

Reading 2

Reading #2

Due: start of class on Wednesday 2/1

We will discuss the following 2 readings as a group:

Cassell, Justine. [Embodied Conversational Agents: Representation and Intelligence in User Interfaces](#). *AI magazine* 22.4 (2001): 67.

Simmons, Reid, et al. [Believable Robot Characters](#) *AI Magazine* 32.4 (2011): 39-52.

Additionally, the lecture content will draw from the following reading:

Mcgrath, E. [Methodology Matters: Doing Research in the Behavioral and Social Sciences](#). *Readings in Human-Computer Interaction: Toward the Year 2000* (2nd ed. 1995).

All three are required readings!

Before class:

1. Make a forum post that answers one (1) of the following questions:
- 2.
3.
 - What do you think about the FMBT model for ECAs? Does it provide useful guidance for robot developers? Is it complete or missing key elements?
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 - We have made many advances in natural language processing (NLP) since the "Believable Robot Characters" article was published. However, most modern conversational agents (Siri, Alexa, Google Home) do not make much use of either embodiment or the framework of "dramatic structure with rich backstory and evolving story line, verbal and nonverbal social behaviors, and believable culturally specific characters" (or maybe you'd argue that they do?). On the other hand, the [Jibo robot](#) represents a project that does strive to take advantage of such elements. How important do you think these elements are? Do you think the Jibo robot will be successful?
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4. Reply to one other person's forum post. For example, you might ask a question about their response, provide an answer to a question they raised, or raise further points of discussion.