Coronavirus: Information for students and staff

CULTURALLY SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL ROBOTICS
Challenges, Methods and Solutions
ROBOPHILOSOPHY 2020 | AARHUS UNIVERSITY

❯ International Research Conference Robophilosophy 2020: Online conference, August 18-21, 2020

Culturally Sustainable Social Robotics

Once we place so-called 'social robots' into the social practices of our everyday lives and lifeworlds, we create complex, and possibly irreversible, interventions in the physical and semantic spaces of human culture and sociality. The long-term socio-cultural consequences of these interventions is currently impossible to gauge. While the use of 'social' robots in service functions, i.e. within the care-, education-, and entertainment sector, promises great economic gain, it also potentially infringes upon ethical, epistemic, existential, and other socio-cultural core values.

After a decade of interdisciplinary research into social robotics and Human-Robot Interaction (HRI) we still lack a clear understanding and regulative directives for *how to ensure that social robotics will contribute to a community's resources for human well-being*—to the practices in which members of a community experience justice, dignity, autonomy, privacy, security, authenticity, knowledge, freedom, beauty, friendship, sensitivity, empathy, compassion, creativity, and other socio-cultural core values, as these may be shared, or vary, across cultures.

As governments of the highly developed countries worldwide implement "industry 4.0" and prepare to enter the "automation age" (McKinsey) central questions concerning the larger cultural significance of social robots remain unclear and are more urgent than ever: How can we create cultural dynamics with or through social robots that will not impact our value landscape negatively? How could we design human-robot interactions in ways that will positively cultivate the values we, or people anywhere, care about?

Robophilosophy 2020 will explore these and related questions, with its usual broad scope, embracing both theoretical and practical angles. *Robophilosophy* is foremost "philosophy of, for, and by social robotics", but it is a new area of interdisciplinary and often experimental research. Thus topically relevant research submissions *from any discipline* are welcome. The event is an invitation to philosophers and other Humanities researchers, as well as researchers in social robotics and HRI, to explore in detail, and from interdisciplinarily informed perspectives, how the Humanities can contribute to shaping a future where social robotics is guided by the goals of enhancing socio-cultural values rather than mere utilities.

The event will anew present and elaborate the core message of the robophilosophy conference series: only if Humanities researchers join forces with the research community and practitioners in social robotics and HRI can we create futures worth living.

Plenary and Keynote speakers (confirmed, alphabetical order):

Alan Winfield (University of the West of England, UK)

Aimee van Wynsberghe (Delft University of Technology, NL)

John Danaher (National University of Ireland, Galway, IE)

Robert Sparrow (Monash University, AU)

Selma Šabanović (Indiana University Bloomington, US)

Shannon Vallor (The University of Edinburgh, UK)

Go to RP2020 event page   ›

Registration   ›

Important dates

Aug 10, 2020:

Prerecorded videos of session talks accessible (for registered participants)

Aug. 21, 2020:

Deadline for registration

Aug. 22, 2020:

Access to prerecorded videos of session talks closes

Oct.   1, 2020:

Deadline for submission to RP2020 Proceedings

Dec.   2020:

Publication of RP2020 Proceedings

Organizers

Marco Nørskov

Johanna Seibt

Research Unit for Robophilosophy, Aarhus University; The Research Network for Transdisciplinary Studies in Social Robotics

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Latest Conference Proceedings

Envisioning Robots in Society - Power, Politics, and Public Space
Proceedings of Robophilosophy 2018 (IOS Press).
Available here.

An overview of other conference related publications is available here.

Revised 22.09.2020 - Marco Nørskov

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6 Plenaries

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Indiana University Bloomington (US)

Robert Sparrow
Monash University (AU)

Shannon Vallor
The University of Edinburgh (GB)

Alan Winfield
University of the West of England (GB)

Aimee van Wynsberghe
Delft University of Technology (NL)

John Danaher
National University of Ireland, Galway (IE)

10 Plenary Discussion Sessions

5 Workshops

Social Models for Social Robotics
Aurélie Clodic, Frank Dignum, Victor Fernandez Castro, Raul Hakli

Should Robots Have Standing? The Moral and Legal Status of Social Robots
David Gunkel

Trust in Robots and AI
Jesse de Pagter, Guglielmo Papagni, Laura Crompton, Michael Funk, et al.

