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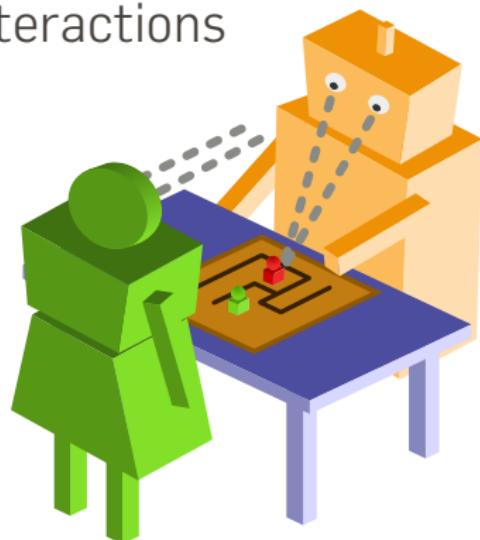


Socially-driven Autonomous Robots for Real-World Human-Robot Interactions

10 Mar 2021

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Bristol Robotics Lab
University of the West of England



situation assessment

symbolic grounding

symbolic reasoning

SYMBOLIC SOCIAL COGNITION FOR ROBOTS

ontologies

perspective taking

cognitive architectures

social situation assessment

joint action

ROS4HRI

natural language processing

REAL-WORLD SOCIAL AUTONOMY

learning of social policies



DATA-DRIVEN HRI

large datasets

group dynamics

social robotics

experimental robotics

human-in-the-loop ML

responsible AI

HUMAN FACTORS

child-robot interaction

persuasion

engagement

participatory design

trust

robotics for learning

anthropomorphism

SOCIAL ROBOTICS

Creating interactive robots that are **embedded and understand their (human) social context; generate and adopt appropriate social behaviours; have a positive impact on human society.**

⇒ designing and implementing the **assistant and companion robots** for tomorrow.

⇒ direct impact on ageing society, education, customer service; **major socio-economic challenge; UK & European priority.**

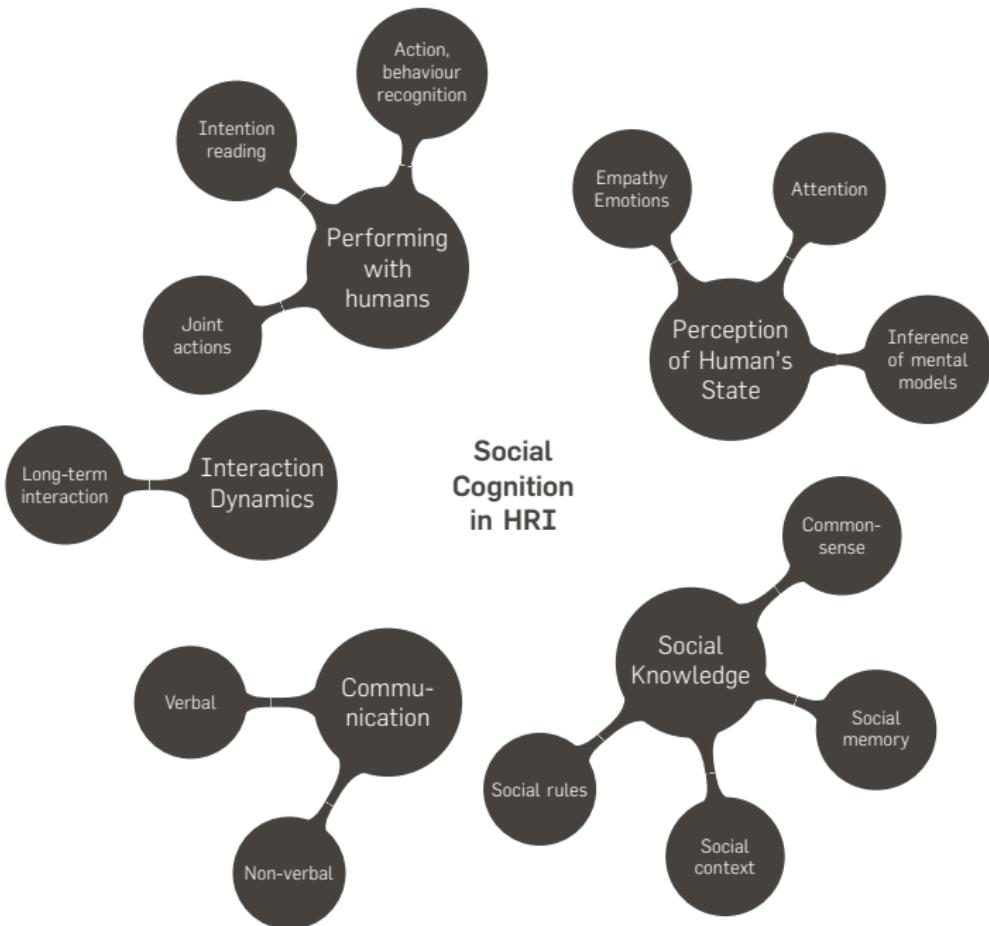


SOCIAL ROBOTICS

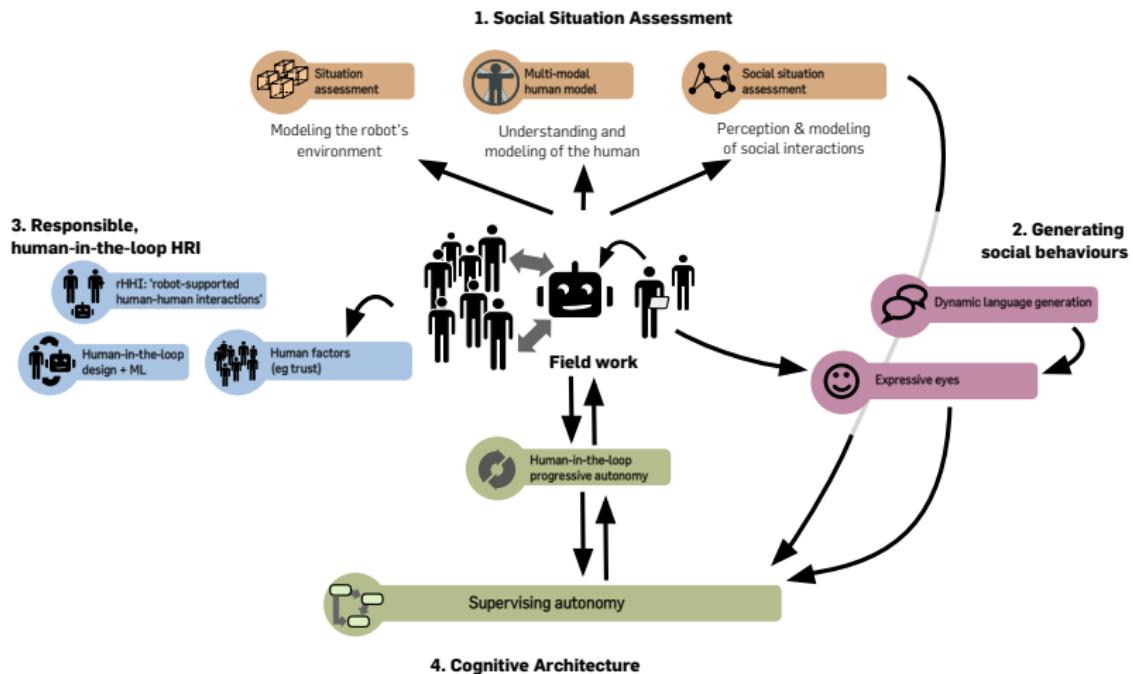
Major scientific challenges:

