

# Emmanuel Senft

*Curriculum Vitae, January 2023*

Idiap Research Institute

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[OrCID](#) [Google Scholar](#)

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## RESEARCH MISSION

To explore the interface of robots and their users, with a focus on creating robots that are beneficial, usable, and acceptable by the general population.

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## EMPLOYMENT

- Sep. 2022 – **Research Scientist**, *Head of the cross-research group: Human-centered Robotics and current AI*, Idiap Research Institute, Martigny, Switzerland.
- Oct. 2019 – **Research Associate**, *People and Robots Lab*, University of Wisconsin–Madison, USA, Aug. 2022  
Advisors: Prof. Bilge Mutlu and Prof. Michael Gleicher.
- Jun. 2019 – **Cooperate Researcher**, *JSPS Summer program, IRC - ATR*, Japan, Advisor: Prof. Takayuki Kanda.  
Aug. 2019
- Jan. 2019 – **Research Fellow**, *University of Plymouth*, UK, Advisor: Prof. Tony Belpaeme (part-time).  
Mar. 2019
- Jan. 2018 – **Research Assistant**, *University of Plymouth*, UK, Advisor: Prof. Tony Belpaeme.  
Dec. 2018

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## EDUCATION

- Oct. 2014 – **PhD**, *University of Plymouth*, UK, *Teaching Robots Social Autonomy From In Situ Human Supervision*, Viva Voce: 23.10.2018.  
Supervisory team: Prof. Tony Belpaeme, Prof. Paul Baxter, and Prof. Séverin Lemaignan.
- Sep. 2011 – **Master of Science in Microengineering**, *EPFL (École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne)*, Switzerland, with Minor in Area and Cultural Studies.  
Aug. 2013  
*Master thesis with Prof. Auke J. Ijspeert.*
- Sep. 2008 – **Bachelor of Science in Microengineering**, *EPFL (École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne)*, Switzerland.  
Aug. 2011

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## SUPERVISION

**Graduate Students:** During my Postdoctoral research, I have been supervising the following Master and PhD Students: Michael Hagenow, Laura Stegner, Kevin Welsh, Anna Konstant, Pragathi Praveena, and Prajna Bhat.

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## TEACHING ACTIVITIES

Practical ROCO 318 - Mobile and Humanoid Robots at the University of Plymouth, *Demonstrator* (2015–2017). I organized practical works to allow students to explore walking with real biped robots, with robots developed at the university and the Nao robot.

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## SCIENTIFIC REVIEWING ACTIVITIES

### EDITORIAL WORK

ACM Transactions on Human-Robot Interaction, *Guest Editor*  
Frontiers in Robotics and AI, *Guest Editor*  
HRI 2022, *PC Member*  
AAMAS 2019, *PC Member*

## REFeree SERVICE

### **Journals**

Scientific Reports  
Frontiers in Robotics and AI  
Robotics and Automation Letters  
Journal of Human-Robot Interaction  
IEEE Transactions in Human-Robot Interaction  
International Journal of Social Robotics  
Mechatronics  
Intelligent Service Robotics  
Interaction Studies  
Behaviour and Interaction Technology

### **Conferences**

ACM/IEEE Human-Robot Interaction Conference (HRI)  
Robotics: Science and Systems Conference (RSS)  
IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)  
IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS)  
IEEE-RAS Conference on Humanoid Robots  
International Conference on Social Robotics (ICSR)  
IEEE International Conference on Development and Learning and Epigenetic Robotics (ICDL-EpiRob)  
International Conference on Human-Agent Interaction (HAI)  
Towards Autonomous Robotic Systems Conference (TAROS)  
IEEE International Symposium on Robot-Human Interactive Communication (Ro-Man)

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## EVENT ORGANIZATION

Wisconsin Robotics Seminar Series, *Organizer*  
HRI Workshop - Test Methods and Metrics for Accessible HRI (2023), *Organizer*  
HRI Workshop - Participatory Design and End-User Programming for Human-Robot Interaction (2022), *Organizer*  
HRI Workshop - Robots in Therapy and Care (2019), *Organizer*  
AAAI Symposium - AI-HRI (2017-current), *Chair / Program Chair / Organizer*

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## AWARD

- 2019 **Queen Mary UK Best PhD in Robotics Award**: Second position.
- 2019 **JSPS Summer Fellowship** for the project *Socially-Appropriate Behaviour for an Omni-based Social Robot in Narrow Environment*, with Prof. Takayuki Kanda at ATR, Japan.