Think & Perform Tank
Oliver Schürer

Robots and Religious Contexts
Simon Balle and Charles Melvin Ess

Theater and Audience Dialogue

For schedule and access click here

PRE-RECORDED Session Talks, August 10-22

Over 40 Session Talks

Registered participants can access video recordings of over 40 session talks from AUG. 10-22 via the conference page. Session talks are grouped under 10 discussion themes. For each recorded talk participants can post questions for the speaker and for the plenary discussion of the associated theme.
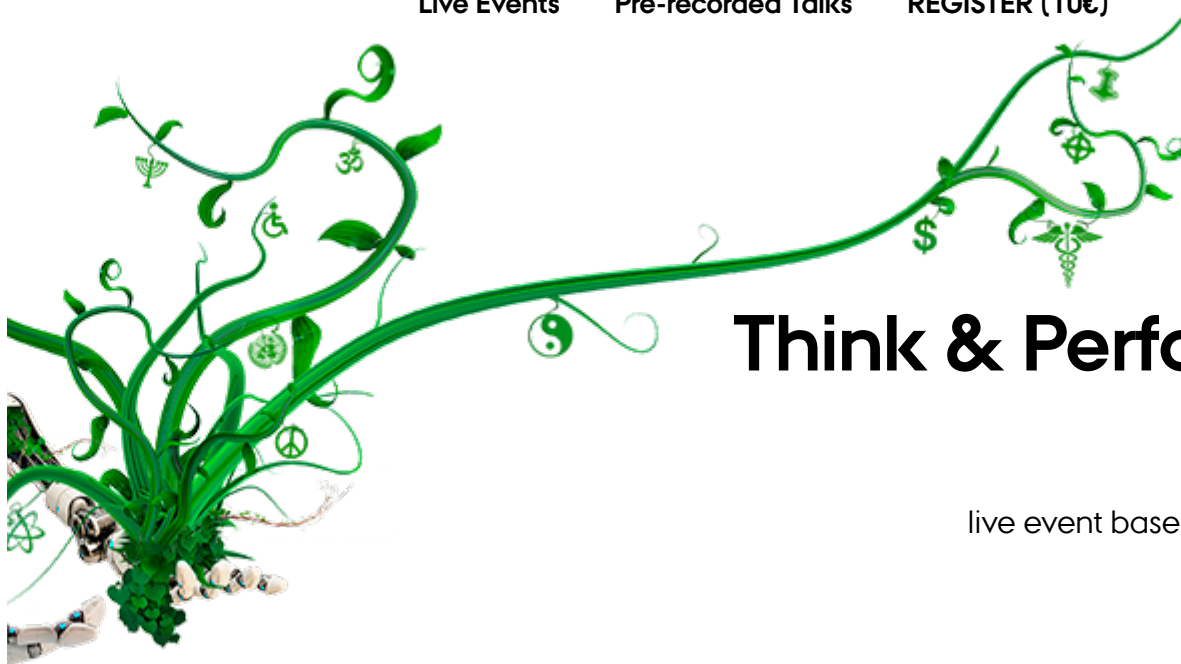
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Think & Perform Tank

WORKSHOP 4

live event based on live contributions

Organizers

Oliver Schürer, TU Wien (AT)   ⊕

Choreographer & Dancer

Eva-Maria Kraft, RAUM für TANZ (AT)   ⊕

HRI Researchers

Helena Frijns, TU Wien (AT)   ⊕

Darja Stoeva, TU Wien (AT)   ⊕

Musician

Thomas A. Pichler (AT)   ⊕

Abstract

Experimental, transdisciplinary research on co-creation of sociocultural places and situations by interaction of dancer, musician, roboticists, robot, and the audience.

Transformations triggered by robotic technologies are intended to lead to robot cultures. Actualised by their human-like shape, motions and behaviours social humanoid robots have the largest potential of cultural implications for an individual. Due to the pandemic with it's plea for "social distancing" transformations started to develop towards negative cultural values for many. The workshop invites to explore/test behaviours of social and physical distance considering proxemics, kinesics, cloud-

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