- Model open-ended, underspecified situations; rich semantics; complex social dynamics
- Understand and sustain long-term autonomous social interactions;
- Real-world algorithmic robustness;
- Complex ethical landscape;
- ⇒ cross-disciplinary & holistic approach required



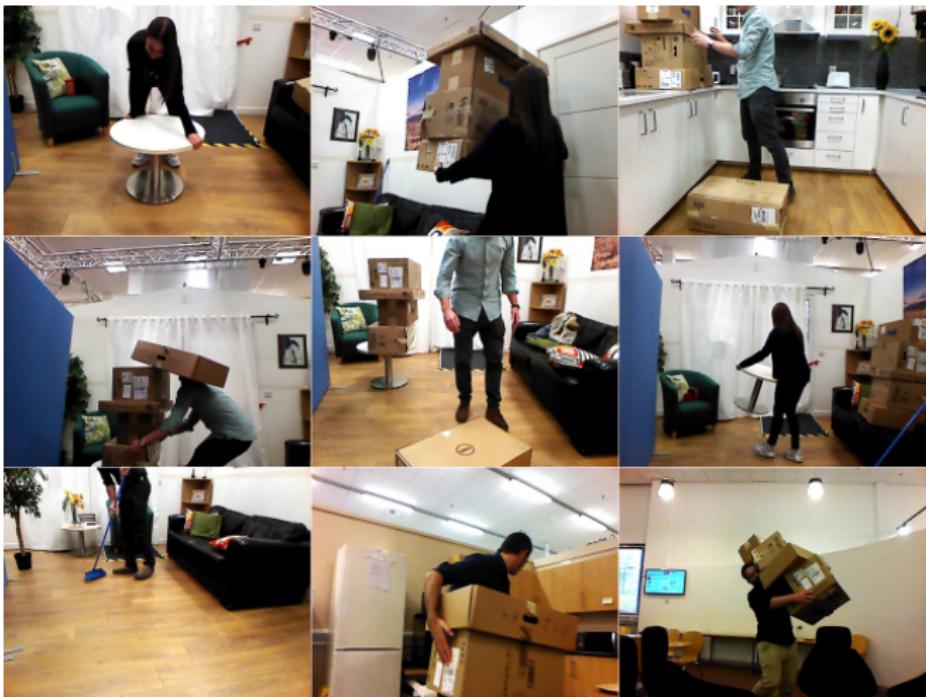


WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO OVER THE LAST 3 YEARS?

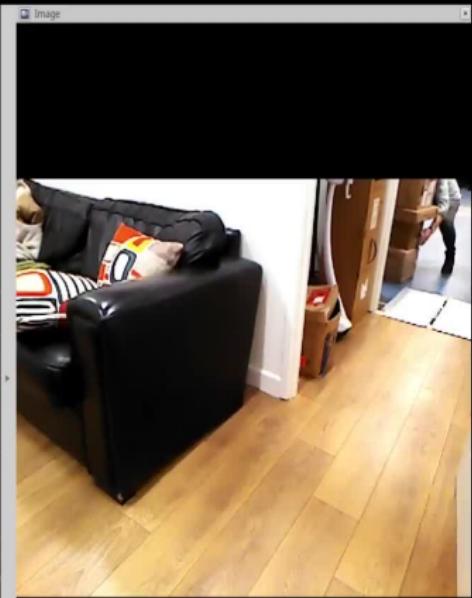
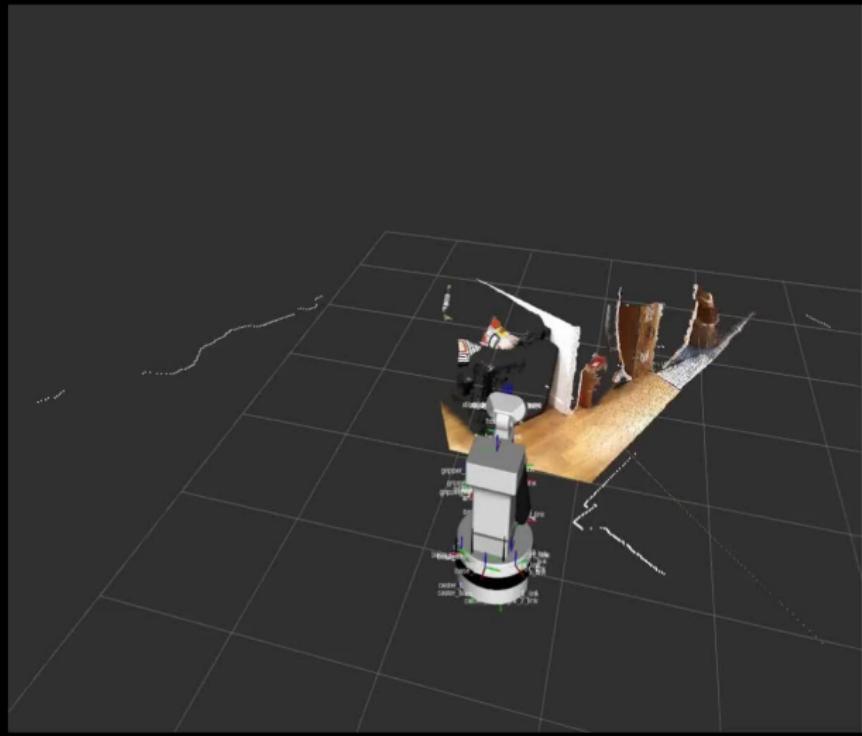


