

JUNE 2021

# SCAR ROBO

THE LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS FROM SCAR ROBO



**FEATURED ON THIS MONTH'S  
NEWSLETTER:**

"Are robots designed to include the queer population?"

"Can robots offset China's population decrease?"

Read below to learn more!

## THE GLOBE AND MAIL: "CAN ROBOTS OFFSET CHINA'S POPULATION DECREASE?"

By Nancy Bazilchuk - Published 13.02.2020

<<https://norwegianscitechnews.com/2020/02/are-robots-designed-to-include-the-queer-population/>>

China is a country that traditionally relies on a lot of hands for manual labour. This compounded with the fact that from 2017-2037, the working-age population is expected to decrease by 103 million people with a further 100 million crossing the retirement threshold by 2050 makes for an ongoing major labor shortage. The working age demographic in China has decreased ever so rapidly, with many people going into retirement and passing away. Specifically, the country's cleaning industry which has an older population is one of the areas that are going to be the hardest hit. To counteract this inevitable/ongoing shortage, new forms of technology will need to be developed to fulfill labor requirements.

That is where Gaussian Robotics comes into play. This tech company has developed what they call the Ecoboto Scrubber 75 which is able to clean up to 3000 square metres of floor in an hour. The way it functions is using 3D vision touch sensors and collision bumpers to avoid obstacles and scrub floors of major buildings such as airports, malls, stadiums etc. As with most unique pieces of technology the initial cost is quite expensive but Gaussian Robotics expects their robots to be cost competitive in the upcoming years due to the projections in labor cost increases and improved technology.

However, there is still a sense of skepticism about this project and if it will be able to completely offset the labor shortage. Some economists believe this project is slightly too optimistic and it would be too unsustainable to mass produce these machines while maintaining quality, citing previous examples such as iPhone manufacturer Foxconn and their claims in 2013 to make millions of robots in 3 years whereas they only were able to make 80,000. Regardless of what transpires, the idea in principle looks promising not only for China but for many other countries in the world.



Gaussian CEO Cheng Haotian says robots will be vital to filling the cleaning industry's needs as more Chinese people age out of it.

## Resources for LGBTQ youth in Toronto

UTSC Women's and Trans Centre Instagram: @utscwtcentre
Positive Space Twitter: @PositiveUTSC
Lesbian Gay Bi Trans Youth Line Phone: 1 800 268 9688
YMCA Sprott House Phone: 647 438 8383
Rainbow Services Phone: 416 535 8501
AIDS Committee of Toronto Phone: 416 340 2437
Hassle Free Clinic Phone: 416 922 0566
Planned Parenthood Toronto Phone: 416 961 0113
Sherbourne Health Centre Phone: 416 324 4180
The Triangle Program Phone: 416 393 8443
Supporting Our Youth Phone: 416 324 5077
TrevorLifeline Phone: 1 866 488 7386
Trans Lifeline Phone: 877 330 6366
Good2Talk 1 866 925 5454

## "ARE ROBOTS DESIGNED TO INCLUDE THE QUEER POPULATION?"

June 10, 2021

<<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/world/article-can-robots-offset-chinas-population-decrease/>>

Roger A. Søraa of the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) and co-authors Eduard Fosch-Vilaronga of Leiden University in the Netherlands and Adam Poulsen of Charles Sturt University in Australia discuss what a queering of robots might entail, and why the AI and robotics community needs to consider this in a new short paper in the journal "Nature Machine Intelligence". The researcher conducted a study focusing on the toxicity of online contents and threats among Twitter accounts using an AI driven tool created by "jigsaw" (a unit of Google that forecasts and confronts emerging threats), which led them to thinking about initiating the idea of robotics in queer population. According to the researchers, "In eldercare, LGBTQ+- inclusive robotics could help alleviate the loneliness experienced by many queer older adults. In education, they could provide support and information to children and young adults who express complicated feelings about their sexual orientation or gender identity." It is important to include the importance of inclusivity and diversity among the machines as well that move and act around us, human beings. Even though, there is a long way to go in the execution of the plan, but considering the importance of such issue and including this in the current research and design for the future robots, it's not too far from now that we are going to be able to achieve a community in AI that recognizes the importance of respect and moral values among individuals.



### ALAN TURING

Turing was British mathematician, philosopher and computer scientist, who is considered to be the father of modern computer science and AI. Turing is a gay scientist who was prosecuted for his sexual orientation, and sadly ended his life due to the horrific treatment he underwent. He cracked the code for Enigma cipher machine which was used by Nazi Germany during WWll. Turing also designed the Automatic Computing Engine (ACE) which is the prototype to the modern computer we use today.

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“  
SOMETIMES IT IS THE PEOPLE NO ONE IMAGINES  
ANYTHING OF WHO DO THE THINGS THAT NO ONE  
CAN IMAGINE.  
- ALAN TURING

HAPPY SUMMER!

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