

EDITOR'S MESSAGE



Vesa Välimäki

(Photo: Evelin Kask/Aalto University)

Dear Readers,
I am happy and proud to start as the new Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of the AES*. I am a professor of audio signal processing at Aalto University in Finland, and I have contributed to the *AES Journal* during twenty-five years. In addition to serving as an associate editor and reviewer to some journals, my former experience on scientific journals comes from my duties as a senior area editor in a top-tier journal and as a guest editor of special issues.

This is a good time to start as an Editor-in-Chief in this journal, as my predecessor, Bozena Kostek, was very successful in improving and developing our Journal. It is now in a great shape to meet the challenges of the future. I would like to thank Bozena, the AES President Agnieszka Roginska, and the AES executive director Colleen Harper for selecting me. Francis Rumsey, Christopher Cifani, Josh Reiss, and Mary Ellen Illich have been very helpful, introducing me to the practices of the Journal.

Today, *JAES* is a modern scientific journal supporting online publishing with colors and a graphic abstract. It is a hybrid journal, as it publishes both Open Access and traditional papers, the latter being only available for subscribers, such as AES members. A healthy competition with other journals publishing audio-related works has made *JAES* rethink its processes. In addition to the quality of the peer review process, copy editing, and online features, journals are nowadays competing on speed. *JAES* had to shorten the time from submission to publication, since other journals do the same.

It feels especially grand to become the EiC of *JAES*, because it has a long and magnificent history. I started reading *JAES* as a young engineering student

at Helsinki University of Technology, which had many volumes of *JAES* in its library. The oldest volumes were down in the basement, where I had to go and find them. There I first read about waveshaping and FM synthesis from old *JAES* issues. My Master's thesis and doctoral thesis were about sound synthesis by physical modeling, and back then I also found some pioneering works on that topic from a dusty AES journal. Additionally, I was also eager to read many AES papers about digital audio processing, which looked to me like the technology of the future.

After that finding literature has become much easier with the AES E-Library, which can bring thousands of papers instantly to your screen. Audio science has also continued to expand. When I graduated with a PhD in the 1990s, audio coding and spatial sound technologies had started to evolve. These topics were also covered in the *AES Journal*. More recently, we have seen a new wave of interest in neural networks and deep learning, which help solve difficult problems in computing. In addition to image and speech applications, machine learning methods are now also used for audio. Especially in 2020, we have seen this development in several *JAES* papers.

The COVID-19 pandemic, which has been a disaster for many countries and industries, has also something positive to offer to us: the digital leap. Remote meetings are a daily routine to many of us, and this means that microphones, speakers, headsets and related audio technology have become more important than ever. Current video communication systems would benefit from more sophisticated audio features and capabilities, such as panning of speakers' voices. I hope this positive thought will help you bear these strange times.

Vesa Välimäki