

Preface

Playful interactions and serious games

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1. This thematic issue

This issue of JAISE is focused on the theme of *Playful Interactions and Serious Games*. Serious games is still a relatively new area despite almost a decade of research, and HCI is long established as a core area of Computer Science. The combination of these two areas defines a very interesting domain for developing novel methods and applications in Ambient Intelligence.

Amongst the attractive possibilities supported by this technology is the development of tools and techniques to encourage young people to have a more active life. Many youngsters nowadays conduct a sedentary lifestyle, alternating between sitting in the classroom and sitting at home playing online games or spending time in chat rooms. Recent work in this area aims to stimulate an active life while employing the realm of technology-based games, in order to entice the players to physically move and to interact with peers more actively than through a console. Advances in this area have the potential to shape how the future generation will use technology tools to engage in games that have a bearing on improving their lifestyle or behavioural practices.

We hope that this Thematic Issue is found inspiring by researchers who are active in the area as well as motivate new research in this fledgling domain. We

are grateful to the Guest Editors who organized this Thematic Issue: Albert Ali Salah (Boğaziçi University, Turkey), Ben Schouten (Eindhoven University of Technology, The Netherlands), Stefan Göbel (University of Darmstadt, Germany) and Bert Arnrich (ETH Zürich, Switzerland).

The last pages of this issue provide information on successful vivas by PhD students working in the area.

2. Upcoming issues

We will continue our tradition of alternating between regular and thematic issues. The following is the list of upcoming issues of JAISE:

- July 2014: Regular Issue
- Sept. 2014: Thematic Issue on *Challenges of Engineering Intelligent Environments*
- Nov. 2014: Regular Issue
- Jan. 2015: Thematic Issue on *Affect Aware Ubiquitous Computing*
- March 2015: Regular Issue
- May 2015: Thematic Issue on *Evaluating Ambient Assisted Living Components and Systems*

More information on the call for papers to the future thematic issues is available on the webpage of JAISE at: <http://jaise-journal.org/>.