

UNUSUAL SOLUTIONS COMPETITION JURY PANEL

Senior Juror across all three challenges



Prof. Giuseppe Loiano

Prof. Giuseppe Loiano is an assistant professor at the New York University and director of the Agile Robotics and Perception Lab (<https://wp.nyu.edu/arpl/>) working on autonomous Micro Aerial Vehicles. Prior to NYU he was a lecturer, research scientist, and team leader at the General Robotics, Automation, Sensing and Perception (GRASP) Laboratory at the University of Pennsylvania.

Drone data & AI tools



Rediet Abebe

Rediet Abebe is a Junior Fellow at the Harvard Society of Fellows. Her research is in the fields of algorithms and AI equity, ethics, and social good.



Dr. Fairoza Amira Binti Hamzah

Dr. Fairoza Amira Binti Hamzah is currently working as Assistant Professor in the Kyoto College of Graduate Studies for Informatics, Kyoto, Japan.

Last data mile



Emily Jacobi

Emily Jacobi is the Founder and Executive Director of Digital Democracy, whose mission is to support marginalized communities using technology to defend their rights.



Linda Kamau

Linda Kamau is the Managing Director and Co-Founder of AkiraChix. AkiraChix mission is to provide hands-on technical training and mentorship to young women, girls and children.

Drone & data ethics



Sanjana Hattotuwa

An Ashoka, Rotary World Peace and TED Fellow, Sanjana has since 2002 explored and advocated the use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) to strengthen peace, reconciliation, human rights & democratic governance.



Vidushi Marda

Vidushi Marda is a lawyer working at the intersection of emerging technologies, policy and society. She currently leads Article 19's global research and engagement on artificial intelligence (AI) and human rights.

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PROF. GIUSEPPE LOIANNO

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He received his BSc and MSc degrees in automation engineering, both with honors, from the University of Naples “Federico II” in December 2007 and February 2010, respectively. He received his PhD in computer and control engineering focusing in robotics in May 2014 in the PRISMA Lab group. Dr. Loianno has published more than 50 conference papers, journal papers, and book chapters. His research interests include visual odometry, sensor fusion, and visual servoing for micro aerial vehicles. He received the Conference Editorial Board Best Reviewer Award at ICRA 2016, National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) Young Investigator Award 2018. He is the program chair of IEEE SSRR 2019 and he serves as associate editors for robotics journals and conferences. He has organized multiple workshops on Micro Aerial Vehicles during IROS conferences and created the new International Symposium on Aerial Robotics (ISAR). His work has been featured in a large number of renowned international news and magazines.

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Rediet Abebe

Rediet Abebe is a computer scientist with a strong interest in the promotion of equality and justice. Her research is in the fields of algorithms and AI, with a focus on improving access to opportunity for historically marginalized and underserved communities. As part of this research agenda, she co-founded and co-organizes Mechanism Design for Social Good (MD4SG), a multi-institutional, interdisciplinary research initiative, as well as Black in AI, an organization focused on increasing the presence and inclusion of Black individuals in AI. Abebe is currently a Junior Fellow at the Harvard Society of Fellows and a Ph.D. candidate in computer science at Cornell University. She holds M.S. degrees from Cornell and Harvard as well as an M.A. from the University of Cambridge and a B.A. from Harvard College, both in mathematics. Abebe was recently named one of 35 Innovators Under 35 by the MIT Technology Review and honored in the 2019 Bloomberg 50 list as a "one to watch." Her work has been covered by outlets including Forbes, The Boston Globe, and The Washington Post. Her research is deeply influenced by her upbringing in her hometown of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where she lived until moving to the U.S. in 2009.

Dr. Fairoza Amira Binti Hamzah is currently working as Assistant Professor in the Kyoto College of Graduate Studies for Informatics, Kyoto, Japan. She received her Ph.D in Information Science and Control Engineering, Nagaoka University of Technology, Japan in Mar 2019. She also received her Master and Bachelor's Degree in Electrical, Electronics and Information Engineering from the same university in 2016 and 2014, respectively. During her Ph.D study, she went to Department of Computer Science of University of Warwick, UK for her research internship. She was awarded scholarships from Malaysia government for her undergraduate and postgraduate studies. She published and presented her research works in top-tier journals and conferences in the field of image processing such as IEEE ICASSP. She was also awarded Facebook AI Research Scholarship for Deep Learning Nanodegree in Udacity online learning platform. She is currently active in signal processing, computer science and artificial intelligence communities where she served as Japan Ambassador for Women in AI society, technical moderator for Udacity AI challenge, and one of the guest speakers for Women Who Code KL. She also serves as a reviewer in Springer and Bentham journals. Her research interests are computer vision and deep learning.



