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Special issue on: Going beyond the laboratory – reconsidering the ELS implications of autonomous

AI&Society is delighted to bring out a special issue (forthcoming 2016) of the Journal on “Going beyond the laboratory”. Going beyond the laboratory poses a great challenge to robotics in that robots in the real world need to be independent entities that can orient themselves in dynamic environments, handle less predictable human actions and adhere to social norms. The increasing autonomy of robots deployed outside the laboratory requires new institutional frameworks to guide the expected human-machine relationship. Recent developments in robotics highlight interactions with ordinary people. Service and welfare robots are making the transition from laboratory experiments to practical applications in multiple areas of life. These developments raise concerns about the consequences of direct contact between lay people and robots. The increasing use of robots in real-life contexts will have a profound effect on the human-machine relationship. This special issue aims to reinvestigate the ethical, legal and societal issues emerging from the incorporation of autonomous robots into everyday practices by reflecting on the distinction between “within” and “beyond” the laboratory. The range of topics addressed here encompasses questions about the agency of sophisticated robot technologies, empirically grounded theorizing about situated human-robot interaction, normative issues of robot use in wider social contexts (such as the responsibility ascription problem) and a cross-cultural analysis of user attitudes toward machine autonomy.

AI & Society: Knowledge, Culture and Communication, is an International Journal publishing refereed scholarly articles, position papers, debates, short communications, and reviews of books and other publications. Established in 1987, the Journal focuses on societal issues including the design, use, management, and policy of information, communications and new media technologies, with a particular emphasis on cultural, social, cognitive, economic, ethical, and philosophical implications. *AI & Society* has a broad scope and is strongly interdisciplinary. We welcome contributions and participation from researchers and practitioners in a variety of fields including information technologies, humanities, social sciences, arts and sciences. This includes broader societal and cultural impacts, for example on governance, security, sustainability, identity, inclusion, working life, corporate and community welfare, and well-being of people. Co-authored articles from diverse disciplines are encouraged.

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Guest Editors:

Gesa Lindemann, Hironori Matsuzaki, Ilona Straub

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