# Paulo C. G. Costa

## Biography

**Paulo Costa** is Associate Professor at the Systems Engineering and Operations Research Department and Director of the Radio and Radar Engineering Lab, both at George Mason University. He graduated in 86 from the Brazilian Air Force and was a Fighter Pilot for 12 years, after which he obtained his MS and PhD degrees in the US and eventually transitioned to academia. In the early nineties, as an Electronic Warfare Officer, he was programming Radar Warning Receivers and dealing with uncertainty in the process of fusing data from diverse, overlapping radar signatures. This experience was reflected after he transitioned to research, where his main focus has been uncertainty representation and reasoning in fusion applications. At GMU he worked in various HLIF projects, and has promoted the subject outside research as well, either by creating new courses (e.g., Syst 584 Heterogeneous Data Fusion) or teaching mini courses and tutorials in different countries. Prof. Costa has been a very active member of ISIF since 2009, where he spearheaded the creation of the ETURWG working group, still active in its 4th year, and was the General Co-Chair of the FUSION 2015 conference, in Washington, D.C.

## Position Statement

Working on data fusion has been a major aspect of my professional life, initially with an emphasis on low level fusion and then concentrating on high level fusion. As my research focus shifted towards leveraging semantics and uncertainty representation to cross-domain applications, I naturally became a staunch believer on the advantages of bringing together people with diverse background and world views as a key approach for advancing the science of information fusion. This belief drove me to invest on different ways of getting people to teaming up to address the hardest problems at the new frontiers of information fusion. As a result, in the last decade I have organized conferences (e.g. STIDS, FUSION), workshops (e.g. URSW), and working groups (e.g. URW3, ETURWG) aimed at fostering multidisciplinary discussions on hard and soft information fusion problems.

If elected to the ISIF BoD I pledge to keep consistency with this objective, devoting my experience and energy to help ISIF fulfill its role as the major catalyst for advancing the science of information fusion. I plan to do so by focusing on:

- Enhancing the role of the FUSION conference series as the flagship event of our society.
- Fostering smaller events as a means to boost ISIF's presence in areas of the globe in which it has not been "the place to go" for data fusion practitioners.
- Increasing the society's membership by enhancing its appeal to the community's core base.
- Adding new benefits and other aspects that bring value to existing and potential members.
- Promote multi-disciplinary research as a means of bridging the diverse sub communities working on LLIF and HLIF applications.