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## INVITED TALKS and PRESENTATIONS

- 2022 **HRI Laboratory - Kyoto University** (Kyoto, Japan)  
**HRI Class - Colorado School of Mines** (online)  
**Naver Labs** (Grenoble, France)
- 2021 **NASA Transformative Aeronautics Concepts Program (TACP) Showcase** (online)  
**IROHMS - Cardiff** (online)
- 2020 **HRI Lab - University of Chicago** (online)
- 2019 **CHILI Lab - EPFL** (Lausanne, Switzerland)  
**Robot Learning and Interaction Lab - Idiap** (Martigny, Switzerland)

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## PRESS COVERAGE

- 2020 **Financial Times.** Opinion sought for *“How AI eases teachers’ heavy workloads”*.  
**Teacher Magazine.** Interview for and research covered in *“Using robots to assist teachers and improve student learning”*.
- 2019 **Financial Times.** Interview for and research covered in *“Robot trained to be useful teaching assistant in three hours”*.  
**The Telegraph.** Research covered in *“British schools test ‘robot teachers’ to tackle staff shortage”*.

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## COLLABORATIONS

### EDUCATION

Local schools (Plymouth, UK). Developing and evaluating robot tutoring solutions.

### HEALTHCARE

Therapists (Babeş-Bolyai University, Roumania), industry (Softbank Robotics EU) and academics in EU FP7 project. Developing therapy-driven robotic technologies for children with ASD.

Clinicians and hospital staff (Fundacion Cardioinfantil, Bogota, Colombia) and academics. Socially assistive robots for cardiac rehabilitation.

### MANUFACTURING

The Boeing Company, NASA, and academics in a NASA ULI project. Designing robot platforms for collaborative aircraft manufacturing.

### TELEVISION

Channel 4 (UK). Designing a teleoperation interface for the Pepper robot for the show: The Secret Life of 4 and 5 Year Olds.

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## CAREER BREAKS

- Feb. 2019 – **Intensive Chinese language classes, Sichuan University, Chengdu, China.**  
May 2019

## PUBLICATIONS

### Journals

- 2022 **Personalised Socially Assistive Robot for Cardiac Rehabilitation: Critical Reflections on Long-Term Interactions in the Real World.**  
B. Irfan, N. Céspedes, J. Casas, **E. Senft**, L.F. Gutiérrez, M. Rincon-Roncancio, C.A. Cifuentes, T. Belpaeme, and M. Múnera  
User Modeling and User-Adapted Interaction.
- Manually Acquiring Targets From Multiple Viewpoints Using Video Feedback.**  
B. Ramesh, A. Konstant, P. Praveena, **E. Senft**, M. Gleicher, B. Mutlu, M. Zinn, and R. Radwin  
Human Factors.
- 2021 **Task-Level Authoring for Remote Robot Teleoperation.**  
**E. Senft**, M. Hagenow, K. Welsh, R. Radwin, M. Zinn, M. Gleicher, and B. Mutlu  
Frontiers in Robotics and AI.
- LEADOR: A Method for End-to-End Participatory Design of Autonomous Social Robot.**  
**E. Senft**, K. Winkle, and S. Lemaignan  
Frontiers in Robotics and AI.
- Informing Real-Time Corrections in Corrective Shared Autonomy Through Expert Demonstrations.**  
M. Hagenow, **E. Senft**, R. Radwin, M. Gleicher, B. Mutlu, and M. Zinn  
IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters 6 (4), 6442-6449.
- Corrective Shared Autonomy for Addressing Task Variability.**  
M. Hagenow, **E. Senft**, R. Radwin, M. Gleicher, B. Mutlu, and M. Zinn  
IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters 6 (2), 3720-3727.
- A Socially Assistive Robot for Long-Term Cardiac Rehabilitation in the Real World.**  
N. Céspedes, B. Irfan, **E. Senft**, C.A. Cifuentes, L.F. Gutiérrez, M. Rincon-Roncancio, T. Belpaeme, and M. Múnera  
Frontiers in Neurorobotics 15, 21.
- Assessing Limited Visibility Feedback for Overhead Manufacturing Assembly Tasks.**  
P. Bhat, **E. Senft**, M. Zinn, M. Gleicher, B. Mutlu, R. Cook, and R. Radwin  
Applied Ergonomics.
- 2020 **Social Assistive Robots: Assessing the Impact of a Training Assistant Robot in Cardiac Rehabilitation.**  
J. Casas, **E. Senft**, L.F. Gutiérrez, M. Rincon-Roncancio, M. Múnera, T. Belpaeme, and C.A. Cifuentes  
International Journal of Social Robotics.
- The DREAM Dataset: Supporting a Data-Driven Study of Autism Spectrum Disorder and Robot Enhanced Therapy.**  
E. Billing, ... , **E. Senft**, ... , and T. Ziemke  
PloS one 15 (8), e0236939.
- 2019 **Teaching Robots Social Autonomy From in Situ Human Guidance.**  
**E. Senft**, S. Lemaignan, P. Baxter, and T. Belpaeme  
Science Robotics 4 (35).
- Generating Spatial Referring Expressions in a Social Robot: Dynamic vs Non-Ambiguous.**  
C.D. Wallbridge, S. Lemaignan, **E. Senft**, and T. Belpaeme  
Frontiers in Robotics and AI 6 (2019): 67.

