

Sam Zaza
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Biographical Sketch

I am an assistant professor at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), USA. I obtained my Ph.D. from Florida State University, USA. My research interests lie in IT career and future nature of work, social inclusion, and methodological approaches. My research is published and/or under review in MISQ, EJIS, JAIS, ISJ, Information & Organization, IT & People, CAIS, among other conference proceedings (e.g., ICIS, AMCIS). Besides research, my passion is in serving the community. I serve as a reviewer for journals and conferences (e.g., EJIS, CAIS, ICIS, ECIS, PACIS), on the editorial board (Senior Editor for the Data base for advances in Information Systems), and as conference co-chair for ACM SIGCPR and MENACIS. To serve my local community, I serve on the board for the annual conference Tennessee Girls in STEM targeted for young women in middle and high school to offer them hands-on experience in the area of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). This conference aims to raise awareness and attract young women to choose a STEM major and career in the future. I was recognized and nominated as the diversity and inclusion advocate of the year by the Greater Nashville Technology Council, Tennessee, for promoting inclusion. For instance, I serve on the faculty advisory board for the "open education resources" initiative to create an inclusive and equitable learning environment to ensure the success of ALL students. As for teaching, I got two internal grants to help internationalize our classes and build relationships with institutions in Latin America.

AIS Membership and Experience

My service to AIS started by volunteering for five years at conferences as a doctoral student. As a member, I am currently involved in the College of Women Network, SIG LEAD, SIG GTM, SIG GlobDev, and SIG-CoRE. In addition, I am serving as the president of SIG Social Inclusion. As for AIS-affiliated conferences, I serve on the conference committees (ICIS, AMCIS, ECIS, PACIS) as ERF co-chair and panel chair (AMCIS2022; 2026), satellite chair (ECIS 2023), review coordinator, and local organizer (ICIS2022; 2025).

Serving as the president of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA-AIS) in 2021 is the highlight of my involvement with AIS. During my service and communicating with other chapters, I noticed that many are unaware of the value of being an AIS member and/or don't take advantage of what AIS offers because they don't know. Therefore, I chose "bridging the gap" as our theme for our first stand-alone hybrid format MENACIS conference in Morocco in November 2021. Specifically, we aimed to showcase the benefits and the value of being an AIS member. During and after the conference, I communicated with participants about becoming AIS members. If they already are AIS

members, I detailed the services and opportunities AIS can offer beyond conference participation. My efforts till now led to:

- 1) increase in the AIS membership, especially from the African region,
- 2) revitalize AIS chapters (e.g., Ethiopia),
- 3) start the process of forming new chapters (e.g., Iran Chapter), and
- 4) support emerging chapters (e.g., East African chapter).

Statement of Platform

I am humbled to be nominated for AIS VP membership. Based on my experience with the chapters and direct interactions with (potential) members, I plan to continue what I have already started – communicate the benefits and value of being an AIS member. As a way for more inclusivity, increasing global representation (e.g., underrepresented regions) and forgotten groups, I am committed to proactively attracting new members and retaining existing members by engaging them with AIS and better mapping out what AIS offers to various stakeholders: Students, researchers, teaching-oriented scholars, and practitioners (e.g., eLibrary, customized membership fees, volunteer with AIS, communities such as SIGs, Chapters, Colleges). If elected, I am dedicated to:

- Suggest programs at the membership level and not conference-specific, such as monthly professional development programs around research, teaching, and career.
- Work closely with VP SIGs and Colleges to increase collaboration between chapters, SIGs, and colleges by introducing SIGs and colleges to chapter members and vice versa to highlight members' access and visibility for the greater benefit of the community.
- Help AIS develop a better "messaging" to these groups about the value of being an AIS member and how we can communicate about that, such as developing activities to attract the members' interest to engage in shaping AIS.

It is a fast-changing world and we need to change accordingly. Meeting global members' needs and inclusiveness is a must. When elected, I will be committed to this position because this is how I want to serve AIS.