Pr. Séverin Lemaignan

Social Robotics and AI

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37 years old

Scientific Focus	**Robot cognition and decision making for safe social interactions**: data-driven understanding of social interactions; explainable AI; ethics of safe human-robot interactions; robust human-robot multi-modal interaction; symbolic and sub-symbolic knowledge representation.
Keywords	**Social Robotics**, **Robotic Cognition**, **Responsible Human-Robot Interaction**, **Cognitive Architectures**

Education & Research Activities

2019–   **Associate Professor in Social Robotics and AI**, *Bristol Robotics Lab, United Kingdom*.
Supervision of the Human-Robot Interaction research group; Supervision of the Driverless Vehicle research group. Directly managing 20+ students and early career researchers.

2018–2019   **Senior Research Fellow in Robotics and Artificial Intelligence**, *Bristol Robotics Lab, United Kingdom*.

2017–2018   **Lecturer in Robotics**, *Plymouth University, Plymouth, United Kingdom*.

2015–2017   **EU Marie Skłodowska-Curie Post-doctoral fellow**, *Centre for Neural Systems and Robotics, Plymouth University, Plymouth, United Kingdom*.
Development and Implementation of a Theory of Mind for robots.

2013–2015   **Post-doctoral fellow**, *CHILI, EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland*.
Interaction with Robots in Learning Environments – Supervision of the robotic group.

2012–2013   **Post-doctoral fellow**, *LAAS-CNRS, Toulouse, France*.
Spatial and Temporal Reasoning for Cognitive Robotic Architectures.

2008–2012   **Joint German-French PhD in Cognitive Robotics**, *LAAS-CNRS, Toulouse, France / Technical University of Munich, Germany*.
with High Distinction "Summa Cum Laude" – awarded CNRS' **Best PhD in Robotics 2012**
Supervisors: Pr. Rachid Alami, CNRS; Pr. Michael Beetz, TUM.

2006–2007   **Research Engineer**, *INRIA, Paris, France*.
Development of semantic-aware control architectures for autonomous vehicles.

2002–2006   **Joint German-French MSc of Engineering**, *Karlsruhe Institute of Technology / ENSAM ParisTech*.

2004–2005   **MSc Artificial Intelligence for Learning Technologies**, *University Paris V, College of Mathematics and Computer Sciences*, With Honours.

Supervision & Teaching Experience

2018–   **University of the West of England**, *associate professor*.
teaching at MSc level; Human-Robot Interaction, data science, software engineering for robotics, ROS

2016–2018   **Plymouth University**, *lecturer*.
teaching at BSc & MSc level robotics, including HRI, ROS, Kalman filtering, localisation and planning, control architectures

2018–2016   **Guest lectures & Seminars**, *Plymouth University, EPFL, Université de Toulouse*.
ROS, simulation, ontologies, Python/C++ software engineering, computer graphics & 3D modelling.

2008–2011   **Teaching assistant**, *INSA Toulouse, Écoles des Mines de Paris*.
Prolog, Ontology Modeling, Java, ADA, SQL, Mechatronics.

2006–2012   **Design and supervision of training programme for Science Communication in robotics**.
as head of Educational Robotics dept. at non-profit *Planète Sciences*

Students supervision, Supervised 9 PhD and 20+ MSc students to date, (click here for full list).
- N. Webb (PhD, 2019-): *Data-Driven Human Robot Interaction*
- M. Bartlett (PhD, 2017-): *Data-Driven Social Robotics*
- K. Winkle (PhD, 2016-): *Persuasive human-robot interactions*
- C. Wallbridge (PhD, 2016-): *Spatial reasoning for Child-Robot Interaction*
- E. Senft (PhD, 2015-2018): *Shared autonomy for social human-robot interactions*
- A. Jacq (PhD, 2014-2015): *Mutual modeling and repair strategies in HRI*
- A. Özgür (PhD, 2014-2015): *Cellulo: haptic robotics for learning*
- S. Chandra (PhD, 2013-2017): *CoWriter project: learning by teaching handwriting to a robot*
- J. Fink (PhD, 2011-2014): *Long-term acceptance of robots in daily life & anthropomorphism*