**Dr. Fairoza Amira Binti
Hamzah**

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Emily Jacobi

Emily Jacobi is the Founder and Executive Director of Digital Democracy, whose mission is to support marginalized communities using technology to defend their rights. Beginning her career as a youth journalist at the age of 13, she has led technology, media and research projects in Latin America, West Africa, Southeast Asia and the US. Prior to founding Digital Democracy, she worked for Internews Network, AllAfrica.com and as Assistant Bureau Director for Y-Press. Under her leadership, the Digital Democracy team works directly with frontline communities to build tools that they are using to map hundreds of thousands of hectares of rainforest, document illegal logging and mining, and stem the tide of deforestation in biodiverse regions.

Linda Kamau is the Managing Director and Co-Founder of AkiraChix. For 8 years working as a software engineer, she found herself being the only woman of color in a leadership position working with people from over 10 different countries and it's with this inspiration that she co-founded AkiraChix. As a way to address poverty, unemployment and gender inequalities in the access and use of ICTs, AkiraChix mission is to provide hands-on technical training and mentorship to young women, girls and children to increase the number of skilled women in tech and positively impact the community. We believe that access to education and training is of paramount importance for young women to support them in moving out of the vicious cycle of low-skills, low-productivity and low-wage employment and as a pathway to bridging gender gap in IT. Removing barriers for access to training and education is thus essential for achieving highly competitive young women with 21 st century skills in IT. Her work has been featured on NPR, BBC Click, Huffington Post, PBS NewsHour as well as drawn interest and visits from high level personalities such as former UN Ambassador Bank Ki Moon and President Uhuru Kenyatta and she was named an Obama Foundation Leader: Africa, 2018.



Linda Kamau

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Sanjana Hattotuwa

An Ashoka, Rotary World Peace and TED Fellow, Sanjana has since 2002 explored and advocated the use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) to strengthen peace, reconciliation, human rights & democratic governance. In 2006 Sanjana founded and for eleven years curated the award-winning Groundviews, Sri Lanka's first citizen journalism website. Having joined in 2002, he is a Senior Researcher at the Centre for Policy Alternatives, based in Colombo, Sri Lanka, where he focuses on civic media production, social media strategy, digital activism and digital security for civil society activists. Sanjana specialises in, advises and trains on new media literacy, web-based activism and advocacy. With the UN and other actors, through the ICT4Peace Foundation, Sanjana has since 2006 worked extensively on the advancement of information management during crises, both sudden-onset as well as protracted. For nearly two decades, Sanjana conducts workshops and training programmes in Sri Lanka, South Asia, South East Asia, Europe and the Balkans, focussing on using a wide spectrum technology to capture, disseminate and archive inconvenient truths in austere, violent contexts. He is currently pursuing doctoral studies at the University of Otago, New Zealand on social media and socio-political dynamics in post-war Sri Lanka.

Vidushi Marda is a lawyer working at the intersection of emerging technologies, policy and society. She currently leads Article 19's global research and engagement on artificial intelligence (AI) and human rights, and is a non-resident research analyst on AI and rights at Carnegie India. She also works on strengthening human rights considerations in internet infrastructure, particularly at internet governance bodies like ICANN and the IEEE. She is currently looking at the impact of machine learning systems on the exercise of rights in India, Singapore, China, and Japan. In the past, Vidushi has produced case studies on the use of big data in governance in the global south, and has worked on understanding data flows within India's biometric identity project, Aadhaar. Marda has served as an invited expert at the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology, the UN Human Rights Council, the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, among others. Her research has been cited by the Supreme Court of India in its historic ruling on the Right to Privacy, the United Kingdom House of Lords Select Committee on Artificial Intelligence, and by the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression.



Vidushi Marda