- Robot-Enhanced Therapy: Developing and Validating a Supervised Autonomous Robotic System for Autism Spectrum Disorders Therapy.**  
H.L. Cao, ... , **E. Senft**, ... , and T. Ziemke  
EEE Robotics & Automation Magazine, vol. 26, no. 2.
- 2018 **The PInSoRo dataset: Supporting the Data-Driven Study of Child-Child and Child-Robot Social Dynamics.**  
S. Lemaignan, C. Edmunds, **E. Senft**, and T. Belpaeme  
PloS one 13 (10), e0205999.
- A Personalized and Platform-Independent Behavior Control System for Social Robots in Therapy: Development and Applications.**  
H.L. Cao, G. Van de Perre, J. Kennedy, **E. Senft**, P.G. Esteban, A. De Beir, R. Simut, T. Belpaeme, D. Lefebvre, and B. Vanderborght  
IEEE Transactions on Cognitive and Developmental Systems 11 (3).
- 2017 **Supervised Autonomy for Online Learning in Human-Robot Interaction.**  
**E. Senft**, P. Baxter, J. Kennedy, S. Lemaignan, and T. Belpaeme  
Pattern Recognition Letters.
- How to Build a Supervised Autonomous System for Robot-Enhanced Therapy for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.**  
P.G. Esteban, ... , **E. Senft**, ... , and T. Ziemke  
Paladyn, Journal of Behavioral Robotics. De Gruyter Open.

### Conferences

- 2023 **Situated Participatory Design: A Method for In Situ Design of Robotic Interaction with Older Adults.**  
L. Stegner, **E. Senft**, and B. Mutlu  
Accepted at the ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, 2022.
- 2022 **A Method For Automated Drone Viewpoints to Support Remote Robot Manipulation.**  
**E. Senft**, M. Hagenow, P. Praveena, R. Radwin, M. Zinn, M. Gleicher, and B. Mutlu  
IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS), 2022.
- Registering Articulated Objects With Human-in-the-loop Corrections.**  
M. Hagenow, **E. Senft**, E. Laske, K. Hambuchen, T. Fong, R. Radwin, M. Gleicher, B. Mutlu, and M. Zinn  
IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS), 2022.
- Understanding Control Frames in Multi-Camera Robot Telemanipulation.**  
P. Praveena, L. Molina, Y. Wang, **E. Senft**, B. Mutlu, and M. Gleicher  
ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI), 2022.
- 2021 **Situated Live Programming for Human-Robot Collaboration.**  
**E. Senft**, M. Hagenow, R. Radwin, M. Zinn, M. Gleicher, and B. Mutlu  
ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology (UIST), 2021.
- 2020 **Would You Mind Me if I Pass by You? Socially-Appropriate Behaviour for an Omni-based Social Robot in Narrow Environment.**  
**E. Senft**, S. Satake, and T. Kanda  
ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI), 2020.
- Using a Personalised Socially Assistive Robot for Cardiac Rehabilitation: A Long-Term Case Study.**  
B. Irfan, N. Céspedes, J. Casas, **E. Senft**, L.F. Gutiérrez, M. Rincon-Roncancio, M. Múnera, T. Belpaeme, and C.A. Cifuentes  
International Symposium on Robot and Human Interactive Communication (RO-MAN), 2020.