Selected outreach activities

2019–	**Cluster Lead for STEM outreach**, *University of the West of England*.
2019–	**Scientific advisor for the WeTheCurious Bristol's science museum**, *Open City Lab project*.
2016–	**UK & EU Robotics Weeks coordinator**, *University of Plymouth, University of the West of England*.
2011	**'Roboscopie' Human-Robot public theater performance**, *Science Day'11*. `http://bit.ly/1LQpNWA`
2008–2011	**Toulouse's Cognitive Sciences Students Association**, *Co-chair*.
2008–2009	**South African SciFest festival**, *Science facilitator*.
1997–2012	**Executive Committee & Head of Educational Robotics, Planète Sciences**, *including coordination of the EU-ROBOT Robotic Competition* .

Selected Fellowships & Grants

2020–2021	**University of the West of England**, *Robots4SEN: Social Robots to Support Children with Autism*, Principal Investigator, £25K.
2019–2022	**InnovateUK**, *CAV Forth – Verification for Connected Autonomous Vehicles*, Co-Investigator, £600K.
2015–2017	**EU H2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship**, Principal Investigator, € 195K.

Awards and Honours

HRI'2017	**Best Paper Award 'Design'**.
HRI'2016	**Best Paper Award 'Methods and Theory'**.
AAAI'2015	**Best Video Award in Artificial Intelligence**.
AAAI'2014	**Best Late Breaking Report Award**.
2012	**Best PhD in Robotics**, *CNRS*.
2012	**PhD with High Distinction**, *("Summa Cum Laude"), TU Munich*.
Ro-Man'2010	**Best Paper Award**.

Selected Recent Publications

As of Nov 2020, 70+ publications, 2600+ citations, h-index = 25, i10-index = 42 *(Google Scholar)*.
→ *Link to complete list of publications, workshops and seminars*.

- Senft, E., Lemaignan, S., Baxter, P., Bartlett, M., Belpaeme, T. **Teaching robots social autonomy from in situ human guidance** *Science Robotics* 2019.

- Sallami, Y., Lemaignan, S., Clodic, A., Alami, R. **Simulation-based physics reasoning for consistent scene estimation in an HRI context** *IEEE IROS* 2019.

- Wallbridge, C., Lemaignan, S., Senft, E., Belpaeme, T. **Generating Spatial Referring Expressions in a Social Robot: Dynamic vs Non-Ambiguous** *Frontiers in AI and Robotics* 2019.

- Winkle, K., Lemaignan, S., Caleb-Solly, P., Leonards, U., Turton, A., Bremner, P. **Effective Persuasion Strategies for Socially Assistive Robots** *ACM/IEEE HRI* 2019.

- Bartlett, M., Edmunds, C. E. R., Belpaeme, T., Thill, S., Lemaignan, S. **What Can You See? Identifying Cues on Internal States from the Kinematics of Social Interactions** *Frontiers in AI and Robotics* 2019.

- Lemaignan, S., Edmunds E. R., C., Senft, E., Belpaeme, T. **The PInSoRo dataset: Supporting the data-driven study of child-child and child-robot social dynamics** *PLOS ONE* 2018.

○ Senft, E., Baxter, P., Kennedy, J., Lemaignan, S., Belpaeme, T. **Supervised Autonomy for Online Learning in Human-Robot Interaction** *Pattern Recognition Letters* 2017.

○ Lemaignan, S., Warnier, M., Sisbot, E.A., Clodic, A., Alami, R. **Artificial Cognition for Social Human-Robot Interaction: An Implementation** *Artificial Intelligence* 2017.

Technical Skills and Spoken Languages

Robotics
- ○ Expert in cognitive robotics and human-robot interaction
- ○ ROS, Symbolic knowledge manipulation expert
- ○ Expert PR2, Pepper, Nao developer
- ○ Contributor to ROS, OpenCV
- ○ Lead dev. MORSE simulator

Programming
- ○ Python, modern C++, Prolog, SmallTalk
- ○ Deep-learning frameworks: pytorch, TensorFlow
- ○ Open-source enthusiast
  GitHub: `github.com/severin-lemaignan`