

# Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence

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# Intelligent Virtual Agents

Third International Workshop, IVA 2001  
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## Preface

Predicting the future is a risky game, and can often leave egg on one's face. However when the organizers of the Intelligent Virtual Environments workshop at the European Conference on AI predicted that the field of Intelligent Virtual Agents would grow and mature rapidly, they were not wrong. From this small workshop spawned the successful one on Intelligent Virtual Agents, held in Manchester in 1999.

This volume comprises the proceedings of the much larger third workshop held in Madrid, September 10-11, 2001, which successfully achieved the aim of taking a more international focus, bringing together researchers from all over the world. We received 35 submissions from 18 different countries in America, Asia, and Africa.

The 16 papers presented at the conference and published here show the high quality of the work that is currently being done in this field. In addition, five contributions were selected as short papers, which were presented as posters at the workshop.

This proceedings volume also includes the two prestigious papers presented at the workshop by our keynote speakers:

- Daniel Thalmann, Professor at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL) in Lausanne and Director of the Computer Graphics Lab., who talked about *The Foundations to Build a Virtual Human Society*.
- Jeff Rickel, Project Leader at the Information Sciences Institute and a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Southern California, who debated about *Intelligent Virtual Agents for Education and Training: Opportunities and Challenges*.

Many people and groups contributed to the success of this workshop. Our sincere thanks goes out to all of them. We would like to thank all the authors who contributed to this volume for their willingness to share their knowledge on this exciting new field. Significant thanks goes out to the local program committee in Madrid, for the efficient handling of all the tasks thrown at them:

Julia Clemente, *Universidad de Alcalá*

Pilar Herrero *Universidad Politécnica de Madrid*

Ricardo Imbert *Universidad Politécnica de Madrid*

Gonzalo Méndez *Universidad Politécnica de Madrid*

Jaime Ramírez *Universidad Politécnica de Madrid*

María Isabel Sánchez *Universidad Carlos III*

We would also like to acknowledge the hard work of the members of the Program Committee, who thoughtfully reviewed the submissions. The Program Committee consisted of the editors along with 22 distinguished researchers coming both from academia and business.

We invite readers to enjoy the papers in this book, and look forward to the next Intelligent Virtual Agents conference.

July 2001

**Daniel Ballin**  
**Ruth Aylett**  
**Angélica de Antonio**

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