
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Brian Henderson-Sellers is the Director of the Centre for Object Technology Applications and Research and a Professor of Information Systems at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS). He is an author and editor of 32 books and is well-known for his work in object-oriented and agent-oriented methodologies (MOSES, COMMA, OPEN, OOSPICE, FAME), OO metrics and metamodelling. He is also the Co-Editor of the *ISO/IEC International Standard 24744* ('SE Metamodel for Development Methodologies') and on the editorial board of several IT journals. In July 2001, He was awarded a Doctor of Science (DSc) from the University of London for his research contributions in object-oriented methodologies.

Paolo Giorgini leads the Software Engineering and Formal Methods group at the Department of Engineering and Computer Science of the University of Trento. He received his PhD from the Computer Science Institute of University of Ancona – Italy – in 1998 and worked on the development of requirements and design languages for agent-based systems, and the application of goal-oriented techniques to software analysis and development. He is the Co-editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Agent-Oriented Software Engineering* and his publication list includes more than 150 refereed journal and conference proceedings papers and eight edited books.

One of the aims of a peer-reviewed journal like ours is to publish quality papers on the focus topic – here agent-oriented software engineering. We seek to publish research results of interest to other researchers in agent technology with a specific software engineering flavour.

Whilst published papers have undergone a strict reviewing process (to date our acceptance rate is 44% overall), it is anticipated that as well as providing solutions, any research paper will also introduce new questions and raise issues in the reader's mind that impel them to make a comment in response to the published paper.

We thus introduce a second aim of *IJAOSE* – to provide a discussion forum by introducing a letters and comments section. This will publish editorially-acceptable 'Letters to the editors' that may or may not be directly related to one specific published as well as comments on previously published papers. These comments should provide insightful extensions (positive or negative) to one specific paper in an earlier issue of *IJAOSE*. We will also invite the authors of that paper to respond to the comment so that both comment and response will be published in the same *IJAOSE* issue.