Social Robotics

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Outline

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- Today: Attempt to understand the concept of a social robot (and the 'big questions' related to it) by reflecting upon the way how social robots are displayed in pop culture.
- Next Tuesday: Researchers' attempts to define and systematize social robotics research.

Rosie (60s & 80s)

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Rosie?

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Marvin (80s & 2000s)

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Marvin?

- Why is there no Marvin in our homes?

Chappie (2015)

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Chappie: Discussion

- What are the pros and cons of learning for social robots?
  What is the alternative to learning?
- Should there be robotic police officers?

Ex Machina (2015)

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Ex Machina: Discussion

- What's the point in building robots like Ava?
- What's the difference between a human and a robot?
- Is 'being programmed' a valid difference?
  - Robot being programmed to flirt vs. Human being programmed to perceive the robot as flirting

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Comparison: Erica

- Android research by Hiroshi Ishiguro and colleagues (Osaka University)

Westworld (2016)

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Westworld: Discussion

- Should it be forbidden to abuse robots?
- Should robots have rights?

Real Humans (2012)

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Real Humans: Discussion

- Can robots be the better humans?
- What's the impact on human relationships if humans prefer robots as friends and partners?
    - A chance for less lonliness, less disappointment etc.?

Jibo (2014)

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Buddy (2015)

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Jibo & Buddy: Discussion

- Do we really need such robots?
- Can they keep what they promise?

Conclusions

- 'Broad questions in social robotics'
  - What's the purpose of social robots?
  - What do social robots reveal about human nature?
  - How do social robots affect human behavior, thinking, relationships?
  - How to design a social robot for a specific role or task? How to design interactions?
  - Do we need regulations that restrict what kind of social robots are allowed?

- Next Lecture: Introduction to Social Robotics as a Science, more systematic access, attempts to define social robots.

- Exercise Sheet: Design your own social robot along several guiding questions. Exercise sheet is already on the web! Presentation at Nov 2nd.