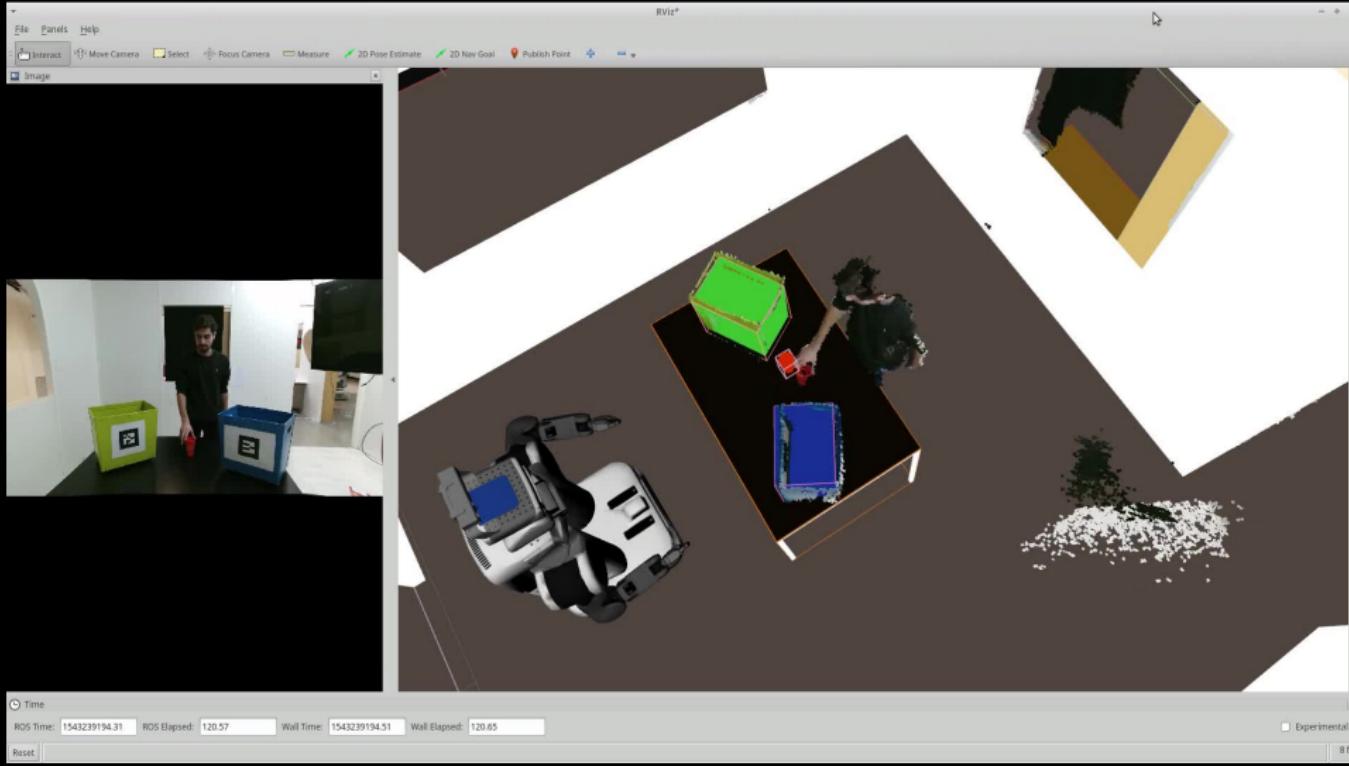
SOCIAL SITUATION ASSESSMENT

THE UNEXPECTED DAILY SITUATION DATASET



Yoan Sa





SOCIAL MODELING

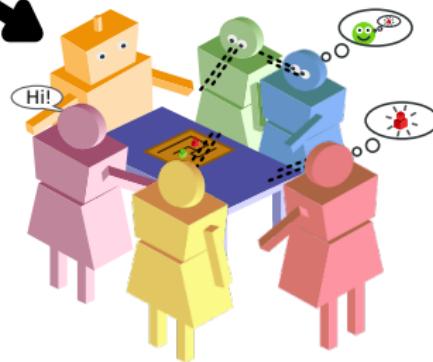


Nicola V

SOCIAL MODELING



Nicola V

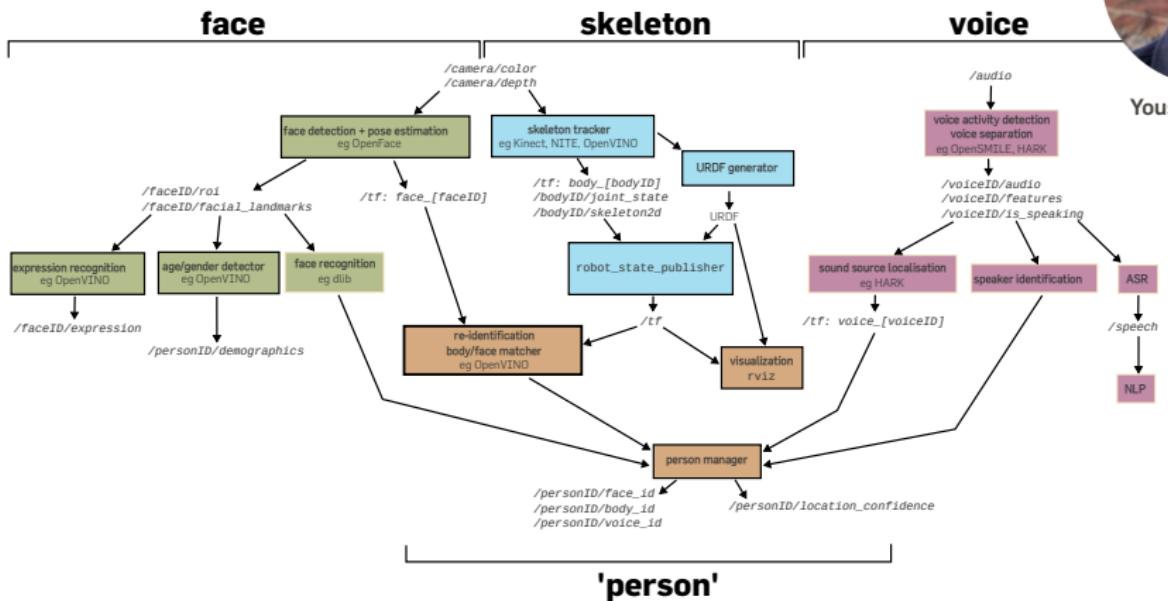


- multi-modal
- dynamic
- only partially observable
- complex pipeline; hard to make it robust

ROS4HRI

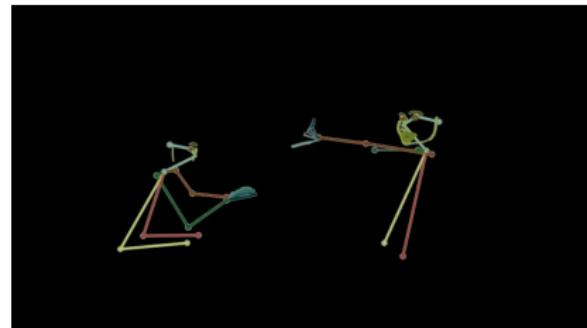


Youssef Moha

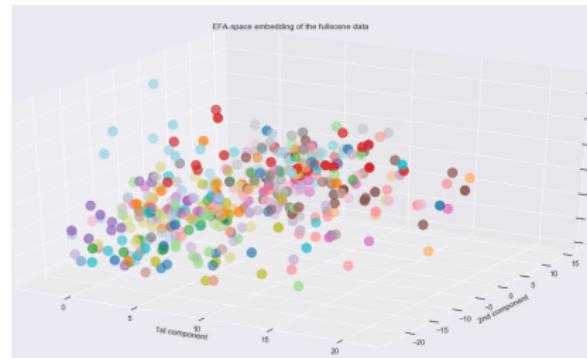


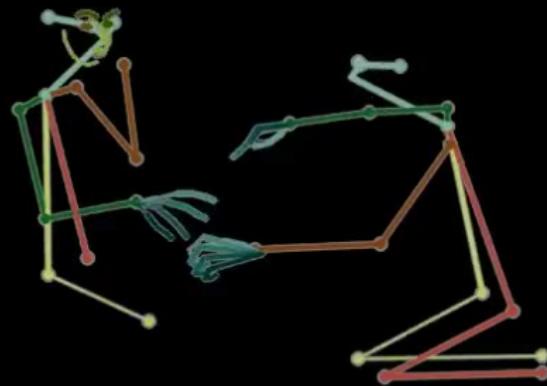
ROS4HRI: first integrated, multi-modal, ROS-based pipeline for social signal processing in robotics

DECIPHERING INTERNAL STATE



- PInSoRo dataset: 45h+ and 2M frames of annotated natural interactions
- new data analysis techniques to estimate internal state from body language
- first-in-kind dataset for data-driven study of social interactions in robotics













Page 1 of 4.

