
- International Conference on Deep Learning Theory and Applications ([DeLTA 2025](#))
- International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Law ([ICAAIL 2025](#))
- International Conference on Industrial, Engineering and Other Applications of Applied Intelligent Systems ([IEA/AIE 2025](#))
- International Conference on Quantum AI and NLP ([QNLPAI 2025](#))

In 2025/2026, ACM SIGAI will sponsor the following 7 conferences:

- International Conference on Intelligent Virtual Agents ([IVA 2025](#))
- AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society ([AIES 2025](#))
- ACM Conference on Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanisms, and Optimization ([EAAMO 2025](#))
- IEEE/ACM International Conference on Automated Software Engineering ([ASE 2025](#))
- International Conference on Knowledge Capture ([K-CAP 2025](#))
- ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction ([HRI 2026](#))
- ACM International Conference on Intelligent User Interfaces ([IUI 2026](#))

Special projects and non-conference programs

We engage in several special projects to support the wider AI community, and list some examples below.

In 2024-25 we continued to sponsor **Alhub**, a non-profit whose mission is to provide free, high-quality information about AI and support responsible communication in the field. Their content is aimed at curious technology enthusiasts and the AI community.

In 2025, SIGAI funds were used to support the **AAAI/ACM SIGAI Innovative AI Education Awards** at the 15th Symposium on Educational Advances in Artificial Intelligence (EAAI-25) in Philadelphia PA. The program provided five \$1,000 travel awards to educators and researchers advancing novel approaches to AI education. The awardees were one faculty member, one postdoctoral researcher, and three graduate students. These awardees presented their “blue sky” ideas during the symposium and contributed to the symposium by chairing paper sessions or facilitating Birds-of-a-Feather discussions. Most of the awardees are currently part of the EAAI 2026 Program Committee and EAAI hopes to use the Innovative AI Education program to identify and recruit faculty, postdoctoral researchers, and students to the EAAI community.

ACM SIGAI also participates in the **Artificial Intelligence Scientific Organizations Coordinating Council (AISOCC)** where we maintain a seat on the board directing coordination between the major AI agencies, including SIGKDD, AAI, IJCAI, NeurIPS, and many others. In the last year Nicholas Mattei represented SIGAI at these meetings and is working on developing a framework for SIGAI to contribute to the coordination between these societies.

Key issues that SIG membership will have to deal with in the next 2-3 years

Last year, we noted that the way in which AI has become pervasive across the broader discipline of computing would necessitate greater integration and interaction between SIGAI and other SIGs, as well as ACM as a whole. We continue to feel that this is incredibly important in the rapidly evolving landscape, as AI becomes more and more embedded in society. While there is a tremendous opportunity, it may also be a challenge to maintain visibility. We hope that ACM and SIGAI can work synergistically to leverage SIGAI’s reputation as a good partner to many other organizations that have substantial footprints in the AI space. We also continue to monitor the impact of the changes to Open Access and the DL revenue model.

Plans for 2025-2026

In the coming year SIGAI will continue to sponsor a large number of conferences, as well as student travel to a broad set of AI conferences. We are welcoming new members to the board, including Lirong Xia as our conference coordinator.

SIGAI will be running our awards and are always looking for highly qualified nominations. There is a revamp of the Industry Award planned for the coming year, as well as an expansion of other programs, including the SIGAI Job Fair and other activities. As always, if members of our community want to volunteer their time and efforts to build new programs and support existing ones, please reach out! You can reach us at officers_sigai@acm.org.

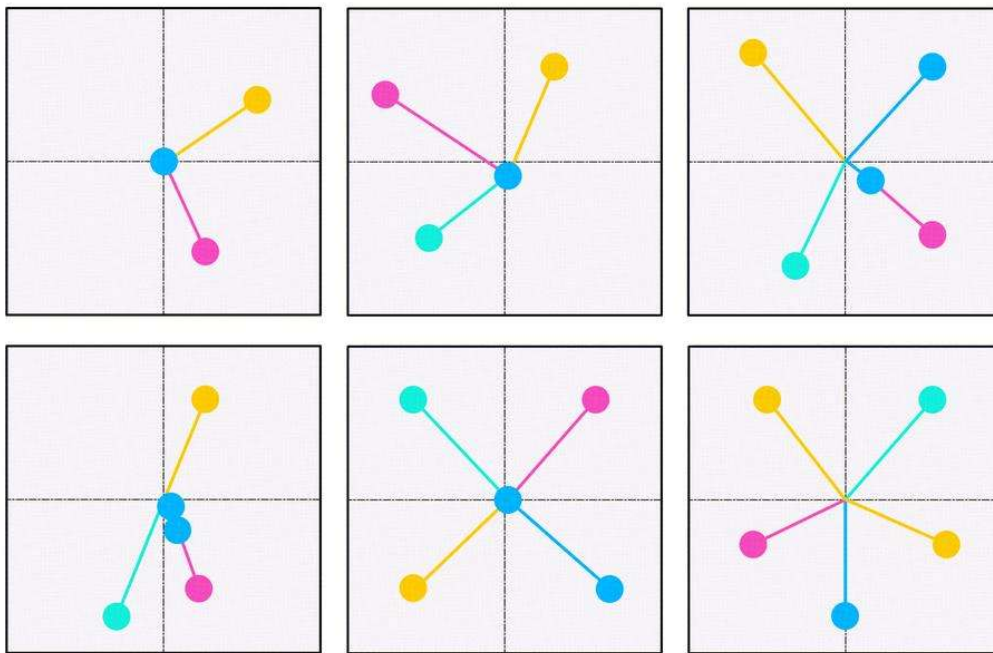


Image credits: Toy Models - Elise Racine / <https://betterimagesofai.org> / <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>