

Candidate for Chair

Egemen Tanin
University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., University of Maryland, 2001, Computer Science.

Professional Experience:

Professor, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia, 2019 – Present;
Associate Professor, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia, 2013 – 2018;
Senior Lecturer, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia, 2008 – 2012.

Professional Interest:

Computational Transportation Science, Spatial Data Management, GIS, Location-based Services, Information Visualization

ACM Activities:

Vice Chair, SIGSPATIAL, 2020 – 2022;
Secretary, SIGSPATIAL, 2018 – 2020;
Treasurer, SIGSPATIAL, 2014 – 2017;
Newsletter Editor, SIGSPATIAL, 2008 – 2011.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Associate Editor, ACM Transactions on Spatial Algorithms and Systems, 2013 – Present;
Associate Editor, ACM SIGMOD, 2023;
PC Chair, SIGSPATIAL Conference, 2011 – 2012.

STATEMENT

SIGSPATIAL has matured successfully in the last few years. We have witnessed many successful conference organizations and a sustained increase in attendance -- despite the challenges of COVID. In recent years, many researchers and practitioners from a vast spectrum of research areas have found a home at SIGSPATIAL. Despite this, SIGSPATIAL was held regularly in the USA and was only recently held in Germany as an in-person conference outside the States (and as a mainly online event during COVID in China). I would like to extend SIGSPATIAL's success story on the international front, i.e., by getting our flagship conference to more international venues and more regularly. Also, as spatial data processing finds more inroads at an increasing number of application domains, such as intelligent transport in recent years, getting domain experts and researchers from a larger number of related areas is now possible. I would like to increase our appeal to these

domains as well. I have served as a SIGSPATIAL officer on several occasions and in different roles, and thus I believe these earlier experiences will help me succeed on this agenda.

Candidate for Chair

Goce Trajcevski
Iowa State University, Ames, IA, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., University of Illinois at Chicago, 2002, Computer Science.

Professional Experience:

Associate Professor, Dept. of ECpE, Iowa State University, Ames, IA, USA,
2017 – Present;

Senior Lecturer and Associate Chairman, Dept. of EECS, Northwestern University,
Evanston, IL, USA, 2009 – 2017;

Research Professor, Dept. of EECS, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, USA,
2007 – 2009.

Professional Interest:

Machine Learning for Spatio-Temporal Data, Spatio-Temporal Data Management, Mobile
Data Management, Query Processing of Heterogeneous Spatio-Temporal Data, Spatio-
Temporal Aspects of Molecular Dynamics.

ACM Activities:

Vision Track C-Chair, ACM SIGSPATIAL Conference, 2025 – Present;

General Co-Chair, ACM SIGSPATIAL Conference, 2019 – 2020;

Vice Chair, ACM SIGSPATIAL Executive Committee, 2017 – 2020;

Program Committee Co-Chair, ACM SIGSPATIAL Conference, 2017.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Program Committee Co-Chair, IEEE MDM Conference, 2023;

Online Chair, VLDB Conference, 2023;

General Co-Chair, IEEE ICDE Conference, 2014.

Awards Received:

Best Paper Award, IEEE MDM Conference, 2025;

Best Demo Paper Award, ACM SIGSPATIAL Conference, 2022;

Best Paper Award, ADBIS Conference, 2022;

Runner-up for Best Short Paper Award, ACM SIGSPATIAL Conference, 2021.

STATEMENT

I am honored to run for the position of Chair of SIGSPATIAL EC, having been a member of ACM for over two decades and affiliated with SIGSPATIAL since its inception. I have served as Local Organizing Chair, Workshops, Program Committee, and General Co-Chair, and Vision Track Co-Chair of the SIGSPATIAL Conference and Vice-Chair of SIGSPATIAL EC, contributing to its growth for over 15 years. In this era of unprecedented scientific and technological advances, if elected, the spectrum of my activities for increasing the growth and broadening the impact of SIGSPATIAL will be between:

1. Developing effective strategies to expand the presence and increase membership of SIGSPATIAL in different geographical regions, while improving the opportunities for growth of, and communication with, existing members. For that, it is essential to consider multiple diverse contexts (educational, socio-economic, cultural, etc.).
2. Attract younger students/researchers, increase the academia-industry ties, and promote awareness about the SIGSPATIAL community, its flagship conference, the TSAS journal, and newsletter, among professionals from other disciplines (e.g., Cyber-Physical Systems, Agriculture, Civil Engineering, Computational Biology).