How much do you agree with the following statements?

The children were competing with one another.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Not Sure Agree Strongly Agree

The child on the left was sad.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Not Sure Agree Strongly Agree

200 participants, 4 clips each, on MTurk

EFA: EXPLORATORY FACTOR ANALYSIS

	Factor 1 <i>full-scene</i>	Factor 2 <i>full-scene</i>	Factor 3 <i>full-scene</i>
△ Sad	0.41		
Σ Sad		0.72	
△ Happy	0.49		
Σ Happy			-0.55
△ Angry	0.40		
Σ Angry		0.81	
△ Excited	0.53		
Σ Excited			-0.71
△ Calm	0.45		
Σ Calm			
△ Friendly	0.69		
Σ Friendly			-0.43
△ Aggressive	0.78		
Σ Aggressive		0.80	-0.36
△ Engaged			0.65
Σ Engaged			-0.64
△ Distracted			0.65
Σ Distracted		0.63	
△ Bored			0.61
Σ Bored		0.58	0.48
△ Frustrated	0.53		
Σ Frustrated		0.70	
△ Dominant	0.75		
Σ Dominant		0.53	
△ Submissive	0.68		
Σ Submissive		0.54	

THREE CONSTRUCTS TO RULE THEM ALL



Interaction imbalance

Interaction valence

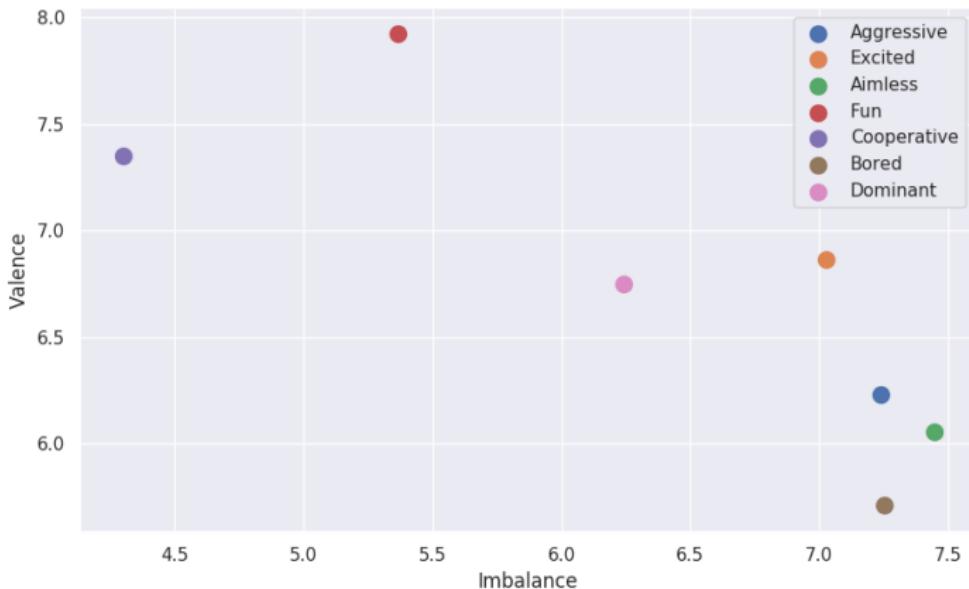
Engagement

MEAN EFA PROJECTION OF CLIPS PER SOCIAL SITUATION

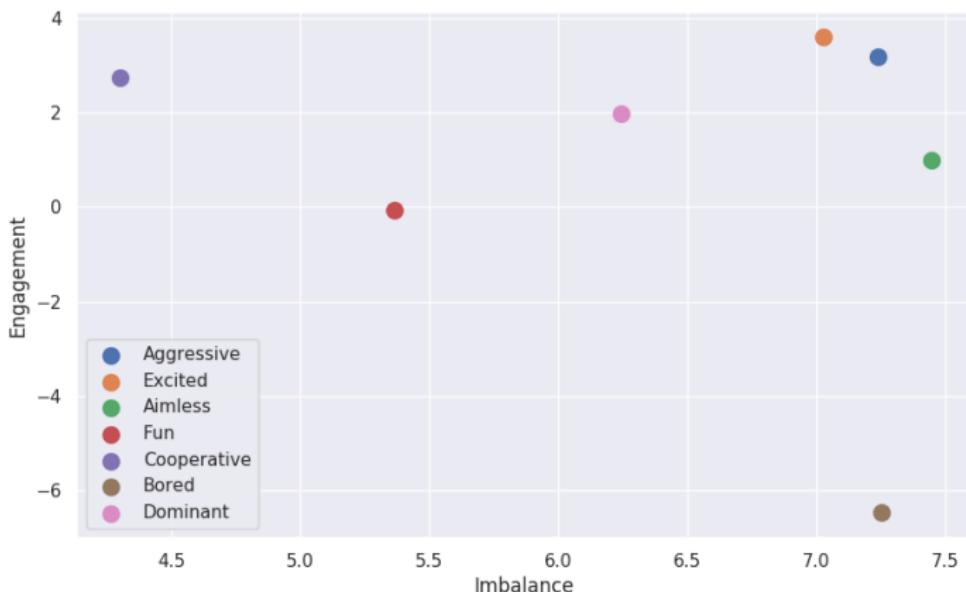
The 20 clips were labelled after their salient social features (*aggressive, excited, aimless, fun, cooperative, bored, dominant*).

What happens if we project the ratings for 'aggressive' clips, 'excited' clips, etc. onto the 3 EFA factors?

