

Alessandro Saffiotti's Short Curriculum Vitae

1. Personal data

Born on 24 September 1960 in Ravenna, Italy. Double citizenship: Swedish and Italian.

2. Current positions

Full professor of Computer Science, Head of the AASS Cognitive Robotic Systems Laboratory, School of Science and Technology, Örebro University, Sweden.

Adjunct professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna, Italy.

3. Employment history

Mar 2024 – *ongoing*: Adjunct professor, University of Bologna, Italy.

Mar 2002 – *ongoing*: Full professor, Örebro University, Sweden.

Apr 2000 – Feb 2002: Associate professor, Örebro University, Sweden.

Nov 1998 – Mar 2000: Senior lecturer, Örebro University, Sweden.

Oct 1993 – Sep 1997: Research associate, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium.

Jan 1992 – Sep 1993: International fellow, AI Center, SRI International, California.

4. Academic degrees

2000: *Docent* from Örebro University, Sweden.

1998: *PhD* in Applied Science from Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium.

1988: *MSc* in Computer Science from University of Pisa, Italy.

5. Scientific profile

I have been active in the scientific arena **since 1985**, doing fundamental and applied research in **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, and engaging in the creation and management of research groups in this field. My main activities were in the areas of cognitive robotics, uncertainty management, automated planning, logics for common-sense reasoning, and technologies for elderly people.

My research trajectory led me from the more theoretical studies in artificial intelligence to the more applied investigations in robotics, landing on the fundamental problems that underly the combination of cognitive and sensori-motor processes. Today I am regarded as one of the leading persons worldwide in the area of **integrated AI and Robotics**, and I am involved in many scientific, educational, and organizational activities in this area.

6. Educator profile

At Örebro University, I have designed and delivered the BS level course “AI for mobile robots” from 1999 to 2008, and the MSc level course “AI in autonomous robotics” from 2008 to 2012. I am currently course responsible for two courses “Artificial Intelligence” in

the computer engineering program, one at the BS level (since 2020) and one at the MSc level (since 2018).

I have supervised numerous BS and MSc theses, including one that won the Swedish national prize for the **best BS thesis** in engineering (Oscar Thörn, 2021), and one that won the SAIS (Swedish AI society) **best Master's thesis** award (Robert Johansson, 2009).

At University of Bologna, I have designed and delivered the course “AI and Robotics” within the International Masters program on AI (since 2024), as well as a professional course on AI and Robotics at the Bologna Business School (since 2024).

As for PhD education, I have designed and delivered the course “AI in autonomous robotics” from 1999 to 2008. I have delivered short versions of this course at the Universities of Padova (IT), Bremen (DE), Granada (SP), Malaga (SP), Madrid (SP), Murcia (SP), Roma (IT), as well as at five “Lucia” Winter schools (2012, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2024). I am course responsible for the compulsory PhD course “Topics in Contemporary Computer Science” (since 2017).

7. Doctoral supervision

Since my appointment as professor in 2002, I supervised **17 completed PhD theses** (underlined when primary supervisor): O. Pettersson (2004); Z. Wasik (2005); P. Buschka (2005); A. Loutfi (2006); A. Bouguerra (2008); R. Lundh (2009); K. LeBlanc (2010); M. Cirillo (2010); J. Rashid (2011); J. Larsson (2011); F. Lagriffoul (2016); M. Mansouri (2016); A. Abdul Khalil (2018); J. Grosinger (2019); A. Persson (2022); S. Tomic (2022); F. Mohamadreza (2024).

Currently I supervise 3 ongoing PhD theses: S. Gugliermo; K.M. Sabu; F.Y. Lim.

I have been referee for more than 30 PhD theses in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden and UK. I created and chaired the “Lucia” series of PhD Schools on AI and Robotics (2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2024). I am area chair for robotics in ESSAI, the European Summer School on AI (2023–today). I am on the board for the Georges Giralt Award for the best European PhD thesis in robotics (2008–today).

8. External research funds

Since the start of my current position at Örebro University in 2002, I have secured **about 12 M€ in external funds**. Here are the main projects (above 100k€), underlined when I was the main applicant. For joint projects, only the share allocated to Örebro University is shown.