My pledge is to actively collaborate with ACM, the SIGSPATIAL EC, and the SIGSPATIAL broader membership towards these and any other goals that may arise.

Candidate for Vice-Chair

Ahmed Eldawy
UC Riverside, Riverside, CA, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., University of Minnesota, 2016, Computer Science.

Professional Experience:

Associate Professor, UC Riverside, Riverside, CA, USA, 2022 – 2026;

Assistant Professor, UC Riverside, Riverside, CA, USA, 2016 – 2022.

Professional Interest:

Big-data Management, Geospatial Data Exploration and Visualization, Remote Sensing.

ACM Activities:

Treasurer, SIGSPATIAL, 2023 – 2026;

General Co-chair, SIGSPATIAL, 2026;

PC Chair, SIGSPATIAL, 2023 – 2024.

Awards Received:

ICDE Ten-Year Influential Paper Award, 2025;

SIGSPATIAL Best Demo Award, 2020.

STATEMENT

It is my honor to run for the position of Vice-Chair for ACM SIGSPATIAL, a community that is close to my heart. Among all the communities I participate in, I consider SIGSPATIAL to be my primary community. If elected, I will take this opportunity to grow the SIGSPATIAL community in two directions.

First, I will expand the online presence of SIGSPATIAL through year-round activities in addition to the conference-targeted outreach. This includes strengthening the SIGSPATIAL Newsletter with more regular issues, TSAS paper spotlights, an improved website, and social media presence. Second, I will coordinate with the conference organizers to broaden the participation in the conference across various communities, with special focus on student support. This will be done by building partnerships with industry to connect students to practitioners, training, and career pathways to help them start a strong career.

Across both directions, I will work closely with the SIGSPATIAL community members to seek the advice and support needed to successfully accomplish them.

Candidate for Vice-Chair

Flora Salim
University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., Monash University, 2009, Computer Science.

Professional Experience:

Professor, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, 2022 – Present;
Professor, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia, 2020 – 2022;
Humboldt Fellow, Kassel University, Kassel, Germany, 2019 – 2020.

Professional Interest:

Spatiotemporal data, Machine learning, Time-series, Geospatial AI, Multimodal foundation models.

ACM Activities:

Associate Editor, ACM TIST and ACM TSAS, 2023 – Present;
General Chair of MobileHCI 2024, ACM MobileHCI 2024;
Editor, PACM Interactive, Mobile, Wearable and Ubiquitous Tech (IMWUT), 2022 – 2024;
Co-Chair, East Asia and Oceania Special Section, Communications of the ACM (CACM), 2022 – 2023.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Member, ACM SIGSPATIAL Recognition Committee, 2024 – Present;
Member, SIGCHI MobileHCI Steering Committee, 2024 – 2025;
Member, ACM UbiComp Steering Committee, 2021 – 2024.

Awards Received:

ACM SIGSPATIAL 2025 Best Research Paper Award, 2025;
ECML/PKDD 2025 Best Research Paper Award, 2025;
Women in AI Award Australia and New Zealand, 2022;
Proceedings of the ACM (PACM) IMWUT Distinguished Paper Award, 2021.

STATEMENT

I am deeply honoured to be nominated for the SIGSPATIAL Vice-Chair position. As a vibrant, multidisciplinary community interested in all things spatial, SIGSPATIAL has experienced remarkable growth in recent years. This momentum is both exciting and

motivating, presenting a unique opportunity to strengthen engagement and further amplify SIGSPATIAL's reach.

As Vice Chair, my goal is to work closely with and support the Chair in advancing the community's aspirations. My vision is to help sustain SIGSPATIAL's growth while ensuring it remains inclusive, welcoming, and aspirational to the younger generation of researchers. I am particularly committed to broadening participation beyond a predominantly US-centric base, supporting early-career researchers, and fostering stronger connections across regions, research areas, and with industry.