MEAN EFA PROJECTION OF CLIPS PER SOCIAL SITUATION



MEAN EFA PROJECTION OF CLIPS PER SOCIAL SITUATION

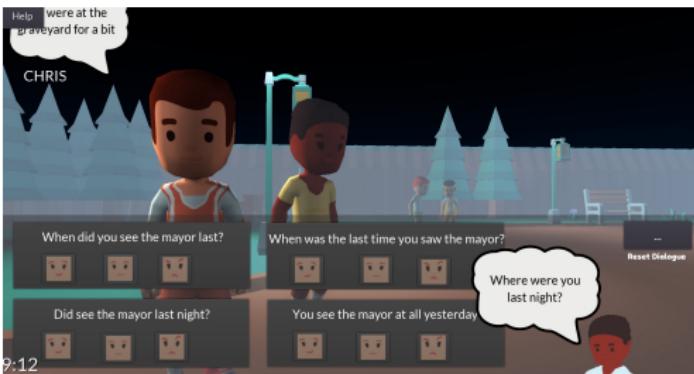
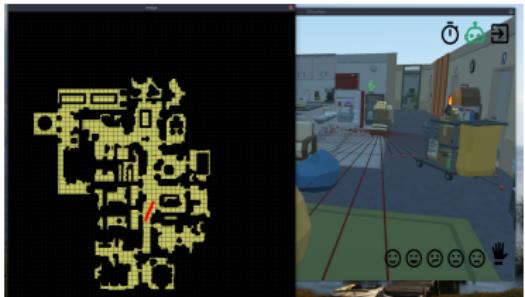


DATA-DRIVEN HRI

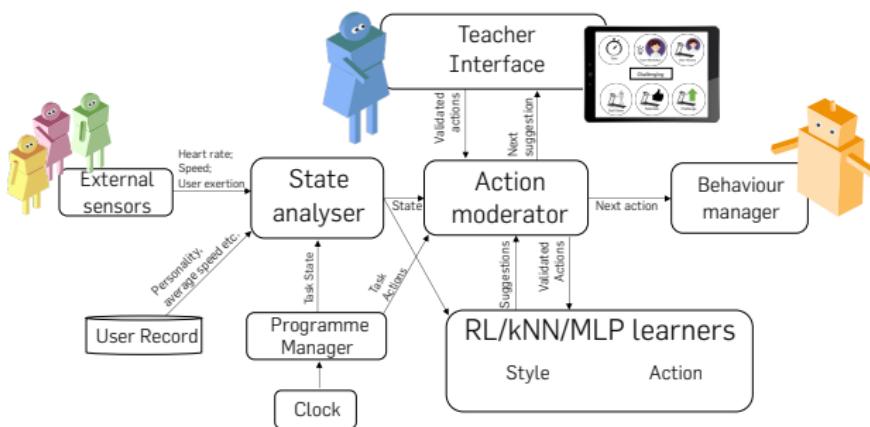
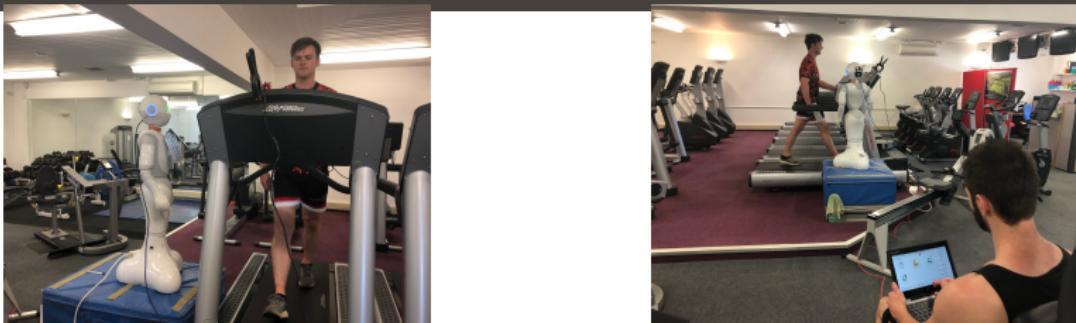
ONLINE GAMES & SOCIAL DATASETS



Nicola V



EXPERT-IN-THE-LOOP MACHINE LEARNING



[Senft et al. Teaching robots social autonomy from in situ human guidance Science Robotics 2019]

[Winkle et al. In-Situ Learning from a Domain Expert for Real World Socially Assistive Robot Deployment RSS 2020]

COUCH TO 5KM STUDY

- 9 participants
- 3 months; 27 one-hour sessions per participants
- 20 input features; 11 actions (task-specific or social)
- human-in-loop design and machine learning
- robot evolving from full teleoperation to full task and social autonomy

Social situation assessment
ooooooooooooooo

Data-driven HRI
oooo●○

Generating socially-congruent behaviours
oooo

What next?
oooooooooooo

Social situation assessment
ooooooooooooooo

Data-driven HRI
ooooo●

Generating socially-congruent behaviours
oooo

What next?
oooooooooooo

GENERATING SOCIAILY-CONGRUENT BEHAVIOURS

DYNAMIC VS NON-AMBIGUOUS LANGUAGE



Chris Wallb

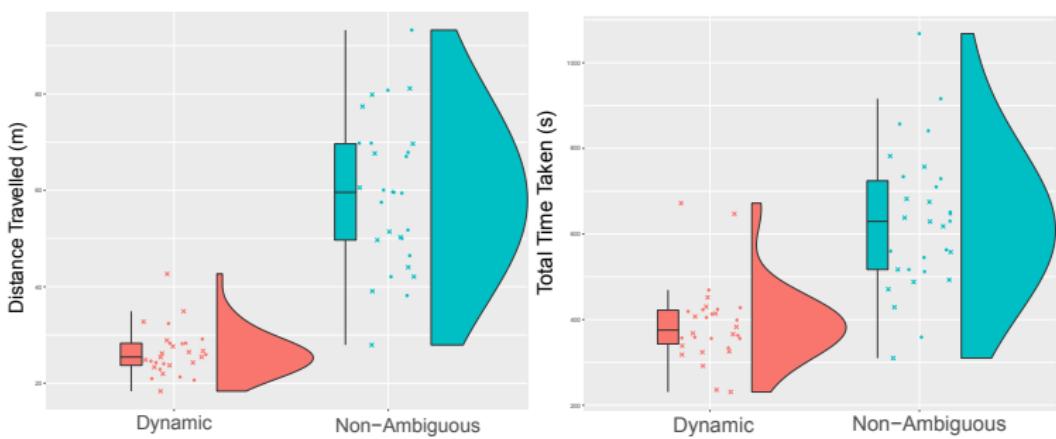
Condition Non-ambiguous: "A grey barrel is next to a grey barrel, next to a silver barrel and next to a green barrel."

Condition Dynamic: "Turn left about 90 degrees..." "Keep going"..."Go forward"..."The silver barrel next to the chrome barrel."