- **Swedish Research Council (VR)**

- “Anchoring symbolic object descriptions to sensor data” (2002-2004, 180k€)
- “Anchoring symbolic object descriptions to sensor data II” (2005-2007, 180k€)
- “Anchoring in a symbiotic robotic system” (2009-2011, 210k€)
- “Long term anchoring for dynamic, realistic environments” (2012-2014, 360k€)
- “Grounding of actions, relations and objects by anchoring” (2017-2020, 500k€)
- “A theory of proactivity: a step toward human-centered AI” (2022-2025, 500k€)

- “Adaptive communication planning for collaborative AI” (2023-2026, 450k €)

- **Other Swedish founders**

- “Embedded AI for robot-robot, human-robot cooperation” (CUGS: 2003-2006, 360k €)
- “Planning in a human-robot ecology” (CUGS: 2006-2008, 180k €)
- “ML to enhance AI planning in intelligent transport systems” (SSF: 2010-2024, 220k €)
- “Robot learning grounding in multiple contexts via dialog” (WASP: 2019-2024, 520k €)

- **European Commission**

- FP7 GeRT (2010-2013, 500k €)
- FP7 Rubicon (2011-2014, 340k €)
- FP7 RACE (2011-2014, 480k €)
- FP7 Robot-Era (2012-2015, 740k €)
- FP7 MONarCH (2013-2016, 400k €).
- CHIST-ERA ReGround (2015-2018, 200k €)
- H2020 SOCRATES (2016-2020, 480k €)
- H2020 CARESSES (2017-2020, 500k €)
- H2020 AI4EU (2019-2021, 600k €)
- H2020 Humane-AI-Net (2019-2023, 230k €)
- H2020 AIPlan4EU (2021-2023, 340k €)
- Horizon Europe AI4Europe (2022-2025, 350k €)
- Horizon Europe euROBIN (2022-2026, 410k €)
- Digital Europe DeployAI (2024-2027, 340k €)

9. Commissions of trust

- **Director** of euRobotics, the European association for robotics (2019-2022).
- **Project evaluator** for more than 14 public institutions, including: NASA; the European Commission; the National Science Foundation; the Swedish STINT; the Swedish SSF; the Canadian FCAR Funds; the French CNRS; the French INRIA; the Italian MIUR; the Italian PNRA Antarctic Program; the Austrian Science Fund; the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research; the Belgian FNRS.
- **External referee** for more than 20 institutions, including: the IEEE; the German DFKI; ECSC (Spain); University of Birmingham (UK); University of Essex (UK); Lincoln University (UK); Oxford University (UK); the Royal Institute of Technology (Sweden); Linköping University (Sweden); Umeå University (Sweden); Skövde University (Sweden); Halmstad University (Sweden); the City University of New York (US); NTNU (Norway); Koc University (Turkey); SSSA (Italy); University of Trento (Italy); University of Genova (Italy); and University of Rome (Italy).
- **Chair** of: the robotics track at KR-2021; the robotic area at IJCAI-2018; the integrated systems track at AAAI-2017; the robotic area at ECAI-2008; the poster track at IJCAI-2005; the RoboCup-2004 standard league; and about 20 other international workshops and symposia.

- **Editorial activities:** Editorial board of the *Artificial Intelligence* journal, and of the *International Journal of Social Robotics*. Guest editor for *Artificial Intelligence*, for *Pervasive and Mobile Computing*, and for *Robotics and Autonomous Systems*. Program committee member for more than 60 international conferences and workshops.
- **Keynote speaker** at about 30 international conferences and workshops. Invited talks at more than 40 academic institutions.
- **Member** of the AAAI and of SAIS; Senior Member of IEEE; Fellow of EurAI; WASP faculty. Member of the Robocup Internal Advisory Board.

10. Bibliometric data

I have authored **more than 200 research publications** in international journals, books and conferences, with more than 11,000 citations; h-index = 53 (data retrieved on June 12, 2025, from Google Scholar). Full list of publications available at Google Scholar,¹ at ORCID (0000-0001-8229-1363), and at ResearcherID (B-4213-2013).

Alessandro Saffiotti

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¹<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=QBeKlwMAAAJ&hl=en>