I have been actively involved in SIGSPATIAL through service on the SIGSPATIAL Recognition Committee, as a frequent reviewer and contributor to SIGSPATIAL conferences, and as an Associate Editor of ACM Transactions on Spatial Algorithms and Systems (TSAS), gaining first-hand experience with the processes shaping our conferences, publications, and community recognition.

I am enthusiastic about working with the community to strengthen SIGSPATIAL, expand its reach and impact, and ensure our processes serve a growing and diverse membership.

Candidate for Secretary

Martin Werner
Technical University of Munich, Germany

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Dr. rer. nat., LMU Munich, 2012, Computer Science.

Professional Experience:

Professorship Big Geospatial Data Management, Technical University of Munich, Munich, Germany, 2020 – 2026;

Professorship Geoinformatik, Bundeswehr University Munich, Munich, Germany, 2019 – 2020;

Senior Research, German Aerospace Center (DLR), Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany, 2017 – 2020.

Professional Interest:

Spatial Algorithms, Big Data, Generative AI for Geospatial Applications, Point Cloud Data Management, 3D Computer Vision.

ACM Activities:

Organization Committee Member in varying roles, ACM SIGSPATIAL GIS Conference, 2018 – 2026;

ACM Transactions in Spatial Algorithms and Systems, Associate Editor, 2025 – 2026.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

Action Editor in Charge of Spatial Issues, Geoinformatica Journal, 2021 – 2026.

Awards Received:

Best Paper Award at IEEE WACV 2024 GeoCV Workshop , 2024;

Winner of ACM MULTIMEDIA Drone Localization Challenge 2024;

Winner of ACM MULTIMEDIA Drone Localization Challenge 2023;

Winner of the ACM SIGSPATIAL GIS Cup, 2017.

STATEMENT:

The ACM SIGSPATIAL represents by far the most important computer science community for geospatial algorithms and databases. While geospatial is often treated as an afterthought or just "yet another data type", its importance to humankind and societies justifies special treatment.

However, in data driven hype science, throwing already-known AI models at geospatial datasets creates a lot of scientific noise. Let us keep ACM SIGSPATIAL a place in which we foster new ideas and exchange rather than publish hyperparameter tuning experiments.

With an active role in the leadership of our SIG, I would try to contribute to a respectful interdisciplinary dialogue and would aim to reach out to our sister communities, including Computational Geometry, Artificial Intelligence, Earth observation, Algorithms, Databases, Big Data, etc., to make SIGSPATIAL visible as a truly interdisciplinary community with the highest academic standards.

Candidate for Secretary

Andreas Züfle
Emory University, Atlanta, GA, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, 2013, Managing and Mining Uncertain Spatiotemporal Data.

Professional Experience:

Associate Professor, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, USA, 2023 – Present;
Associate Professor, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, USA, 2022 – 2023;
Assistant Professor, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, USA, 2016 – 2022.

Professional Interest:

Spatial Anomaly Detection, Spatial Computing for Epidemiology, Geosimulation, Trajectory Data Mining, Spatial Database Management.

ACM Activities:

Conference General Chair, SIGSPATIAL, 2024 – 2025;
Workshop Chair, SIGSPATIAL, 2022 – 2023;
Registration Chair, SIGSPATIAL, 2019 – 2020.

Awards Received:

ACM SIGSPATIAL Best Paper Award Runner-Up, 2024;
ACM SIGSPATIAL Best Data & Resource Paper, 2023;
ACM SIGSPATIAL Best Poster Paper Award Runner-Up, 2021;
ACM SIGSPATIAL GIS-Cup Winner, 2019.

STATEMENT

I am honored to be nominated as Secretary of ACM SIGSPATIAL. This community has been my professional home for over a decade, and I am eager to transition from conference leadership to the Executive Committee to ensure our continued growth and excellence.

