

# Alessandro Saffiotti's Curriculum Vitae

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## Personal data

Born on 24 September 1960 in Ravenna, Italy. Swedish and Italian citizen.

## Current position

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

## Employment history

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.

## 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.

## Scientific profile

I have been active in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) since 1985, doing fundamental and applied research in cognitive robotics, uncertainty management, logics for common-sense reasoning, and technologies for elderly people. 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.

I have published more than 180 research papers in international journals, books and conferences, receiving more than 10,000 citations in total; h-index = 52. Data retrieved from Google Scholar on 2023-06-22. Full list of publications available at Google Scholar,<sup>1</sup> at ORCID (0000-0001-8229-1363), and at ResearcherID (B-4213-2013).

## Educator profile

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 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 designed and delivered the PhD level course “AI in autonomous robotics” from 1999 to 2008. I have delivered a short versions of this course at the Universities of Padova (IT), Bremen (DE), Granada (SP), Malaga (SP), Madrid (SP), Murcia (SP), Roma (IT). I am course responsible for the PhD level compulsory course “Topics in Contemporary Computer Science” (since 2017).

I have supervised numerous BS and MSc theses, including one that won the Swedish 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).

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

## Doctoral supervision

I supervised 16 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 Khaliq (2018); J. Grosinger (2019); A. Persson (2022); S. Tomic (2022).

Currently I supervise 3 ongoing PhD theses: F. Mohamadreza; J. Salvado; S. Gugliermo.

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). I am area chair for robotics in newly created ESSAI, the European Summer School on Artificial Intelligence (2023). I am on the board for the Georges Giralt Award for the best European PhD thesis in robotics (2008–today).

## External research funds

Since the start of my current position in 2002, I have secured close to 10M € 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.

- **VR** (Swedish Research Council):
  - “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 symbol anchoring for dynamic and realistic environments” (2012-2014, 360k €)
  - “Grounding of actions, relations and objects by perceptual anchoring” (2017-2020, 500k €)
  - “A theory of proactivity: a step toward human-centered AI” (2022-2025, 500k €)
  - “Adaptive purposeful communication planning for collaborative AI” (2023-2026, 450k €)
- **SSF** (Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research)
  - “ML to enhance AI planning for intelligent transport systems” (2010-2024, 220k €)
- **CUGS** (Swedish Graduate School in Computer Science)
  - “Embedded AI techniques for robot-robot and human-robot cooperation” (2003-2006, 360k €)
  - “Planning in a human-robot ecology” (2006-2008, 180k €)
- **WASP** (Swedish Wallenberg Autonomous Systems Program)
  - “Robot learning of symbol grounding in multiple contexts through dialog” (2019-2024, 520k €)
- **EU FP7**
  - GeRT (2010-2013, 500k €)
  - Rubicon (2011-2014, 340k €)
  - RACE (2011-2014, 480k €)
  - Robot-Era (2012-2015, 740k €)

- MONarCH (2013-2016, 400k €).
- **EU H2020**
  - CARESSES (2017-2020, 500k €)
  - SOCRATES (2016-2020, 480k €)
  - AI4EU (2019-2021, 600k €)
  - AIPlan4EU (2021-2023, 340k €)
  - Humane-AI-Net (2019-2023, 230k €)
- **EU Horizon Europe**
  - AI4Europe (2022-2025, 350k €)
  - euROBIN (2022-2026, 410k €)
- **EU CHIST-ERA**
  - ReGround (2015-2018, 200k €)

### Commissions of trust

- **Director** (elected) of euRobotics, the European association for robotics (2019-2022).
- **Project evaluator** for more than 12 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 CINECA; the Italian PNRA Antarctic Program; the Austrian Science Fund; the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research; the Belgian FNRS.
- **External referee** for more than 16 institutions, including: the IEEE; the German DFKI; 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); 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 15 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.

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