

# FETHİYE IRMAK DOĞAN

Postdoctoral Research Associate

University of Cambridge, UK

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<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	Advancing autonomous robots to understand, interact, and collaborate with people
<b>INTERESTS</b>	Human-Robot Interaction, Robot Learning, Explainability, Deep Learning
<b>EDUCATION</b>	<p><i>Ph.D. in Computer Science, KTH Royal Institute of Technology</i> 01.2018-03.2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <b>Thesis:</b> <a href="#">Robots That Understand Natural Language Instructions and Resolve Ambiguities</a></li><li>– <b>Thesis Advisor:</b> Assoc. Prof. <a href="#">Iolanda Leite</a></li><li>– <b>Thesis Committee:</b> Prof. <a href="#">David Traum</a> (Opponent, USC Institute for Creative Technologies), Assoc. Prof. <a href="#">Jean Oh</a> (Carnegie Mellon University), Assoc. Prof. <a href="#">Luísa Coheur</a> (University of Lisbon) &amp; Dr. <a href="#">Emmanuel Senft</a> (Idiap Research Institute)</li><li>– 61.0 ECTS credits in PhD-level courses (<math>\approx</math> one academic year; graded pass/fail basis)</li></ul> <p><i>M.Sc. in Computer Engineering, Middle East Technical University</i> 09.2015-01.2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <b>Thesis:</b> <a href="#">Hierarchical Incremental Context Modeling in Robots</a></li><li>– <b>Thesis Advisor:</b> Prof. <a href="#">Sinan Kalkan</a></li><li>– Graduated with High Honours degree - CGPA: 3.93/4.00</li></ul> <p><i>B.Sc. in Computer Engineering, Middle East Technical University</i> 09.2010-06.2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Graduated with Honours degree</li></ul>
<b>EMPLOYMENT AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE</b>	<p>Postdoctoral researcher at <a href="#">University of Cambridge, UK</a> 04.2024-present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <b>Topics:</b> Generating socially appropriate robot actions leveraging LLMs and explainability</li><li>– <b>Projects:</b> ARoEQ (UKRI project), Google GIG project &amp; MICRO (ESRC project)</li><li>– <b>Advisor:</b> Prof. <a href="#">Hatice Gunes</a>, Affective Intelligence and Robotics Laboratory (AFAR)</li><li>– <b>Outputs:</b> Publication <a href="#">J3</a>, <a href="#">C22</a>, <a href="#">C21</a>, <a href="#">C20</a>, <a href="#">C19</a>, <a href="#">C17</a>, <a href="#">C14</a></li></ul> <p>Postdoctoral researcher at <a href="#">KTH Royal Institute of Technology</a> 03.2023-04.2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <b>Topics:</b> Continual learning &amp; explainability for robots to assist people’s daily tasks</li><li>– <b>Project:</b> Partially involved in PerCorSo (WASP project)</li><li>– <b>Advisor:</b> Prof. <a href="#">Iolanda Leite</a>, Division of Robotics, Perception and Learning</li><li>– <b>Outputs:</b> Publication <a href="#">J4</a>, <a href="#">C16</a>, <a href="#">C15</a>, <a href="#">C13</a>, <a href="#">C12</a>, <a href="#">W6</a></li></ul> <p>Doctoral researcher at KTH (employed for 80% research, 20% teaching) 01.2018-03.2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <b>Topics:</b> Generating follow-up clarifications (either semantic or visual) for robots to resolve ambiguities in user instructions</li><li>– <b>Advisor:</b> Prof. <a href="#">Iolanda Leite</a>, Division of Robotics, Perception and Learning</li><li>– <b>Outputs:</b> Publication <a href="#">J2</a>, <a href="#">J1</a>, <a href="#">C18</a>, <a href="#">C11</a>, <a href="#">C10</a>, <a href="#">C9</a>, <a href="#">C8</a>, <a href="#">C7</a>, <a href="#">C6</a>, <a href="#">C3</a>, <a href="#">W5</a>, <a href="#">W4</a>, <a href="#">W3</a>, <a href="#">W2</a></li></ul> <p>Visiting scholar at <a href="#">Georgia Institute of Technology, USA</a> 11.2021-04.2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <b>Topics:</b> Developing a semantically-driven disambiguation method to handle ambiguous user requests with clarifying questions</li><li>– <b>Advisor:</b> Prof. <a href="#">Sonia Chernova</a>, Robot Autonomy and Interactive Learning (RAIL) Lab</li><li>– <b>Outputs:</b> Publication <a href="#">C18</a>, <a href="#">C11</a></li></ul> <p>Participating in <a href="#">Oxford Machine Learning Summer School</a> 07.2021-08.2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <b>Topics:</b> Selected to participate in the highly selective summer school (<math>\sim</math> 15% acceptance rate) for best-in-class training on machine learning and deep learning</li></ul> <p>Participating in <a href="#">Amazon Alexa Prize, KTH Fantom Team</a> 02.2018-08.2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <b>Topics:</b> Through a highly competitive process, selected as one of the teams to create a social bot for Amazon Alexa (<math>\sim</math> 4% acceptance rate)</li><li>– <b>Advisor:</b> Prof. <a href="#">Gabriel Skantze</a>, Division of Speech, Music and Hearing</li><li>– <b>Outputs:</b> Publication <a href="#">C6</a>, <a href="#">C3</a></li></ul> <p>Researcher at <a href="#">Middle East Technical University, Turkey</a> 09.2015-01.2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <b>Topics:</b> Incremental context modelling for robots in real-world environments</li><li>– <b>Project:</b> Context in Robots (TUBITAK project)</li><li>– <b>Advisor:</b> Prof. <a href="#">Sinan Kalkan</a>, Kovan Robotics Lab</li><li>– <b>Outputs:</b> Publication <a href="#">C5</a>, <a href="#">C4</a>, <a href="#">C1</a>, <a href="#">W1</a>, <a href="#">T1</a></li></ul>

