

Bryce Monaco

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Dr. David Feil-Seifer

Dave is a professor whose research focuses on human robot interaction. He currently focuses on robots and their use in the social world where, instead of performing physical actions for humans, they function as ways to assist people in social situations. A major portion of his research is based around helping children with autism learn normal social cues. His research is very interesting because it covered many things which typical people are so used to that they do not realize it happening. He covered the process he took to create a dataset regarding how a robot should lead a person without making an action which would be considered rude or awkward. He had to perform multiple trials where he had pairs of people lead each other from one point in a room to another, he then converted that data to values, and then created a model which could be used to test whether or not a movement was rude or awkward.

I think Dave's research can impact me in many ways regarding social interactions. While I do not have autism, I have worked with students (as a teacher) who do have various forms of autism who I realized definitely had issues interacting with other students. I think tools like what Dave is working on would impact me by directly helping those students learn how to interact with their peers and understand various social norms. I can embrace this change by encouraging people to look into tools such as this, I can also work to pay more attention to social situations where interactions which seem normal to me might not be as obvious to those with issues picking up on social cues.