

Candidate Information Template

CANDIDATE NAME

Prof. Dr. Maren Bennewitz

CANDIDATE EMAIL ADDRESS

maren@cs.uni-bonn.de

CANDIDATE AFFILIATION AND ADDRESS

Humanoid Robots Lab
University of Bonn
Friedrich-Hirzebruch-Allee 8
53115 Bonn
Germany

IEEE MEMBER NUMBER

95782420

COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE

Germany

HOW WOULD YOU CATEGORIZE YOUR CURRENT ORGANIZATION?

- ☐ Government
- ☒ Academia
- ☐ Industry
- ☐ Retired
- ☐ Other

POSITION SOUGHT**BIOGRAPHY**

Maren Bennewitz is a professor of Computer Science at the University of Bonn. She heads the Humanoid Robots Lab and is also affiliated with the Lamarr Institute for Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence. She is the Vice Rector for Digitalization of the University of Bonn. In addition, she is a member of the executive board of the DFG Cluster of Excellence "PhenoRob – Robotics and Phenotyping for Sustainable Crop Production" and founding member as well as steering committee member of the Center for Robotics at the University of Bonn. She contributes to the robotics community for 25 years. In her research, she explores novel ways to integrate robots into human environments and contributes to innovative research projects combining robotics and AI. Her work focuses on developing methods that enable robots to perceive, plan, and act autonomously in cluttered and dynamic real-world environments, with applications in sustainable agriculture, mobile manipulation, and everyday robotics.

IEEE ACTIVITIES

Within the IEEE RAS community, I have long-standing service experience in venues such as IEEE ICRA, IEEE/RSJ IROS, IEEE-RAS Humanoids, and IEEE RA-L, where I have served as editor (IROS 2014-2017), associate editor (ICRA/HUMANOIDS 2011-2024), awards chair (ICRA 2023), and workshop chair (ICRA 2016) among other regular roles such as awards committee member, senior program committee member, workshop organizer, and reviewer. I am engaged in the IEEE RAS Woman in

Robotics and Women in Engineering activities and have organized events for women in AI and robotics at Bonn.

QUALIFICATIONS

The roles of editor, associate editor, awards chair, and workshop chair have provided me with deep insight into the governance and publication standards of IEEE RAS. Beyond technical service, I have been actively engaged in advancing diversity and inclusion within robotics. In particular, I have played a leading role in initiatives supporting women in robotics, especially within Germany. I am actively involved in the Robotics Institute Germany (RIG) Women in Robotics initiative, where I contribute to building mentoring, networking, and visibility opportunities for women researchers in robotics.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- As Vice Rector of the University of Bonn and member of the Rectorate, I am responsible for university-level strategic governance, including the development and implementation of the institution-wide digitalization strategy. In this role, I am regularly involved in strategic decision-making, budget planning and allocation, and the oversight of large-scale projects.
- Sustained IEEE RAS service including services such as IROS editor and ICRA awards chair.
- Active contributor to the Women in Robotics initiative, supporting mentoring, visibility, and participation of women in robotics.
- Leadership in internationally visible robotics research such as robot perception, mobile manipulation, robot learning, and human-centered robotics, keynote invitation at ICRA 2026.
- Strategic decision-making, including the evaluation of scientific priorities, resource allocation, and long-term research direction as an executive board member of the DFG Cluster of Excellence “PhenoRob – Robotics and Phenotyping for Sustainable Crop Production”.

POSITION STATEMENT

If elected to the AdCom of the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society, I will contribute to strengthening IEEE RAS as a high-quality professional society that prioritizes scientific excellence, trustworthy and thorough peer review processes, and meaningful community development rather than an emphasis on large-scale events. Furthermore, I will continue and extend my activities to engage women and other underrepresented groups within RAS.

COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

I, Maren Bennewitz, hereby certify that if elected, I will serve in the position to which I am elected for the term of the office.