- Senior Design Project at Middle East Technical University* 09.2014-06.2015
- **Topics:** 3D animation of fMRI data to visualise the cognitive processes in the brain
  - **Advisor:** Prof. [Fatos Tunay Yarman Vural](#), ImageLab
  - **Outputs:** Publication [C2](#)
- Research intern at [University of Southern Denmark](#)* 06.2014-09.2014
- **Topics:** A plugin providing a GUI for automated calibration of UR robot arms
  - **Advisor:** Prof. [Norbert Krueger](#), SDU Robotics
- Research intern at Middle East Technical University* 06.2013-09.2013
- **Topics:** Visualising the 2D and 3D representations of the iCub robot's vision
  - **Advisor:** Prof. [Sinan Kalkan](#), Kovan Robotics Lab
- Part time software developer at [Özgür Yazılım Company](#)* 02.2013-06.2013
- **Topics:** Taking a role in the development of the Tekir Accounting Program

## HONORS AND AWARDS

- **Outstanding Women in Robotics & Automation Paper Award** Finalist 2025  
Topic: Top 3 Finalist for Early Career Contribution Award (Publication [C19](#))  
Awarded by: IEEE International Conference on Robotics & Automation (ICRA)
- **KROS Interdisciplinary Research Award in Social HRI** 2025  
Topic: “Robot-Led VLM Wellbeing Assessment of Children” (Publication [C17](#))  
Awarded by: IEEE Int. Conf. on Robot and Human Interactive Communication (RO-MAN)
- **IEEE Best Paper Award** and **IEEE Best Student Paper Award** Finalist 2025  
Topic: Top 3 Finalist for both award categories (Publication [C17](#))  
Awarded by: IEEE Int. Conf. on Robot and Human Interactive Communication (RO-MAN)
- **Future Digileader**, Digitalize in Stockholm Conference 2025  
Topic: The event brings together selected global research leaders and rising stars working to drive digital transformation across academia, industry, government, and civil society  
Awarded by: [Digital Futures Research Center](#), KTH Royal Institute of Technology
- **Seal of Excellence Project Proposal Award** 2025  
Topic: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship for top applicants above 85% score  
Awarded by: European Commission  
Project: “Socially Appropriate and Adaptive Robot Behaviour (SAARO)”
- Special Recognition for Outstanding Reviews 2024  
Awarded by: ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction
- Research Associate at [Darwin College](#) 2024  
Topic: Competitive selection process based on research excellence and academic merit  
Awarded by: Darwin College, University of Cambridge
- **DAAD AInet Fellowship** 2022  
Topic: Research fellowship for outstanding early-career researchers in AI and robotics  
Awarded by: German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
- **RSS Pioneers**, Robotics: Science and Systems 2021  
Topic: Pioneers award that gathers the world's top early-career researchers in robotics  
Awarded by: Robotics: Science and Systems (Publication [W5](#))
- **Honourable mention paper award**, ACM CUI 2019  
Topic: “Crowdsourcing a self-evolving dialog graph” (Publication [C6](#))  
