

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

DESIGNING A SOCIAL ROBOT

Consider potential ethical problems, and potential solutions –both from the user’s and robot’s perspectives.
Consider the boxes to be guidelines: you don’t need to fill each one.

Physical safety

Machines can pinch or crush the user. How is this mitigated?

PROBLEM	USER	SOLUTION
	ROBOT	

Data security

Is the robot in a unique data collection position? How is the user’s data protected?

PROBLEM	USER	SOLUTION
	ROBOT	

Transparency

How does the robot share an accurate perception of its abilities, intentions and constraints, so the user can evaluate their trust in it?

PROBLEM	USER	SOLUTION
	ROBOT	

Equality across users

Robots’ algorithms can be biased. A robot’s appearance could reinforce harmful stereotypes. What are potential issues?

PROBLEM	USER	SOLUTION
	ROBOT	

Emotional consideration

People have been shown to form emotional attachments to robots, as if they were alive. Is this a potential problem?

PROBLEM	USER	SOLUTION
	ROBOT	

Behaviour enforcement

People could transfer inappropriate behaviour, such as rudeness, from robots to humans. How is this mitigated?

PROBLEM	USER	SOLUTION
	ROBOT	

