# Preface

*Design and Deployment of Intelligent Environments*

Juan Carlos Augusto [a] and Hamid Aghajan [b]

[a] *Department of Computer Science and Research Group on Development of Intelligent Environments,*
*(Middlesex University, UK)*
[b] *AIR (Ambient Intelligence Research) Lab (Stanford University, USA) and iMinds (University of Gent, Belgium)*

## 1. This thematic issue

This issue of JAISE is focused on the theme of *Design and Deployment of Intelligent Environments*. As such it addresses a range of challenges which we still face as a community trying to deploy sophisticated systems which directly affect humans lives. There is a multitude of open issues which are still proving difficult to tackle and for which there is no recipe which can guarantee success. There are recipes which have worked with other types of systems but the unique features of Intelligent Environments which assemble a complex mix of sensors and actuators, interfaces, networks and intelligent software to understand, and feed back to, a context in real-time, makes previous experience useful but not comprehensive or specific enough to provide a thorough guide.

This thematic issue brings to our community selected experiences and examples of good practice which will inform us on some of the processes and tools used to deal with the challenges of designing and deploying Intelligent Environments. As the articles cover issues from design (initial phases of the project) to deployment (middle to final phases) they provide a good overview of whole systems deployment. All the issues considered here are open and have a high degree of experimentation strengthening our insight into what worked for others. We also believe other communities may benefit from the content of this issue, for example colleagues from product design may find these experiences informative from a more technological perspective.

As usual for an area active like AmI there are interesting events around the world. The last pages of this issue provide information on some upcoming events.

## 2. Upcoming issues

As it is a tradition in our journal to alternate between regular and thematic issues, the issue to be published in November will be a regular issue and the issue to be published in January will be a Thematic Issue focused on *Human-Centric Computing*.