Awarded by: ACM Conference on Conversational User Interfaces (CUI)
- High honour certificates (Spring 2014-2015, Fall 2014-2015, Spring 2013-2014, Fall 2013-2014) & honour certificate (Spring 2012-2013)  
Awarded by: Middle East Technical University

## GRANTS AND FUNDS

- Contributor to the **School of Technology Seed Fund Grant** 2024  
**Awarded by:** University of Cambridge  
**Project:** “Can social robots help for mediation and advocacy for students with disabilities?”  
**Budget:** £10.000 GBP
- Travel grant from ACL Annual Conference of NAACL-HLT 2019  
**Awarded by:** North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics  
**Budget:** \$500 USD
- Travel grant from IEEE ICRA 2018  
**Awarded by:** IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation  
**Budget:** \$1137.15 USD
- Travel grant from IEEE/RSJ IROS 2018  
**Awarded by:** IEEE International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems  
**Budget:** Up to €500.00 EUR

## INVITED TALKS

- Title:** “*Shaping Robot Behaviour through Explanations and Expectations in HRI*”
- **Keynote speaker on Robo-Identity Workshop**, IEEE RO-MAN 2025
- Title:** “*Autonomous and Explainable Robots in Human Environments*”
- **Keynote speaker on CHIA Early Career Conference** 2025
  - Seminar talk at the **Designing Intelligence Lab**, Delft University of Technology 2025
  - **Interaction Division Colloquium**, Utrecht University 2025
  - **Science seminar**, Darwin College, University of Cambridge 2025
- Title:** “*Robots That Understand Natural Language Instructions and Resolve Ambiguities*”
- **Google DeepMind Research Ready Program**, University of Cambridge 2024
  - **Talking Robotics**, a series of seminars about Robotics and AI 2021
  - **Oxford Machine Learning Summer School**, Unconference Track 2021
  - Seminar talk at **RAIL Research Lab**, Georgia Institute of Technology 2021
  - Seminar talk at **Image Lab**, Middle East Technical University 2021

## SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS

### Journal Articles

- J4* E. Yadollahi\*, **F. I. Doğan\***, Y. Zhang, B. Nogueira, T. Guerreiro, S. Levy-Tzedek, and I. Leite, ‘Expectations, Explanations, and Embodiment: Attempts at Robot Failure Recovery’. (under review for *Int. Journal of Human-Computer Studies*)
- J3* W. Tang, **F. I. Doğan**, L. Qing, H. Gunes, ‘AsyReC: A Multimodal Graph-based Framework for Spatio-Temporal Asymmetric Dyadic Relationship Classification’, *IEEE Transactions on Circuits and Systems for Video Technology*.
- J2* **F. I. Doğan**, G. I. Melsión, and I. Leite, ‘Leveraging Explainability for Understanding Object Descriptions in Ambiguous 3D Environments’, *Frontiers in Robotics and AI*, Volume 9, p. 937772, 2023.
- J1* **F. I. Doğan**, S. Gillet, E. J. Carter, and I. Leite, ‘The Impact of Adding Perspective-Taking to Spatial Referencing during Human-Robot Interaction’, *Robotics and Autonomous Systems (RAS)*, Volume 134, p. 103654, 2020.