DYNAMIC VS NON-AMBIGUOUS LANGUAGE



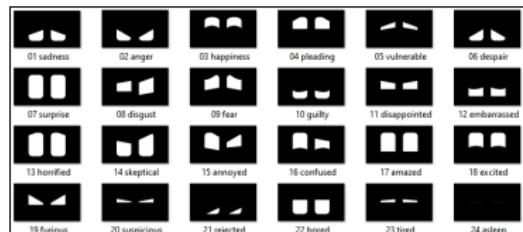
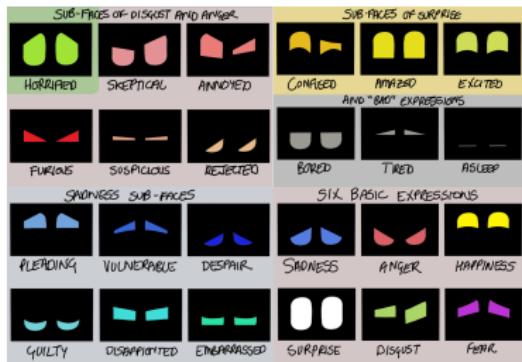
Chris Wallbridge



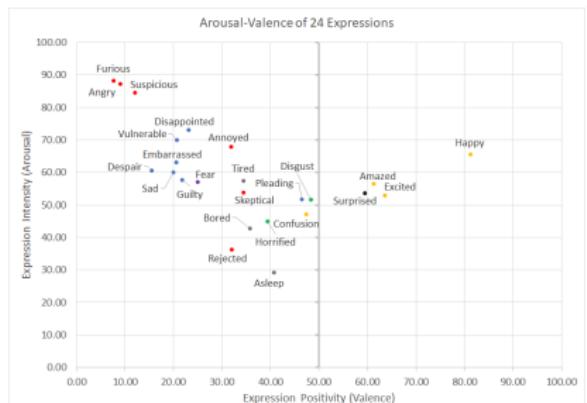
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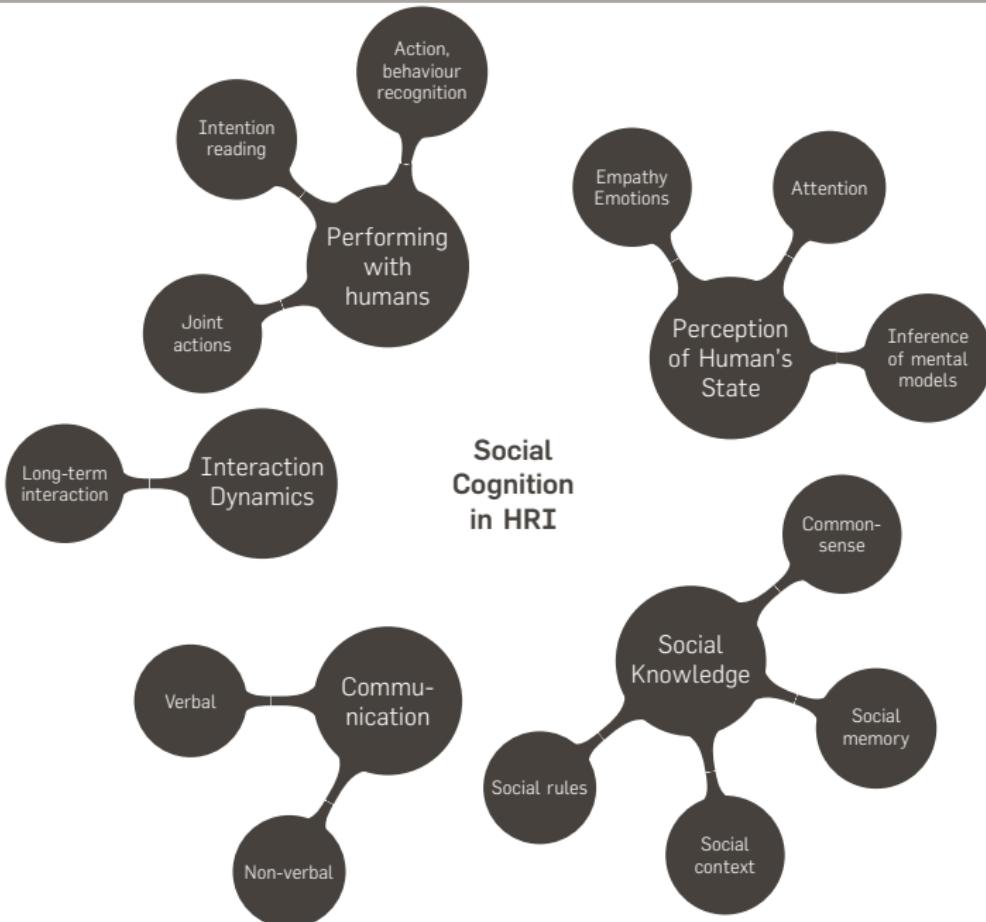
Condition Dynamic: "Turn left about 90 degrees..." "Keep going"..."Go forward"..."The silver barrel next to the chrome barrel."

EXPRESSIVE EYES



- inspired by Anki Cozmo/Vector
- expression interpretation validated online
- work by MSc student Catherine Chambers
- git.brl.ac.uk/s-lemaignan/expressive-eyes





WHAT NEXT?

SOCIAL ROBOTICS

Major scientific challenges:

- Model open-ended, underspecified situations; rich semantics; complex social dynamics
- Understand and sustain long-term autonomous social interactions;
- Real-world algorithmic robustness;
- Complex ethical landscape;
- ⇒ cross-disciplinary & holistic approach required



