Whereas multiagent systems have been extremely helpful in solving engineering problems, much of what we find exciting lies in their applications to contemporary human life. In particular, the focus of this book will be on self-constituting systems and networks composed of human and nonhuman agents characteristic of emergent cyber cultures, including e-commerce, e-learning as well as other human/nonhuman agent systems in medicine, law, science and online interactions of all kinds. It represents an opportunity not only to share insights and experiments in multiagent systems composed of robot- and software agents, but to theorize hybridity formed at the junction of the human- and non-human.

Multiagent systems, we submit, cross disciplinary boundaries by focusing on society and culture as emerging from the interactions of autonomous agents. Poised at the intersection of AI, cybernetics, sociology, semiotics and anthropology, this strand of multiagent systems research enables a powerful perspective illuminating not only how we live and learn now, but also, through focusing on emergence, how we anticipate the future.

Moreover, we hope to form new network assemblages of variegated agents of researchers and their techniques out of which may arise new perspectives on heretofore parochial questions in our respective disciplines. From here, there are manifold policy implications: multiagent systems research, we believe, can be a powerful reagent, interrogating the teleological, emergentist assumptions underlying, for example, the adoption and institutionalization of IT in universities, businesses, hospitals and NGOs, and suggesting other, networked possibilities. In other words, we hope this report acts as an agent in itself, and that it will act as a node in the formation of new networks of research.

The research presented here is cross disciplinary, and sheds light at different aspects of interaction and emergent phenomena in multiagent societies.

In conclusion, we cannot possibly say thanks to so many people that make a symposium possible. We are deeply indebted to the many contributors, reviewers, the organizing committee, and the staff at AAAI.

Goran P. Trajkovski and Samuel G. Collins
Symposium chairs