### Refereed Conference Publications

- C22* **F. I. Doğan**, G. Laban, and H. Gunes, ‘A Theoretical and Computational Framework for Aligning Verbal and Nonverbal Expressive Robot Behaviours’, *Under review for ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI) 2026*.
- C21* J. Huang, **F. I. Doğan**, and H. Gunes, ‘Reimagining Social Robots as Recommender Systems: Foundations, Framework, and Applications’, *Under review for ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI) 2026*.

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\* Equal Contribution

- C20 A. Markelius, **F. I. Doğan**, J. Bailey, G. Laban, J. L. Laban, and H. Gunes, ‘Social Robotics for Disabled Students: An Empirical Investigation of Embodiment, Roles and Interaction’, *Under review for ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI) 2026*.
- C19 **F. I. Doğan**, U. Ozturk, G. Cinar, and H. Gunes, ‘GRACE: Generating Socially Appropriate Robot Actions Leveraging LLMs and Human Explanations’, *Proceedings of IEEE Int. Conf. on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, pp. 4330-4336, 2025.
- C18 **F. I. Doğan**, M. Patel, W. Liu, I. Leite, and S. Chernova, ‘A Model-Agnostic Approach for Semantically Driven Disambiguation in Human-Robot Interaction’, *Proceedings of IEEE International Conference on Robot and Human Interactive Communication (RO-MAN)*, 2025.
- C17 N. I. Abbasi\*, **F. I. Dogan\***, G. Laban\*, J. Anderson, T. Ford, P. B. Jones, H. Gunes, ‘Robot-Led Vision Language Model Wellbeing Assessment of Children’, *Proceedings of IEEE International Conference on Robot and Human Interactive Communication (RO-MAN)*, 2025.
- C16 A. Leszczynski, S. Gillet, I. Leite, and **F. I. Dogan**, ‘BT-ACTION: A Test-Driven Approach for Modular Understanding of User Instruction Leveraging Behaviour Trees and LLMs’, *Proceedings of IEEE International Conference on Robot and Human Interactive Communication (RO-MAN)*, 2025.
- C15 E. Bartoli, **F. I. Doğan**, and I. Leite ‘STREAK: Streaming Network for Continual Learning of Object Relocations under Household Context Drifts’, *Proceedings of IEEE Int. Conf. on Robot and Human Interactive Comm. (RO-MAN)*, 2025.
- C14 E. Yadollahi, **F. I. Doğan**, M. Romeo, D. Kontogiorgos, P. Qian, and Y. Zhang, ‘3rd Workshop on Explainability in Human-Robot Collaboration: Real-World Concerns’, *Proceedings of ACM/IEEE HRI*, pp. 1994–1996, 2025.
- C13 G. Hadjiantonis, S. Gillet, M. Vázquez, I. Leite, and **F. I. Doğan**, ‘Let’s move on: Topic Change in Robot-Facilitated Group Discussions’, *Proceedings of IEEE Int. Conf. on Robot and Human Interactive Comm. (RO-MAN)*, pp. 2087-2094, 2024.
- C12 E. Yadollahi, M. Romeo, **F. I. Doğan**, W. Johal, M. D. Graaf, S. Levy-Tzedek and I. Leite, ‘Explainability for Human-Robot Collaboration,’ *Companion of ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI)*, pp. 1364-1366, 2024.
- C11 M. Pattel\*, **F. I. Doğan\***, Z. Zeng, K. Baraka, and S. Chernova, ‘Semantic Scene Understanding for Human-Robot Interaction’, *Companion of ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI)*, pp. 941 - 943, 2023.
- C10 **F. I. Doğan**, I. Torre, and I. Leite, ‘Asking Follow-Up Clarifications to Resolve Ambiguities in Human-Robot Conversation’, *Proceedings of ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI)*, pp. 461-469, 2022.
- C9 M. Iovino, **F. I. Doğan**, I. Leite, and C. Smith, ‘Interactive Disambiguation for Behavior Tree Execution’, *Proceedings of IEEE International Conference on Humanoid Robots (Humanoids)*, pp. 82-89, 2022.
- C8 A Panesar, **F. I. Doğan**, and I. Leite, ‘Improving Visual Question Answering by Leveraging Depth and Adapting Explainability’, *Proceedings of IEEE Int. Conf. on Robot and Human Interactive Communication (RO-MAN)*, pp. 252-259, 2022.
- C7 **F. I. Doğan**, S. Kalkan, and I. Leite, ‘Learning to Generate Unambiguous Spatial Referring Expressions for Real-World Environments’, *Proceedings of IEEE/RSJ International Conf. on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS)*, pp. 4992-4999, 2019.
- C6 P. Jonell, P. Fallgren, **F. I. Doğan**, J. Lopes, U. Wennberg, and G. Skantze, ‘Crowdsourcing a self-evolving dialog graph’, *Proceedings of the ACM International Conference on Conversational User Interfaces (CUI)*, pp. 1-8, 2019.
- C5 **F. I. Doğan\***, İ. Bozcan\*, M. Celik, and S. Kalkan, ‘Cinet: A learning based approach to incremental context modeling in robots’, *Proceedings of IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS)*, pp. 4641-4646, 2018.