My commitment is rooted in extensive service, having served as General Chair for ACM SIGSPATIAL 2024 (Atlanta) and 2025 (Minneapolis), and in various roles, including Workshop, Registration, Publicity, Awards, and SRC Chair, between 2017 and 2022. I also served as Editor of the SIGSPATIAL Special (2018-2021) and am an Associate Editor for ACM TSAS. My dedication is reflected in 74 publications across our flagship conference, workshops, and journals since 2009.

As Secretary, I will pursue two objectives: (1) Strategic Growth: I will expand our reach through new initiatives while safeguarding our unique identity in spatial computing reinforcing that "spatial is special". (2) Elevating Excellence: A top priority is improving the ACM SIGSPATIAL conference rating through rigorous record-keeping and transparent communication of our highly competitive acceptance rates.

I will bring the same diligence to this role as I have to our conference.

Candidate for Treasurer

Heba Aly
Amazon, Bellevue, WA, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., University of Maryland, College Park, 2019, Computer Science.

Professional Experience:

Sr. Scientist, Amazon, Bellevue, WA, USA, 2023 – Present;
Scientist, Amazon, Bellevue, WA, USA, 2019 – 2023.

Professional Interest:

Spatial AI, Ubiquitous Computing, IoT.

ACM Activities:

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, SIGSPATIAL, 2024 – Present.

Awards Received:

Communications of the ACM (CACM) Research Highlight, 2019;
Best paper runner up award in ACM SIGSPATIAL, 2018;
First prize group category in the COMESA Innovation awards, 2015;
Best paper award in ACM SIGSPATIAL, 2013.

STATEMENT

I am deeply honored to be nominated for the ACM SIGSPATIAL treasurer position. My journey with this community began in 2012 as an MSc student, and SIGSPATIAL has been instrumental in shaping my career, from securing admission to a top Ph.D. program, through graduation, navigating pivotal career decisions, and ultimately becoming the researcher I am today. Having experienced firsthand how this community nurtures emerging talent, I am eager to give back by ensuring its continued success and accessibility.

Over the past decade, I have actively contributed to our community through diverse service roles, including Student Volunteer (2014-2019), Program Committee Member (2019-2025), Registration Co-Chair (2022-2023), Travel Grant Co-Chair (2023-2024), Industrial Track Co-Chair (2025-2026), and SIGSPATIAL DEI Officer (2024-Present). These experiences have provided me with comprehensive insight into the SIG's values, challenges, and opportunities.

If elected Treasurer, my primary goal will be to ensure the SIG's financial health and transparency as we continue growing in the era of AI. I will work closely with the Executive Committee to manage our budget strategically, to sustain our flagship conference and expand diversity initiatives while exploring innovative funding models that maximize value for all members.

Candidate for Treasurer

Yao-Yi Chiang
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, USA

BIOGRAPHY

Academic Background:

Ph.D., University of Southern California, 2010, Computer Science.

Professional Experience:

Associate Professor, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, USA, 2021 – Present;
Associate Professor (Research), University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, USA, 2017 – 2021;
Assistant Professor (Research), University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, USA, 2013 – 2017.

Professional Interest:

Spatial AI, Data Mining, Machine Learning, Geographic Information Science.

ACM Activities:

DEI Committee Chair, ACM SIGSPATIAL, 2024 – Present.

Membership and Offices in Related Organizations:

University Delegate, University Consortium for Geographic Information Science, 2023 – Present.

Awards Received:

Best Short Paper, ACM SIGSPATIAL'25, 2025;
Best Paper Honorable Mention, ICDAR'25, 2025;
First Place, Map Feature Extraction Challenge, DARPA, 2022;
Best Vision Paper Award, ACM SIGSPATIAL'15, 2015.

STATEMENT

I am an Associate Professor in Computer Science & Engineering at the University of Minnesota and have been actively involved in ACM SIGSPATIAL since 2004, including serving as Program Committee Co-Chair for SIGSPATIAL 2024 and 2025. Through my experience managing research grants, academic programs, and multi-institution collaborations, I have developed strong skills in budgeting, financial oversight, and transparent resource management.

As Treasurer, I will work to ensure SIGSPATIAL's financial sustainability, clear reporting, and responsible use of resources to support conferences, students, and community initiatives. I am committed to aligning financial decisions with the long-term growth and impact of the SIGSPATIAL community.