

2ND CALL FOR POSTER PRESENTATIONS

International Conference “Going Beyond the Laboratory – Ethical and Societal Challenges for Robotics”, 13-15 February 2014, Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg (Delmenhorst) & Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, Germany

WEBSITE: <http://www.uni-oldenburg.de/ast/gbt/>

The conference deals with societal consequences arising from the introduction of advanced robot technology into everyday life, focusing on the real-world applications of service and welfare robots such as companionship, nursing or child care. The intent of the conference is to examine how the increasing sophistication of robots and their deployment outside the laboratory may exert crucial effects on man-machine relationship, disrupt institutional orders of modern society, and require rethinking of various normative issues. When robots go beyond the laboratory, it is a challenge for robotics as well as for lay people who are the expected interaction partners of such robots. Which new institutional rules are needed to guide the expected man-machine relationship? From a sociological point of view it is likely that society will not react with one voice to these developments. Probably engineers/scientists, lay persons, lawyers, politicians or entrepreneurs will hold different views on autonomous robots. Therefore an interdisciplinary discussion is required.

The main subject areas of the conference are:

- *The agency of the robot:* To what extent do robots act autonomously? Are robots able to perceive or to have expectations? Do robots have social agency? Does robotics urge us to reconsider our concepts of agency, personhood or companionship?
- *Robots beyond the laboratory:* Will they be accepted by lay persons? How do lay people feel with a robot companion or a robot caregiver? How should we deal with ethical questions raised by the replacement of human caregivers by robots?
- *The social status of the robot:* Which legal status is appropriate for an autonomous robot? Are robots responsible agents? Or: Who else should be held responsible for the robots actions? What stance will science/engineering, economics or politics take on these issues?
- *Cross-cultural analysis:* How do people’s attitudes towards robots vary due to the local cultural circumstances?

The organizers invite contributions for the poster session which provides an occasion for presenting late-breaking results, ongoing research projects, and innovative work in progress. Posters will be displayed for the duration of the conference, giving presenters an opportunity for informal discussions with conference attendees. Especially researchers and practitioners from the area of human-robot interaction and social robotics are encouraged to submit proposals for poster presentation.

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Posters should describe novel or interesting research topics in line with the above mentioned themes, and give a brief overview of theoretical framework, research questions, methodology and possibly preliminary results. Submissions should consist of (1) a 1 page **summary** (as a DOC/DOCX-file; no more than 500 words) and (2) a **draft of poster layout** (as a PDF file). Please also attach (3) your **full contact details** (name and professional affiliation of the author/s; name and e-mail address of the corresponding author).

Submissions and questions should be sent to gctl@uni-oldenburg.de by **10 December 2013**, listing **“GBTL Poster Session”** as the subject heading of e-mail.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Submission deadline (extended): **10 December 2013**
- Notification of acceptance: **16 December 2013**

IMPORTANT NOTES:

Posters will NOT be printed by the conference organizer. The abstracts of all accepted posters will be published on the conference website. Presenters of an accepted poster must register for the conference (registration is expected to open in mid-November 2013) and present their work at the allocated space. The organizers should be contacted in case of any special requirement.

ORGANIZERS:

Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, Dept. of Social Sciences, Research Unit “Sociological Theory” (AST) — Prof. Dr. Gesa Lindemann (Director), Dr. Gregor Fitzl, Hironori Matsuzaki, Ilona Straub

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS/PANELLISTS OF THE CONFERENCE:

For the oral presentations and the panel, we invite world-leading experts from different scientific disciplines (Robotics, Jurisprudence, Social Sciences, Philosophy, and Ethics) as well as industrial and governmental circles to enable a wide-ranging exchange and in-depth discussions on the above mentioned issues.

- Prof. Atsuo Takanishi, Waseda University, Japan (Keynote Address)
- Dr. Giorgio Metta, Italian Institute of Technology, Italy
- Prof. Cecilia Laschi, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Italy
- Dr. Birgit Graf, Fraunhofer IPA, Germany
- Prof. Yukie Nagai, Osaka University, Japan
- Prof. Morana Alač, UC San Diego, USA
- Prof. Ingo Schulz-Schaeffer, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany
- Dr. Martin Meister, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany
- Dr. Susanne Beck, University of Würzburg, Germany
- Tomoko Nambu LL.M., River-City Legal Profession Corporation, Japan
- Björn Juretzki, European Commission
- Rodolphe Gelin, Aldebaran Robotics, France
- Dr. Kohtaro Ohba, AIST, Japan
- Prof. Guglielmo Tamburrini, University of Naples, Italy
- Prof. Robert Sparrow, Monash University, Australia
- Dr. Diego Compagna, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany
- Prof. Johanna Seibt, Aarhus University, Denmark
- Dr. Shuichi Nishio, ATR, Japan
- Prof. Selma Šabanović, Indiana University, USA
- Prof. Thomas Christaller, Fraunhofer IAIS, Germany
- Prof. Werner Rammert, Berlin Institute of Technology, Germany
- Dr. Mark Coeckelbergh, University of Twente, the Netherlands
- Dr. Karola Pitsch, Bielefeld University, Germany