

Special session

Everyday Robotics: new visions, new challenges

Organizer: Frederic Kaplan, Sony Computer Science Laboratory Paris, France

Contact: kaplan@csl.sony.fr - <http://www.csl.sony.fr/~kaplan>

The field of everyday robotics is concerned with inventing new forms of robotic objects for everyday use. These range from service robot companion meant to enhance and extend the individuals own ability to perform crucial tasks to entertainment devices designed to be interesting for their own sake.

Beyond technical challenges, research in Everyday Robotics insists on the importance of understanding the future shape of our daily interactions with robotic objects. In order to do so, one should not think only in terms of potential applications, but in terms of potential experienced and ecological value. What could make a robot sufficiently valuable so that it could become an everyday object? What kind of relevant interrelation could such an object bootstrap with other entities present in our daily environments? For a long time, robots have been designed and evaluated as independent autonomous entities. In order to draw a more accurate picture of our possible future life with robots, it is crucial to consider robots not in isolation but as entities situated in various technological, social and cultural environments: robots as objects we can relate with, robots as objects that can relate with one another, robots as a nodes in a web of other technological devices.

The “shape of things to come” is open to our imagination. Robotic objects of the near future are likely to be different from the robots pictured in science-fiction: Ubiquitous technologies, smart materials and new artificial intelligence techniques inspired by progresses in cognitive science permit to envision new forms of interactions and new research questions.

For further information consult: <http://www.everyday-robotics.com>