

# Letter from SIGecom Executive Committee

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Despite the challenges of the past year, the SIGecom community has continued to grow, and to embrace opportunities to gather and connect (virtually).

In February, 2021, Piotr Dworczak and Brendan Lucier co-organized the first ever SIGecom Winter Meeting, which was centered on early contributions to auction theory by Paul Milgrom and Robert Wilson—who had just been awarded the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel (see [Teytelboym et al. ]). This meeting provided a chance to bring the SIGecom community together, as well as an opportunity to celebrate the laureates. The co-organizers built a lively program including tutorials, research talks, and even a few auction games, emphasizing “being inclusive to young researchers and those outside the core field, while also encouraging active participation and networking” [Dworczak and Lucier 2021]. The event was extremely successful: Hundreds of people attended; 90% of ex post survey respondents said they would be “very likely” to attend again; and the fabulous artwork “sold” in the auction games (pictured below) received 103 bids.



Aniela Dworczak, ‘Quiet before the storm’, crayons on paper



Alex Lucier, ‘Progression of Inquiry’, paint and sponge on paper

We’ll be continuing the SIGecom Winter Meetings tradition this year, with Aaron Roth and Mallesh Pai as co-organizers! Keep an eye out for announcements about this fun event.

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In July we came together for EC’21, “co-located” with the World Congress of the Game Theory Society and held in a virtual format much like that we used for EC’20. Shuchi Chawla and Federico Echenique put together a spectacular program as Program Chairs, and Péter Biró did yeoman’s service in his second consecutive year as General Chair, this time in collaboration with Eric Sodomka as Virtual General Chair. EC’21 received 500 total submissions, accepting 130. To manage the large submission pool, the Program Chairs introduced several innovations in the refereeing/reviewing process, including “Area Chairs” organized by topic across tracks; we hope this structure will prove more scalable as our conference submission pool continues to grow.

We’re looking forward to EC 2022, where Ilya Segal and Sven Seuken (Program Chairs) and David Pennock (General Chair) will be co-organizing. The plan is for EC to be truly hybrid—with an in-person core in Boulder, Colorado hosted by local organizers Rafael Frongillo and Bo Waggoner, and virtual participation from all over the world.

Overall, as the ongoing pandemic has presented continuing challenges, it has also provided our community with a real opportunity for growth. Virtual events have enabled us to reach a much broader range of scholars and enthusiasts than we would have otherwise, and the SIG has grown accordingly: our membership is up over 200%.

One of our goals along with that is to increase recognition and awareness of the excellent work that members of this community are doing. SIGecom’s Test of Time and Dissertation Awards are part of this effort, and we are also working with the ACM to introduce further awards to recognize scholars at other stages of their careers. In addition, Éva Tardos has agreed to take on the newly-created role of SIGecom Awards Chair. In this capacity, she will help coordinate nominations for SIG, ACM and broader awards. Please contact her regarding potential nominations! Relatedly, Michal Feldman, Preston McAfee, and Eva Tardos are helping guarantee that our SIG’s articles appear in CACM Research Highlights. Please nominate your favorite recent papers via the form linked to from the description on the SIGecom website. We hope to see you in the coming year—virtually, physically, or both. In the meantime, you can check out talks from past conferences on our YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/c/ACMSIGecom>), and keep up with SIG news via our Twitter account (@AcmSIGecom) and listserv (sigecom-talk@googlegroups.com).

## REFERENCES

- DWORCZAK, P. AND LUCIER, B. 2021. SIGecom winter meeting report. *SIGecom Exch.* 19, 1, 2–9.
- TEYTELBOYM, A., LI, S., KOMINERS, S. D., AKBARPOUR, M., AND DWORCZAK, P. Discovering auctions: Contributions of Paul Milgrom and Robert Wilson. *The Scandinavian Journal of Economics* 123, 3, 709–750.