- C4 **F. I. Doğan**, H. Çelikkanat, and S. Kalkan, ‘A Deep Incremental Boltzmann Machine for Modeling Context in Robots’, *Proceedings of IEEE ICRA*, pp. 2411-2416, 2018.
- C3 P. Jonell, M. Bystedt, **F. I. Doğan**, P. Fallgren, J. Ivarsson, M. Slukova, U. Wennberg, J. Lopes, J. Boye, and G. Skantze, ‘Fantom: A crowdsourced social chatbot using an evolving dialog graph’, *Proceedings of Alexa Prize SocialBot Grand Challenge*, 2018.
- C2 O. Yıldız, **F. I. Doğan**, İ. Öztekin, E. Mızrak, and F. T. Y. Vural, ‘A robust normalization method for fMRI data for brain decoding’, *Proceedings of IEEE Signal Processing and Communication Application Conference (SIU)*, pp. 2269-2272, 2016.
- C1 **F. I. Doğan**, S. Kalkan, ‘The Hierarchical Nature of Context’, *Turkey Robotics Conference (ToRK)*, 2016. (written in Turkish)

#### Refereed Workshop Contributions

- W6 E. Bartoli, **F. I. Doğan**, and I. Leite, ‘Contextualized Knowledge Graph Embeddings for Activity Prediction in Service Robotics’, *Workshop on SSU for HRI*, HRI 2023.
- W5 **F. I. Doğan**, ‘Social Robots That Understand Natural Language Instructions and Resolve Ambiguities’, *RSS Pioneers Workshop*, RSS 2021.
- W4 I. Torre, **F. I. Doğan**, and D. Kontogiorgos, ‘Voice, Embodiment, and Autonomy as Identity Affordances’, *Workshop on Robo-Identity*, HRI 2021.
- W3 **F. I. Doğan**, and I. Leite, ‘Open Challenges on Generating Referring Expressions for Human-Robot Interaction’, *Workshop on NLG for HRI*, INLG 2020.
- W2 **F. I. Doğan**, S. Kalkan, and I. Leite, ‘Learning to Generate Unambiguous Spatial Referring Expressions for Real-World Environments’, *SpLU-RoboNLP Workshop*, Annual Conference of the North American Chapter of ACL (NAACL-HLT), 2019.
- W1 **F. I. Doğan**, H. Çelikkanat, I. Bozcan, and S. Kalkan, ‘Learning to Increment A Contextual Model’, *Workshop on Continual Learning*, NeurIPS 2018.

