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Subject Advisor support letter for Patrick Altmeyer



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To whom it may concern,

With this letter, I am very happy to support the intended participation of Patrick Altmeyer to the AIES Conference. Patrick is a PhD candidate under my supervision, working on Trustworthy AI in the context of the AI for Fintech lab, which is sponsored by the ING Bank in The Netherlands.

A position like this requires appropriate sensitivity to the impact of AI technology on humans, and an openness to learning from insights from neighboring fields. I hired Patrick because of his multidisciplinary background, and great eagerness in making impact across disciplines. While he only started his position in Fall 2021, I have been really proud to already witness this eagerness in many forms, where I really see Patrick consciously investing in serving the broader community with his work (e.g. accessibly writing about his progress in the blog on his website, explicitly open-sourcing his own work in the Julia community, and currently taking multiple undergraduate students under his wing in their first research project).

I would love for Patrick to engage in a deeper discussion about his work with the AIES audience; both with regard to our suspicions on potentially problematic dynamic effects of algorithmic recourse, but also at a more general level. We are aware that applying AI to data involving financial decisions and human information needs great care. We also know that the common benchmark datasets used in machine learning approaches to fairness questions come with controversies of their own. Finally, while this project is sponsored by a bank, we retain our independence as researchers at a public institute, and seek to navigate how to best position ourselves in this space. In all this, I am sure the AIES colleagues can give valuable practical guidance on how to push our work forward responsibly.

In case of an accepted presentation, I am allowed to cover Patrick's costs for travel, registration and housing, and thus would be happy to not claim any waivers, so they can benefit those who need it more.

Thank you for your consideration, sincerely yours,



Dr Cynthia C. S. Liem MMus
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