

Letter from SIGecom Executive Committee

NICOLE IMMORLICA

Microsoft Research

and

SCOTT DUKE KOMINERS

Harvard University and a16z crypto

and

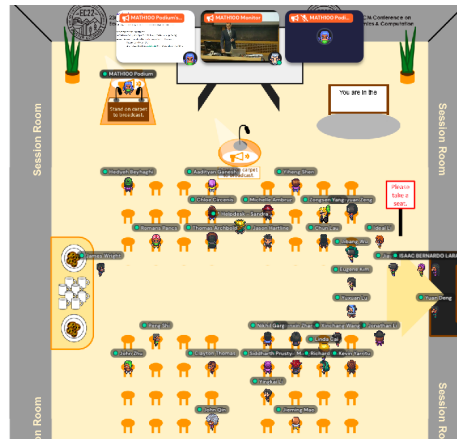
KATRINA LIGETT

Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Part-way through the first year of our tenure as the SIGecom executive board, the pandemic turned everything upside-down. The SIG faced enormous challenges and uncertainty as a result. But as the past year especially demonstrates, our conference series have emerged changed but vibrant—and our community remains strong and growing.

In February, Mallesh Pai and Aaron Roth co-organized the Second Annual SIGecom Winter Meeting—including fantastic tutorials, invited talks, and panels, all themed around Fairness. The event was a great success, drawing hundreds of attendees and inspiring deep conversations about the relationships between different models and metrics of fairness.¹

Then in July, we convened for EC'22, which for the first time was fully hybrid. Program Chairs Sven Seuken and Ilya Segal assembled a spectacular series of papers, selecting 150 from 549 total submissions. And General Chair David Pennock and Local Chairs Rafael Frongillo and Bo Waggoner produced an extraordinary event that was designed to be fully accessible and interactive irrespective of whether you were attending in-person or virtually. It was wonderful to see the community again in both physical and digital space. And as a further innovation, Keegan Harris and Clayton Thomas have introduced a mechanism by which EC talks are re-played over the course of the year to give students and others more access to presentations and authors. The resulting SIGecom Seminar Series meets in the academic metaverse (hosted on Gather.town) every Friday from 1100-1200 ET



¹Emily Diana, Mingzi Niu, and Georgy Noarov assembled a fantastic report on the event [Diana et al. 2022], and together with Yahav Bechavod conducted interviews featuring the speakers.

(<https://sites.google.com/andrew.cmu.edu/sigecomseminarseries/home>).



We are looking forward to EC 2023, which Jason Hartline and Larry Samuelson (Program Chairs) and Kevin Leyton-Brown (General Chair) are co-organizing. The conference will be based in London, and the plan is again for it to be hybrid, to enable virtual participation from all over the world. And ahead of that, the 2023 Winter Meeting, co-organized by Matt Weinberg and Scott Duke Kominers, will focus on crypto and web3.

This fall we are launching two new recognitions to complement our Best Paper, Doctoral Dissertation, and Test of Time awards: the *SIGecom Career Award* and the *SIGecom Lifetime Achievement Award*. As the names suggest, these awards recognize extended contributions of distinguished individuals in our community, respectively at the mid-career and senior levels. We hope these new awards raise awareness of amazing individuals in our community—as well as their work—among university departments, the ACM and other professional organizations, and the general public. Please send your nominations to the award committees as instructed on their respective webpages, linked to from the awards section of the SIGecom website (<https://sigecom.org/awards.html>).

Finally, as this is the last annual letter of our term as SIG executives, we want to take a moment to reflect.

In our first letter [Immorlica et al. 2019], in 2019, we enunciated three goals for our term: research impact, interdisciplinary and demographic diversity, and community cohesion. The third of these goals, especially, turned out to be more challenging than we had imagined *ex ante* because of Covid-19. We are proud of how the SIG developed ways to maintain cohesion and camaraderie in the face of the pandemic—and how in doing so, our community has also managed to broaden access like never before. The SIG’s virtual and hybrid conferences have drawn more attendance from more diverse places and academic backgrounds, resulting in countless new collaborations (not to mention significant increases in SIG membership!).

In terms of impact, we are especially proud of how the SIG’s research has shaped scholarship, policy, and society. And we have appreciated the opportunity to collaborate with many in the community to further showcase the SIG’s work and give it a wider reach—for example, working with EC program chairs to expand the forward-to-journal option; and also coordinating with our ACM Awards Chair, Eva Tardos,

and CACM Research Highlights Chair, Michal Feldman, to bring more recognition and visibility to the SIG within the ACM.

In closing, please let us take one more opportunity to thank all of the people who have helped us with SIG leadership and administration during our term,² as well as former SIG Chair Kevin Leyton-Brown, who is helping identify and recruit candidates for the upcoming SIG election. (If you are interested in running, please reach out to him.) And we want to thank you—everyone in the SIG—for being so awesome, and for giving us the opportunity to serve in this role. It has been an extraordinary honor.³

REFERENCES

- DIANA, E., NIU, M., AND NOAROV, G. 2022. SIGecom Winter Meeting 2022 highlights. *ACM SIGecom Exchanges* 20, 1, 3–23.
- IMMORLICA, N., KOMINERS, S. D., AND LIGETT, K. 2019. Letter from SIGecom executive committee. *ACM SIGecom Exchanges* 17, 2, 2–3.

²This is too long a list to include in full here, but see above as well as our previous three annual letters for shoutouts to many of them.

³Scott insists that we add: “QED.”