#### POSTERS AND DEMOS

- AI-CARING Symposium 2022
- Invited demo on SIGDIAL Conference 2019
- SpLU-RoboNLP Workshop at the NAACL-HLT Conference 2019
- SoRos Workshop 2018 and 2019
- Amazon Alexa Prize Summit 2018

#### TEACHING

- Guest Lecture in the Affective AI Course, University of Cambridge* 11.2024
- **Provided Lecture:** “Explainability for Social/Affective AI”
  - **Course:** L344 Affective Artificial Intelligence
  - **Course level:** MPhil in Advanced CS and Part III (9-month taught master’s course)
  - **# of students registered:** 24 students
- Teaching Assistant at Interaction Design, University of Cambridge* 04.2024-06.2024
- **Role:** Group project supervision for user-centred interaction design
  - **Course:** Interaction Design
  - **Course level:** Part IA CST (first year undergraduate in Computer Science)
  - **# of students registered:** more than 100
- Lecturer at Social Robotics Course, KTH* 10.2023-01.2024
- **Provided Lectures:** “Perception of human social signals”, “Dialogues, verbal/non verbal communication”, “Social Learning for robots” & “Explainability & Theory of Mind in HRI”
  - **Role:** Lectures, robotics tutorial, and group project supervision for social robot interaction
  - **Course:** DD2413 Social Robotics
  - **Course level:** MS students in Computer Science and Engineering programs
  - **# of students registered:** 34 students
- Teaching Assistant at Machine Learning Course, KTH* 01.2019-03.2022
- **Role:** Lab assignment support and examination on traditional ML methods (Bayes Classifiers and Boosting, Support Vector Machines, Decision Trees)
  - **Course:** DD2421 Machine Learning, 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022 (offered twice per year)
  - **Course level:** MS students in Computer Science and Engineering programs



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– # of students registered: more than 300 students per semester</li> </ul>	
	Teaching Assistant at C programming language course, METU	02.2014-06.2014
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Role: Lab examination support on C programming language course</li> <li>– Course: CENG140 C programming</li> <li>– Course level: BS students in Engineering programs</li> <li>– # of students registered: more than 300 students</li> </ul>	
SUPERVISION	PhD Students	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Massimiliano Nigro (visiting student at Cambridge) 2025-present  Program &amp; Home Institution: PhD student in Computer Science, Politecnico di Milano  Project: Robot-led group discussion, context and referee prediction  Role: Project co-supervisor</li> <li>– Wang Tang (visiting student at Cambridge) 2024-present  Program &amp; Home Institution: PhD candidate in Computer Science, Sichuan University  Project: Asymmetric dyadic relationship classification  Role: Project co-supervisor (Publication <a href="#">J4</a>)</li> <li>– Ermanno Bartoli 2023-2024  Program &amp; Institution: PhD student in Computer Science, KTH Royal Institute of Tech.  Project: Continual learning for dynamic object location changes in household setups  Role: Project co-supervisor (Publications <a href="#">C15</a> and <a href="#">W6</a>)</li> <li>– Anna Deichler 2023-2024  Program &amp; Institution: PhD student in Computer Science, KTH Royal Institute of Tech.  Project: Multimodal dataset gathering for referential referring expressions in VR  Role: Project co-mentor</li> </ul>	
	MS Students	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Rafal Karpiński (visiting student at Cambridge) 2024-present  Program &amp; Home Institution: MS student in Computer Science, Utrecht University  Thesis: Continual learning for socially appropriate robot actions in home and office contexts  Role: MS thesis supervisor</li> <li>– Jeshur Joshua (visiting student at Cambridge) 2024-2025  Program &amp; Home Institution: MS in Computer Science, Vellore Institute of Technology  Project: Unsupervised clustering of user nonverbal cues in journaling sessions  Role: Project co-supervisor</li> <li>– Alexander Leszczynski 2024-2025  Program &amp; Institution: MS in Computer Science, KTH Royal Institute of Technology  Thesis: Leveraging LLMs and Behavior Trees for Understanding User Instructions  Role: MS thesis supervisor (Publication <a href="#">C16</a>, senior author)</li> <li>– Aiman Shenawa 2024-2025  Program &amp; Institution: MS in Computer Science, KTH Royal Institute of Technology  Thesis: Task specific evaluation of LLMs: A study for human-robot interaction  Role: MS thesis supervisor</li> <li>– Georgios Hadjiantonis 2023-2024  Program &amp; Institution: MS in Computer Science, KTH Royal Institute of Technology  Thesis: ML for topic change in robot-moderated discussions using non-verbal features  Role: MS thesis supervisor (Publication <a href="#">C13</a>, senior author)</li> <li>– Amrita Panesar 2021-2022  Program &amp; Institution: MS in Computer Science, KTH Royal Institute of Technology  Thesis: Improving visual question answering with depth and adapting explainability  Role: MS thesis supervisor (Publication <a href="#">C8</a>)</li> <li>– Aswin Gururaj Prakash 2022  Program &amp; Institution: MS in Computer Science, Georgia Institute of Technology  Project: Fusing semantic object understanding to the robot's semantic mapping  Role: Project co-supervisor</li> <li>– Jiaming Huang 2022  Program &amp; Institution: MS in Computer Science, KTH Royal Institute of Technology</li> </ul>	