- 2018 **Social Psychology and Human-Robot Interaction: an Uneasy Marriage.**  
B. Irfan, J. Kennedy, S. Lemaignan, F. Papadopoulos, **E. Senft**, and T. Belpaeme  
ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (alt.HRI), 2018.
- Architecture for a Social Assistive Robot in Cardiac Rehabilitation.**  
J. Casas, N. Céspedes, **E. Senft**, B. Irfan, L.F. Gutiérrez, M. Rincón, M. Múnera, T. Belpaeme, and C.A. Cifuentes  
IEEE Colombian Conference on Robotics and Automation, 2018.
- 2017 **Child Speech Recognition in Human-Robot Interaction: Evaluations and Recommendations.**  
J. Kennedy, S. Lemaignan, C. Montassier, P. Lavalade, B. Irfan, F. Papadopoulos, **E. Senft**, and T. Belpaeme  
ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI), 2017.
- Sensor Interface for Cardiac Rehabilitation Monitoring: Pilot Clinical Study.**  
J. Lara, J. Casas, M. Múnera, **E. Senft**, B. Irfan, L.F. Gutiérrez, L. Pinzón, T. Belpaeme, M. Rincon, and C.A. Cifuentes  
Congreso Iberoamericano de Tecnologías de Apoyo a la Discapacidad (IBERDISCAP), 2017.
- Human-Robot Sensor Interface for Cardiac Rehabilitation.**  
J. Lara, J. Cases, A. Aguirre, M. Múnera, M. Rincon-Roncancio, B. Irfan, **E. Senft**, T. Belpaeme, and C.A. Cifuentes  
IEEE International Conference on Rehabilitation Robotics (ICORR), 2017.
- 2016 **Social Robot Tutoring for Child Second Language Learning.**  
J. Kennedy, P. Baxter, **E. Senft**, and T. Belpaeme  
ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI), 2016.
- From Characterising Three Years of HRI to Methodology and Reporting Recommendations.**  
P. Baxter, J. Kennedy, **E. Senft**, S. Lemaignan, and T. Belpaeme  
ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (alt.HRI), 2016.
- 2015 **SPARC: Supervised Progressively Autonomous Robot Competencies.**  
**E. Senft**, P. Baxter, J. Kennedy, and T. Belpaeme  
International Conference on Social Robotics (ICSR), 2015.
- Higher Nonverbal Immediacy Leads to Greater Learning Gains in Child-Robot Tutoring Interactions.**  
J. Kennedy, P. Baxter, **E. Senft**, and T. Belpaeme  
International Conference on Social Robotics (ICSR), 2015.
- Touchscreen-Mediated Child-Robot Interactions Applied to ASD Therapy.**  
P. Baxter, S. Matu, **E. Senft**, C. Costescu, J. Kennedy, D. David, and T. Belpaeme  
International Conference on Social Robots in Therapy and Education, 2015.
- 2013 **An Experimental Study on the Role of Compliant Elements on the Locomotion of the Self-Reconfigurable Modular Robots Roombots.**  
M. Vespignani, **E. Senft**, S. Bonardi, R. Möckel, and A. Ijspeert  
IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS), 2013.

### Posters and Workshops

- 2022 **Towards Improved Replicability of Human Studies in Human-Robot Interaction: Recommendations for Formalized Reporting.**  
S. Bagchi, P. Holthaus, G. Beraldo, **E. Senft**, D. Hernández García, Z. Han, S. Kumaar Jayaraman, A. Rossi, C. Esterwood, A. Andriella, and P. Pridham  
Extended abstract at HRI, 2022.