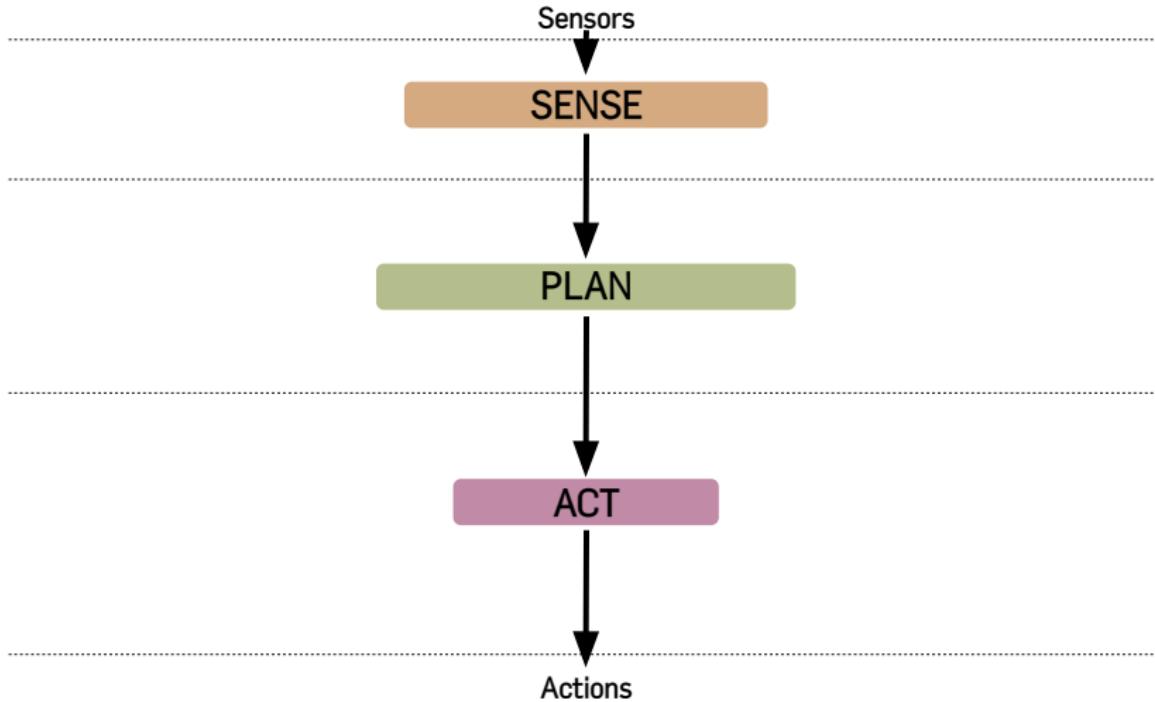
SOCIAL ROBOTICS

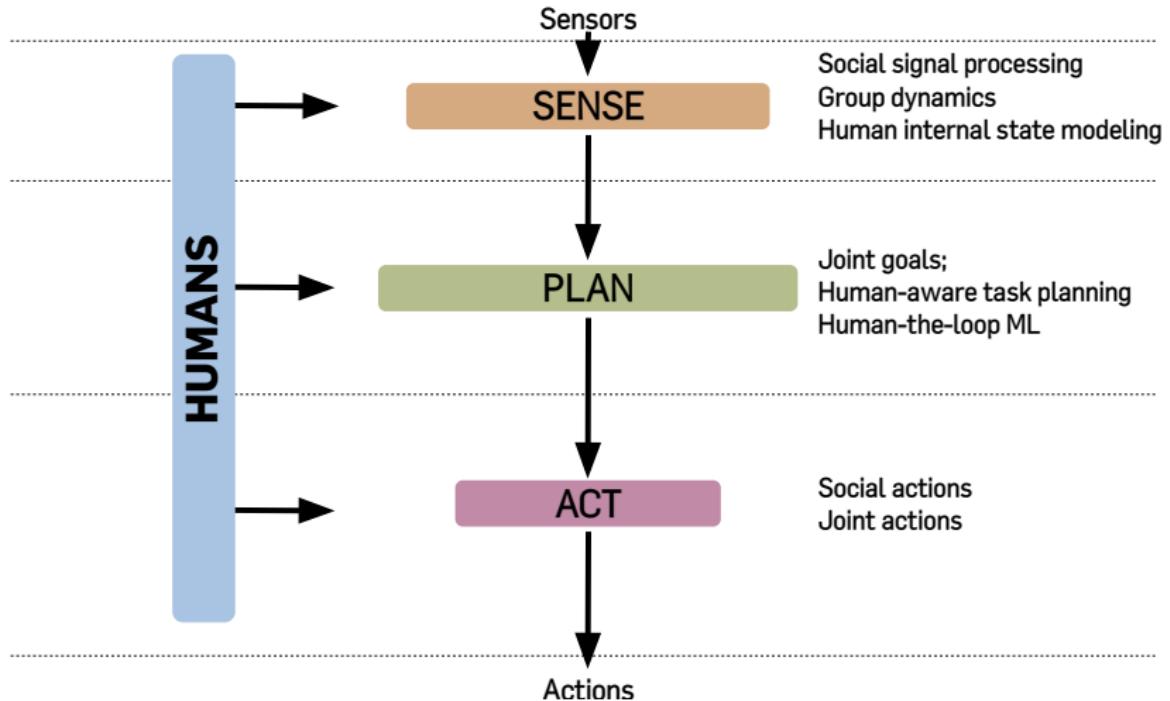
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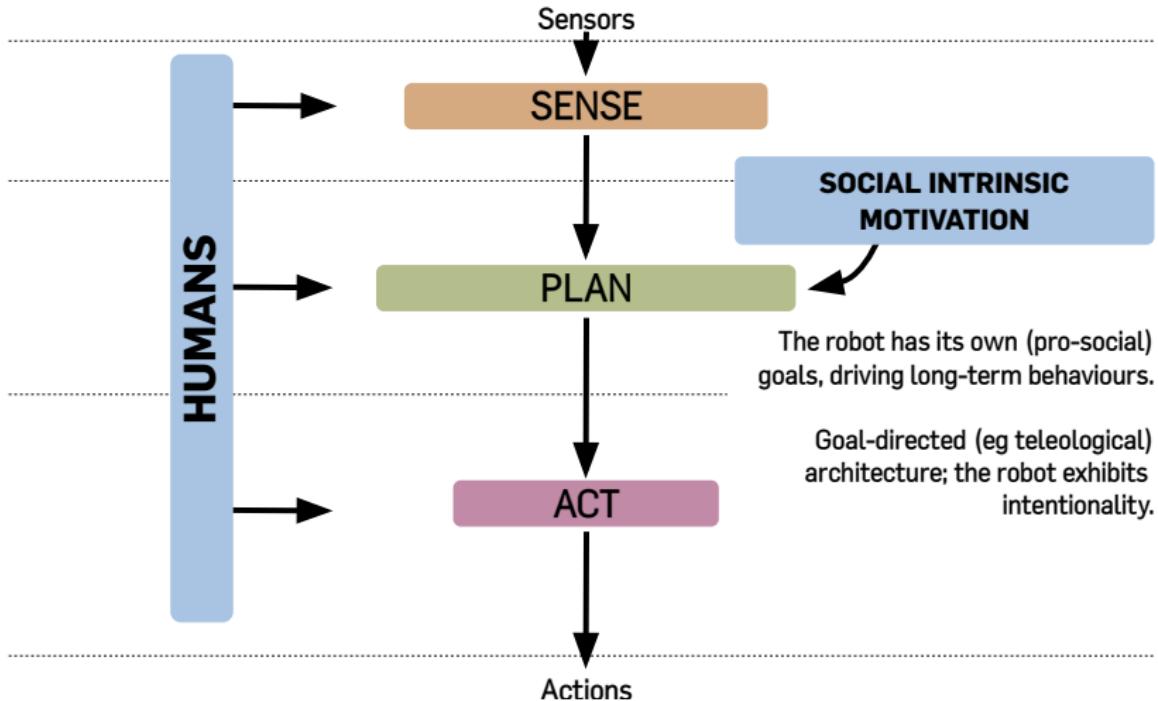
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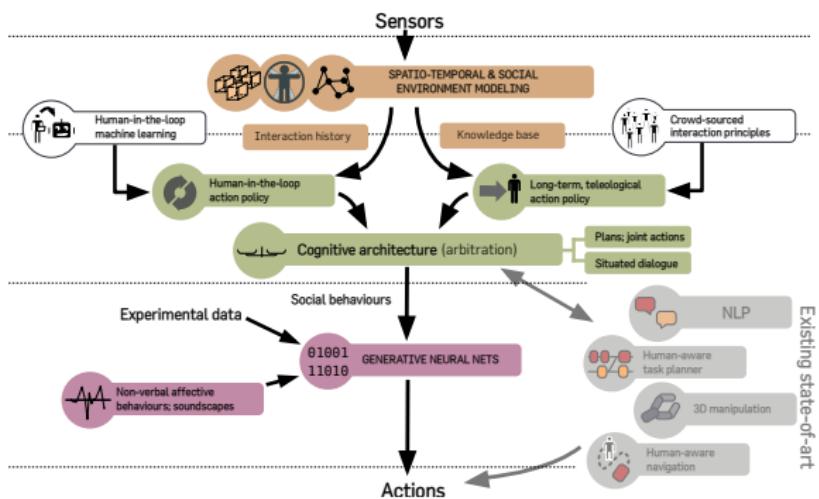
**Socially-Driven Autonomous Robots
for
Real-world Human-Robot Interactions**







