
ABSTRACT

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Intergroup Contact via Robotic Telepresence

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ABSTRACT

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Introduction

The Contact Hypothesis

- History of the four condition (Pettigrew and Tropp, 2005)
- Advancements since Allport. (Kenworthy et al., 2005; Brown and Hewstone, 2005)
 - **Contact should focus on the combination between forming a personal connection and maintaining group salience and representation.**
 - anxiety and other emotions play an important role.
 - Long-term effects, meta-analytics (Pettigrew and Tropp, 2006)
 - Different types of contact (Direct/indirect, structured/unstructured, extended/vicarious..?).

(Amichai-Hamburger et al., 2015; Vezzali et al., 2014)

Robotic telepresence

- History and current uses of robotic telepresence (Tsui et al., 2011).
 - Social robots: health, education, day-to-day communication
 - Industry robots: surgical, factory.
 - Examples from Japan and my MA.
- Terminology and the asymmetry of telepresence
Telepresence communication is by nature asymmetrical, in a sense that the experience of signal transmission is very different than that of reception. Transmission is mediated through a control interface but reception immediate in a shared physical space. Terminology:
 - Controller: controller of the robot.
 - Interlocutor: Person interacting with the robot.
- About the senses of presence, agency, and ownership.

– From my MA

- About intercorporeality

– From my MA

Robotic telepresence as a medium for contact

Mediatization of politics

- Mediatization of the lifeworld changes the nature of politics and political discussion (Hepp and Krotz, 2014; Thimm et al., 2014)

Online and virtual mediation

- Review of online and virtual contact attempts, advantages and disadvantages (Ho and McLeod, 2008; Sassenberg et al., 2005; Hasler and Amichai-Hamburger, 2013; Robinson, 2007; Hasler and Amichai-Hamburger, 2013; Postmes et al., 2001; Amichai-Hamburger and McKenna, 2006)
- Mention immersive environments

Telepresence as a midway

- On the controller side, telepresence provides the benefits of online communication: accessibility, anonymity, re-embodiment, along with disadvantages regarding the dis-association of ownership.
- On the interlocutor side there are some of the benefits of face-to-face conversation, intercorporeality

Intergroup power relations

Strategies of status

- Does the contact situation need to:
 - reflect existing power relations (to avoid subtyping)?
 - ‘normalize’ them, to increase friendship and reduce anxiety?
 - reverse the power relations for empowerment and empathy?

(Maoz, 2011; @ Shnabel and Nadler, 2008; Saguy et al., 2013)

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Different conformations of telepresence contact:

- * Person <-> Robot <-> Robot <-> Person
- * Person -> Robot <-> Person
- * Person, Person -> Robot
- * Person <-> Person with Robot.

Group salience: how to increase via telepresence robots?

Group markers via custom robot design.

- Include group-identifying markers in the robot design, or encourage group members to include them in their own custom design. (Suguitan and Hoffman, 2019)

Interaction content

- Anonymity vs self-disclosure? *Is the real person behind the robot is perceived as a prototypical palestinian or not and what is revealed about the person*
- Encourage conflict related interaction?

Emotional and personal connection with telepresence robots.

On the controller side: Reduction of anxiety via anonymity and imagery

- Same from online interaction (Hasler and Amichai-Hamburger, 2013; Postmes et al., 2001; Sassenberg et al., 2005).
- Addition of re-embodied avatar imagery
- Therapeutic material engagement if you make your own avatar (March, 2019; Sholt and Gavron, 2006)
- Bodily Expression

On the interlocutor side: Physical interaction and intimacy

- Touch and cognition (Influs et al., 2018; Feldman et al., 2014; Goodwin, 2017)
- Uncanny valley and anxiety (Mori et al., 2012)

Design considerations

Appearance: Human vs nonhuman

- More about the uncanny?

Materiality and movement

- Importance of movement (Hoffman and Ju, 2014)
- Soft robotics

The importance of feedback

- Audio and visual feedback for actions (Caldwell et al., 1994; Dolezal, 2009)

Autonomous vs controlled functions

- * AI and Augmentation vs Expressiveness and intentional.

Real-world conflict considerations

Empowerment via education in robotics

Legal and ethical considerations

Israel-Palestine test case

Conclusions

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