



International Society of Information Fusion

September 23, 2020

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ISIF BoD Elections - Statement of Service

Dear Prof Paulo Costa,

please accept my statement of service for the ISIF BoD election process and thank you for the vote of confidence.

About Me _____

I have an education in both Mathematical Statistics and Engineering Science and 20 years experience in design, development and implementation of different components in the AI value chain. The application fields range from defence, human language technologies, wildlife security to transportation. Of special interest to me is Natural Language Processing (NLP).

I worked at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) as a senior researcher and engineer for 15 years before returning to academia. In my role as academic, I developed multiple courses and workshops on Statistics, Data Science and NLP and supervised more than 40 post-graduate students since 2015.

Research on Information Fusion _____

I am part of the Evaluation of Techniques for Uncertainty Representation Working Group (ETURWG) since 2015 and co-authored 12 FUSION conference proceedings of which 3 are first author papers, as well as a JAIF publication. My research on Bayesian networks and uncertainty quantification are pivotable to my interest in information fusion.

Contribution to ISIF BoD _____

I am one of the general chairs of Fusion 2020 (and inevitably Fusion 2021). Throughout the journey of organizing these conferences I've illustrated my commitment to the community. I've always thought of myself as a multidisciplinary researcher, and as such - per definition - the vision of ISIF resonates with me. I hope to bring Fusion to Africa, and also reach communities not typically exposed to Fusion, such as the field of Statistics. We have already started with this vision, through Fusion 2020 which shows new names in the proceedings' lists of authors and reviewers.

Sincerely,

Alta de Waal