**Project:** Concise unambiguous referring expression generation to handle uncertain requests  
**Role:** Robotics project course supervisor

- Shipra Jain 2019  
**Program & Institution:** MS in Computer Science, KTH Royal Institute of Technology  
**Project:** Referring Expression generation for human-robot interaction  
**Role:** Robotics project course supervisor

### *BS Students*

- Rahma Elsheikh (visiting student at Cambridge) 2024-present  
**Program & Home Institution:** BS in Math & Computer Science, Princeton University  
**Thesis:** Approaching Equalized Odds by Actively Forgetting in Deep-Learning Models  
**Role:** Senior thesis supervisor
- Kajal Patel (visiting student at Cambridge) 2025-present  
**Program & Home Institution:** BS in CS, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
**Project:** Explanation generation for inter-model communication of generative models  
**Role:** Project supervisor
- Yuval Weiss 2025-present  
**Program & Institution:** BS in Computer Science, University of Cambridge  
**Project:** Bias detection for inter-model communication of generative models  
**Role:** Affective AI course project supervisor
- Yasaswi Malladi 2025-present  
**Program & Institution:** BS in Computer Science, University of Cambridge  
**Project:** Generating animation of MannersDB+ scenes in Unity  
**Role:** Project supervisor
- Lara Horne 2025  
**Program & Institution:** BS in Computer Science, University of Cambridge  
**Project:** Human activity detection and generating explanations  
**Role:** Part II project supervisor
- Sujith Sai (visiting student at Cambridge) 2025  
**Program & Home Institution:** BS in Chemical Eng., Rourkela National Institute of Tech.  
**Project:** ML methods for children’s wellbeing assessment in robot-led discussions  
**Role:** Project co-supervisor
- Zeynep Altundal (visiting student at Cambridge) 2025  
**Program & Home Institution:** BS in Computer Engineering, Sabanci University  
**Project:** MannersDB+ dataset annotation examination and correction  
**Role:** Project supervisor
- Umut Ozyurt (visiting student at Cambridge) 2024  
**Program & Home Institution:** BS in Computer Engineering, Middle East Tech. University  
**Project:** Uncertainty detection for social appropriateness of robot actions  
**Role:** Project supervisor (Publication [C19](#))
- Gizem Cinar (visiting student at Cambridge) 2024  
**Program & Home Institution:** BS in Psychology, Bilkent University  
**Project:** User explanation categorisation of MannersDB+ dataset  
**Role:** Project supervisor (Publication [C19](#))
- Yifei Shi (Google DeepMind intern at Cambridge) 2024  
**Program & Home Institution:** BS in Computer Science, King’s College London  
**Project:** End-to-end detection of interaction ruptures and Grad-CAM explanations  
**Role:** Project supervisor

### *Research Engineers*

- Alex Sleat 2023  
**Institution:** KTH Royal Institute of Technology  
**Project:** MTurk setup for dataset collection using Matterport 3D home scan videos  
**Role:** Project supervisor
- Rasmus Rudling 2021  
**Institution:** KTH Royal Institute of Technology

