Farewell Editorial: Looking Back on Our Terms Editing ACM TEAC and into the Future

As we conclude our second and final term as editors-in-chief of the *ACM Transactions on Economics and Computation,* we take this opportunity to look back at how the journal has evolved since the original proposal for it in 2010, as well as to look forward beyond our editorship.

When we started the journal (with a lot of help from the community, and especially from Joan Feigenbaum and David Pennock), the field already had a well-established conference, the ACM Conference on Economics and Computation (EC).[1] There were also other conferences dedicated to closely related topics, including the Conference on Web and Internet Economics (WINE),[2] the Symposium on Algorithmic Game Theory (SAGT), the Conference on Auctions, Market Mechanisms and Their Applications (AMMA), the Conference on Theoretical Aspects of Rationality and Knowledge (TARK), tracks at several broad conferences, and several additional workshops. While having extensive conference support, the field lacked a dedicated journal. Researchers in the area often managed to publish journal versions of their articles in top journals in both computer science (including both top theory and top AI journals) and economics (the journal *Games and Economic Behavior* has been particularly welcoming to our community, for which we continue to be grateful), but still there were papers that fit none of these existing journals particularly well. The newsletter SIGecom Exchanges also existed already, but its focus is more on brief advertisements of work published elsewhere. While the desire to publish journal versions of their papers is not universal among computer scientists, journals continue to serve an important role. They allow more thorough review of papers—conference reviewing (as well as authoring) is sometimes rushed due to the deadlines, and there is usually a binding page limit—and of course universities sometimes desire or even require journal publications.

Our new journal definitely experienced growing pains. Notably, early on we decided to abandon Manuscript Central and switch to Editorial Manager instead, resulting in a confusing and challenging transition period where we were using two systems. There were (and continue to be) differences in expectations from the various subcommunities of our field. For example, economists and computer scientists have dramatic differences in expectation on how much time a reviewer should be given to review a paper (and even within computer science there are differences). With the help of a strong editorial board, who besides handling papers were actively involved in high-level decisions for the journal, we have soldiered through the early difficulties and consider the journal on a reasonably solid foundation. (The associate editors over the years included: Moshe Babaioff, Craig Boutilier, Felix Brandt, Shuchi Chawla, Yiling Chen, Jacques Crémer, Federico Echenique, Edith Elkind, Boi Faltings, Joan Feigenbaum, Michal Feldman, Arpita Ghosh, Amy Greenwald, Joseph Halpern, Nicole Immorlica, David Kempe, Kevin Leyton-Brown, Benny Moldovanu, Hervé Moulin, Noam Nisan, Christos

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[1]In fact, at that time, the conference was still called "the ACM Conference on Electronic Commerce." The name of the conference was changed in its 2014 iteration, thereby better matching the name of the journal as well as reflecting the community more accurately.
[2]At the time, it was still called the "Workshop on Internet and Network Economics."

Papadimitriou, David Parkes, David Pennock, Ariel Procaccia, Tim Roughgarden, Amin Saberi, Tuomas Sandholm, Scott Shenker, Yoav Shoham, Siddharth Suri, Éva Tardos, Moshe Tennenholtz, Hal Varian, Rakesh Vohra, Michael Wellman, Jennifer Wortman Vaughan, and Makoto Yokoo.)

Besides our annual editorial board meetings at the EC conference, we also had many discussions over e-mail with the board. We enjoyed support from ACM (Laura Lander has been especially helpful), the editorial assistants (including Gail Smith, Sarah Bingham, and Jeyel Tecson; Arriane Bustillo is now taking over from Jeyel), and information director Felix Fischer. SIGecom has always been very supportive as well.

The future of TEAC appears bright. There is a reasonable flow of manuscripts submitted for regular issues, and the special issues, including those on selected papers from the EC conference that we continue to do every year, attract strong papers. Consistent standards imposed by the associate editors have ensured that the quality of published papers has been consistently excellent. The journal has two excellent new editors-in-chief lined up: David Pennock (MSR) and Ilya Segal (Stanford Economics). As with our own editorship, this strikes a nice balance between computer science and economics, as well as between academic and industry research. The committee tasked with searching for the next editors-in-chief did a wonderful job. It consisted of:

—David Parkes (Harvard), Chair
—David Easley (Cornell)
—Anna Karlin (U. Washington)
—Noam Nisan (Hebrew U.)
—Tuomas Sandholm (CMU)
—Michael Wellman (U. Michigan)

Of course, challenges also remain. For one, we would like to receive more submissions from economists. This is challenging because we are not one of the well-established economics journals, and some economists worry whether their promotion committees will recognize our journal or whether the journal reaches a relevant audience (it does). At the same time, we want to keep our standards high and consistent.

We close by thanking the community for the opportunity we were given to be the journal's first editors-in-chief. We believe the journal is off to a good start but also still has much room to grow, and it is fortunate to have a community behind it that is both doing great research and is willing to put in the volunteer hours to make it succeed. It has been a great honor.

Vincent Conitzer
Preston McAfee