- 2021 **Robotic Assistance Improves Cardiovascular Function Compared To Conventional Cardiac Rehabilitation Programs.**  
B. Irfan, N. Cespedes Gomez, J.A. Casas, **E. Senft**, D. Sanchez, M. Rincon-Roncancio, L.F. Gutierrez, C.A. Cifuentes, T. Belpaeme, and M. Munera  
Circulation 144, 2021.
- 2019 **Towards Generating Spatial Referring Expressions in a Social Robot: Dynamic vs Non-Ambiguous.**  
C.D. Wallbridge, S. Lemaignan, **E. Senft**, and T. Belpaeme  
Extended abstract at HRI, 2019.
- 2018 **From Evaluating to Teaching: Rewards and Challenges of Human Control for Learning Robots.**  
**E. Senft**, S. Lemaignan, P. Baxter, and T. Belpaeme  
Human/Robot in the loop Machine Learning Workshop at IROS, 2018.
- Robots in the Classroom: Learning to Be a Good Tutor.**  
**E. Senft**, S. Lemaignan, M. Bartlett, P. Baxter, and T. Belpaeme  
Robot for Learning Workshop at HRI, 2018.
- Social Assistive Robot for Cardiac Rehabilitation: A Pilot Study with Patients with Angioplasty.**  
J. Casas, B. Irfan, **E. Senft**, L.F. Gutiérrez, M. Rincon-Roncancio, M. Múnera, T. Belpaeme, and C.A. Cifuentes  
Personal Robots for Exercising and Coaching Workshop at HRI, 2018.
- Towards a SAR System for Personalized Cardiac Rehabilitation: A Patient with PCI.**  
J. Casas, B. Irfan, **E. Senft**, L.F. Gutiérrez, M. Rincon-Roncancio, M. Múnera, T. Belpaeme, and C.A. Cifuentes  
Extended abstract at HRI, 2018.
- 2017 **Toward Supervised Reinforcement Learning with Partial States for Social HRI.**  
**E. Senft**, S. Lemaignan, P. Baxter, and T. Belpaeme  
AI-HRI Symposium at AAAI FSS, 2017.
- Leveraging Human Inputs in Interactive Machine Learning for Human Robot Interaction.**  
**E. Senft**, S. Lemaignan, P. Baxter, and T. Belpaeme  
Extended abstract at HRI, 2017.
- 2016 **SPARC: An Efficient Way to Combine Reinforcement Learning and Supervised Autonomy.**  
**E. Senft**, S. Lemaignan, P. Baxter, and T. Belpaeme  
Future of Interactive Learning Machines Workshop at NIPS, 2016.
- Providing a Robot with Learning Abilities Improves its Perception by Users.**  
**E. Senft**, P. Baxter, J. Kennedy, S. Lemaignan, and T. Belpaeme  
Extended abstract at HRI, 2016.
- Heart vs Hard Drive: Children Learn More From a Human Tutor Than a Social Robot.**  
J. Kennedy, P. Baxter, **E. Senft**, and T. Belpaeme  
Extended abstract at HRI, 2016.
- Socially Contingent Humanoid Robot Head Behaviour Results in Increased Charity Donations.**  
P. Wills, P. Baxter, J. Kennedy, **E. Senft**, and T. Belpaeme  
Extended abstract at HRI, 2016.

- 2015 **Using Immediacy to Characterise Robot Social Behaviour in Child-Robot Interactions.**  
J. Kennedy, P. Baxter, **E. Senft**, and T. Belpaeme  
Workshop on Evaluating Child-Robot Interaction at ICSR, 2015.
- The Wider Supportive Role of Social Robots in the Classroom for Teachers.**  
P. Baxter, E. Ashurst, J. Kennedy, **E. Senft**, S. Lemaignan, and T. Belpaeme  
Workshop on Evaluating Child-Robot Interaction at ICSR, 2015.
- Human-Guided Learning of Social Action Selection for Robot-Assisted Therapy.**  
**E. Senft**, P. Baxter, and T. Belpaeme  
Machine Learning for Interactive Systems Workshop at ICML, 2015.
- When is it Better to Give Up? Autonomous Action Selection for Robot Assisted ASD Therapy.**  
**E. Senft**, P. Baxter, J. Kennedy, and T. Belpaeme  
Pioneers Workshop at HRI, 2015.