KEY SCIENTIFIC CHALLENGES



1. beyond state-of-art **robust real-world social modelling**; **social embeddings**
2. **public-in-the-loop** approach to design of **intrinsic social motivation**
3. **generative social behaviours** for robots
4. **cognitive architecture** for **long-term interaction**

IDEA: SOCIAL EMBEDDINGS



social embeddings: learning a compact, sub-symbolic representation of social interactions

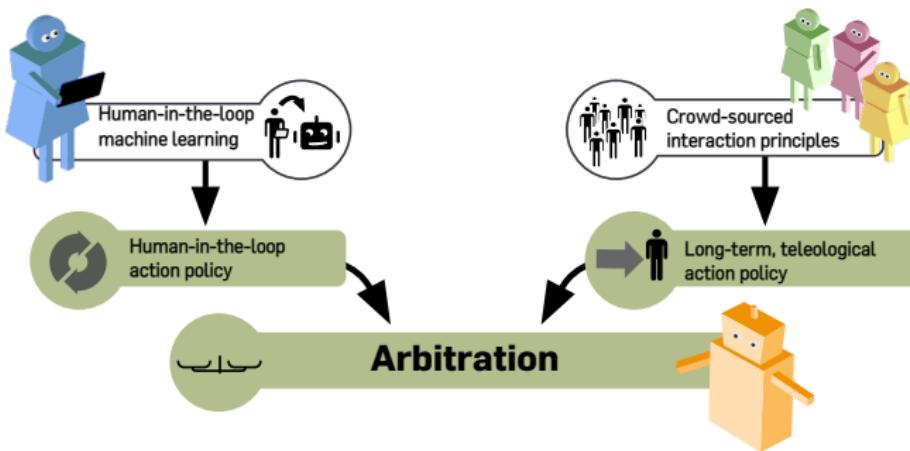
- real-world social interactions are highly dynamic, noisy, multi-modal
- hard for the robot to model and reason about
- → **learn an embedding:** Attention nets, Deep graph nets
- can be used by the robot to **recognise social situation** and **generate congruent social behaviours**

IDEA: GENERATIVE NON-REPETITIVE SOCIAL BEHAVIOURS



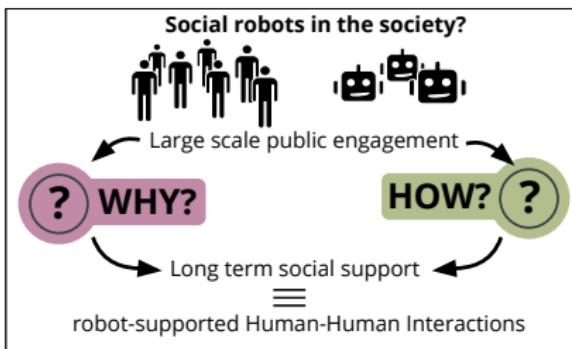
- Cracking the '**non-repetitive, socially congruent**' behaviour generation problem
- Extend **Generative Adversarial Networks** à la AppGAN to complex behaviours
(re-use *social embeddings*)
- **Immersive technologies** to build datasets
- **Transdisciplinary approach**, incl. arts: choreographer, sound expert

IDEA: LONG-TERM/SHORT-TERM POLICY ARBITRATION



- **end-users and public to play a key role:**
- **crowd-sourced pro-social goals** (eg 'show attention', 'appear alive') drives long-term behaviours
- **short-term/domain-specific policies learned** via interactive reinforcement learning (IRL)
- **cognitive arbitration** between the two, based on **experience transfer**

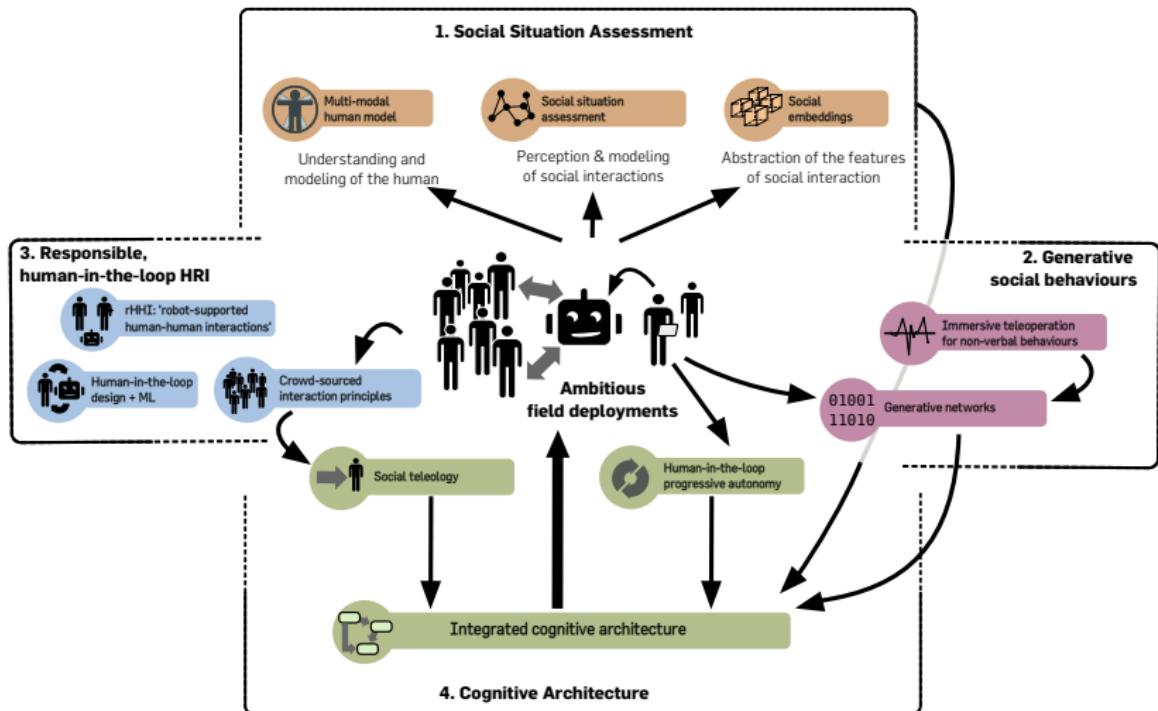
IDEA: ROBOT-SUPPORTED HUMAN-HUMAN INTERACTIONS



Social robotics might need a paradigm shift from *Human-Robot Interaction* to **robot-supported Human-Human Interaction**:

- not so much: how to robot can interact with human
- instead: why robots? what positive impact can robots uniquely deliver? (and *then*: what technology is required)

A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO SOCIAL ROBOTICS



Thank you!

(roboscopie 2012)