

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Economics and Computation

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SIGecom embraces diversity, fosters mutual understanding and respect, and recognizes the inherent dignity of every person and group [sig 2020]. Over the years, the SIG has taken many measures towards these objectives, including establishing SafeEC, creating a virtual conference format designed to ease participation across time zones, and launching a Global Outreach program to increase participation of low- and middle-income countries [Immorlica et al. 2019].

But much work remains. E.g., participation in the Economics and Computation (EC) conference has yet to reach gender parity. Individuals from historically disenfranchised groups – such as Black researchers – remain under-represented. And there are surely many stark issues faced by other groups, e.g., individuals with disabilities, that have gone unnoticed.

The impact of these issues goes well beyond our research community. The Economics and Computation community has made great strides in advancing mathematical foundations, e.g., matching markets, and improving applications in many domains, e.g., ride-sharing. But there is now increased awareness around opportunities and risks that techniques from this research interface present – of the *necessity* for having diverse and inclusive research communities to ensure that advances are to the benefit of all of society and that risks do not fall disproportionately on disadvantaged groups.

Recognizing this obligation and opportunity to improve diversity and inclusion, the SIG has created a new Diversity and Inclusion chair position. During my term in this role, I will work to achieve the following key goals:

- (1) Design and implement an annual community survey to measure and assess the current landscape with regards to representation, equity, and inclusion of disadvantaged communities.
- (2) Improve collection of data regarding authors of paper submissions and accepted papers at EC, of program committee members, and of conference organizers.
- (3) Evaluate impact of current activities towards improving representation and inclusion and identify new opportunities at EC or in the SIG virtual network.
- (4) Synthesize these findings and present recommendations to the SIG executives.

I look forward to working with the SIG executive, officers, and the community towards each of these goals. I encourage you all to reach out if you have concerns, ideas for activities, or suggestions for resources that may be needed.

REFERENCES

2020. ACM Special Interest Group on Economics and Computation. <http://www.sigecom.org/>.

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IMMORLICA, N., KOMINERS, S. D., AND LIGETT, K. 2019. Letter from sigecom executive committee. *SIGecom Exch.* 17, 2, 2–3.