**Project:** System deployment (asking follow-up clarifications) to the Pepper robot

**Role:** Project supervisor

– Shreya Kohli

2020

**Institution:** KTH Royal Institute of Technology

**Project:** Deploying Grad-CAM explainability activations to AI Habitat platform

**Role:** Project supervisor

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

### *Editorial Role*

- Associate Editor, *IEEE ICRA*, Robot Learning Track, 2026
- Associate Editor, *IEEE Robotics and Auto. Letters (RA-L)*, HRI Track, 2025-present

### *Conference Organization Committee & Chairing*

- Conference Chair, Oxbridge Conference, University of Oxford, 2026
- Chair of Human-Robot Interaction Session at IEEE ICRA 2025

### *Workshop Organisation Committee & Chairing*

- Robotics and Embodied Intelligence Workshop, CHIA, University of Cambridge, 2025
- Workshop on Expl. in Human-Robot Collaboration: Real-World Concerns, HRI 2025
- Workshop on Explainability for Human-Robot Collaboration, HRI 2024
- Workshop on Semantic Scene Understanding for Human-Robot Interaction, HRI 2023
- Workshop on HRI for Explainable Robotics, RO-MAN 2023
- RSS Pioneers Workshop, Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS), 2022

### *Program Committee*

- European Conference on Artificial Intelligence (ECAI), 2025
- International Conference on Multimodal Interaction (ICMI), 2024
- Affective Computing and Intelligent Interaction Conference (ACII), 2024
- Towards Autonomous Robotic Systems Conference (TAROS), 2021
- SpLU-RoboNLP Workshop, 2021 and 2023

### *Journal Article Referee*

- Frontiers in Robotics and AI
- IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters (RA-L)
- Autonomous Robots (AURO)
- User Modeling and User-Adapted Interaction (UMUAI)

### *Conference Paper Referee*

- Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS)
- Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL)
- IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)
- ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI)
- IEEE International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS)
- IEEE/CVF Winter Conference on Applications of Computer Vision (WACV)
- ACM International Conference on Multimedia (ACMMM)
- ACM International Conference on Multimodal Interaction (ICMI)
- IEEE International Conf. on Robot & Human Interactive Communication (RO-MAN)
- IEEE Signal Processing and Communication Application Conference (SIU)
- Turkey Robotics Conference (ToRK)

### *Student Volunteer*

- ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI), 2022
- Int. Conf. on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS), 2018



## **SELECTED OUTREACH**

- Featured in **BBC Click by Spencer Kelly** for his 1000th and final episode, 2025
- **Human Machine Interaction Research Showcase**, University of Cambridge, 2025
- **Sutton Trust Summer School Lecture**, University of Cambridge, 2025
- **Physics at Work Exhibition**, University of Cambridge, 2025
- **HE+ Hampshire Lecture**, Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge 2025
- **Trinity Hall Science Open Day**, University of Cambridge 2025
- **Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research (SSF)**, 2023
- **KTH School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Lab Tours**, 2023
- **Atlanta Science Festival**, Georgia Tech Science and Engineering Day, 2022
- Featured in a documentary on **Sveriges Television (SVT)**, 2020
- **Sweden's Minister for Higher Edu. and Research (Matilda Ernkrans)**, 2019
- **Robots Exhibition at the Swedish Tekniska Museum**, 2019
- **Giants event for female and non-binary high school students**, 2018
- **Live broadcast on national TV (Kanal B)** on image processing and AI, 2017
- **European Researchers' Night event for high school students**, 2016

## **EXTRA- CURRICULAR**

- Member of **Women@CL Committee**, University of Cambridge (2025-present)
- Member of the **Dept. Research Staff Forum**, University of Cambridge (2024-present)
- **Theater** (played in private theatres for 8 years and 5 plays)
- **Computer Engineers' Association** board member, 2016-2018
- **Student Delegate Committee** member at Middle East Technical University, 2010-2011