

### **End-conference** with webinar

# Responsible Ethical Learning in Robotics







'This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 731726"



# Logging on to Mentimeter

#### Mentimeter guide

 Go to <u>www.menti.com</u> on your phone, tablet or computer, or scan the QR code at the bottom of the page.



- 2. Type in 373808 in the box and click submit.
- 3. The first question will now be available for you to answer. Answer the question how you see fit and press submit.
- 4. Once you have submitted your answer you will be taken to a holding page. You're automatically redirected to a new question page, once the question is made available by the presenter.
- 5. If you are disconnected from the site for any reason, simply repeat step 1 and 2.

All submissions are completely anonymous.



Scan the QR code with your QR reader or camera app. This will take you straight to the presentation.



# Some warm-up Mentimeter questions

NB! Se om vi kan finde et billede der kan bruges...

# Do you attend as a webinar guest or a conference guest?



# Some warm-up Mentimeter questions



### What is your professional background?



# Some warm-up Mentimeter questions

NB! Se om vi kan finde et billede der kan bruges...

# What are your initial associations with the word robot?







# PERSPECTIVES ON ROBOTS. A Reality Check on Imagined Futures

By Professor Cathrine Hasse



### **Mentimeter question**



Do you agree a social dimension is missing in robot technology development?



# About REELER

#### **The REELER partners**

**Aarhus University:** Coordinator & Prof. of Anthropology, Cathrine Hasse

**Ab.Acus srl:** Impact partner & R&D Director, Maria Bulgheroni

**De Montfort University:** Prof. of Ethics, Kathleen Richardson

**Hohenheim University:** Prof. of Innovation Economics, Andreas Pyka

#### Who/what we study

#### Robots

A robot can be understood as a machine, a mere tool - a materiality.

A robot is also conceptual - shaped by perceptions, imaginaries, and experiences.

We merge these understandings by recognizing the robot as a material artefact, while studying it in the context by which it is transformed.

#### Affected Stakeholder

Affected stakeholders are users expected to engage with the robots in close proximity and a wider spectrum of people, who may potentially experience the effects of the robots even if they never touch them.

#### **Robot Makers**

Robot makers are people involved in creating robots whether they are designers, engineers, or experts in particular applications.



# Innovative research in robotics



The first ethnographically lead research project in robotics and DG connect.

Highly intedisciplinary research involving Anthropology Innovation Economics Engineering

This Social Science and Humanities approach offers new perspectives on robots!



# **Multi-variation approach**







Types of robots explored in REELER











Collaborative (COBOT)

 Multi-variation approach looking across 11 different types of robots.

• Interviewed 177 people across Europe.

• Focus on patterns across cases gives generic and relevant results for the development of robotics and AI.

• Today's healthcare examples represent patterns across all REELER cases.





# Human Proximity Model



REELER has developed a Human Proximity Model (HPM) to explain the complexity and understand the gap between robot makers and affected stakeholders.



### **Robot developers**

#### **Robot Developers:**

People with technical expertise, whose role is to develop robots in whole or in part.

- Mechanical engineers
- Computer scientists
- Industrial designers





## **Facilitators**

#### **Facilitators:**

Decision-makers who set the framework for development. This includes people with legal, regulatory, or bureaucratic expertise, and people who facilitate funding, access to market, or testing.

- Funding bodies
- Regulatory agencies
- Lawyers
- Marketing or public-relations





## **Application Experts**

#### **Application Experts:**

People with an expertise in the application area or sector of the given robot. They share their expertise with developers, and are often robot buyers.

A consultant in healthcare

A building developer for a construction robot





## The inner circle of robotics

Robots are developed in an inner circle of robotics.

The social dimension is lacking, when there is a gap between those who design robots and those who use, and are affected by, robots.

Consequence: Normative design?







# Normativity in design processes



- 1. Normative body size
- 2. Normative cognitive skills
- 3. Normative environmental understanding

**Result**: Robots are designed on normative understandings that are not tailored to real-life people.

**Consequence**: The robot creates problems instead of solving problems. Resistance to use or sabotage of robots.



### **End-users**

#### **End-Users:**

People who will use (operate or interact with) the robot directly.

 Patient using a rehabilitation robot.







# **Directly affected stakeholders**

#### Directly Affected Stakeholders:

People who are not using the robot, but must accommodate and collaborate with and around it.

- Family member assisting patient with use of a rehabilitation robot.
- Nurse interacting with the robot.







### **Distantly affected stakeholders**

#### **Distantly Affected Stakeholders:**

People who will likely never operate, use, or interact directly with the robot, but may nevertheless be affected by it.

 Physiotherapist or helper made superfluous.





### **Spokespersons**

#### Spokepersons:

An intermediary who speaks on behalf of recipients based on their own experiences.

- A municipality wishing to introduce the robot technology
- A manager.







Feeding assistive robotics, socio-technological imaginaries, and care

The case of Bestic

iels Christian Mossfeldt Nickelser Aarhus University



### A new suggestion: Alignment Experts

#### **Alignment Experts:**

- A new profession
- Knowledge of anthropology, Ethics, robotics/AI, and business economy.
- An intermediary seeking to align robot makers and affected stakeholders based on empirical knowledge of both.
- Alignment experts should have an expertise in Social Sciences or Humanities (SSH) and knowledge of robotics/ engineering.





# Main recommendations

See more at: <u>https://responsiblerobotics.eu</u>

Two main recommendations to ensure ethical and responsible robot design

1.Develop and disseminate tools that enhance robot developers' awareness of what is to be gained from collaborating with and taking end-users and affected stakeholders' perspectives into account early on in the development phase.

2.Develop alignment experts as a new profession, where people are educated in methods of aligning the views and visions of robot makers and affected stakeholders. Alignment experts can also give voice to distantly affected stakeholders, when relevant.



### Learn more at:

### https://responsiblerobotics.eu



Perspectives on Robots

#### Not a traditional 'roadmap'

This website presents the results of the project REELER (Responsible Ethical Learning in Robotics), as a roadmap for closing the gap between users and designers of robots. This is no traditional roadmap. You can take as many detours as you like. The main point is to raise awareness through our different contributions. At the bottom of each page is the REELER Roadmap, with different waypoints for navigating your way through responsible robotics, including:

Toolbox: A number of fun awareness-raising tools, including the BuildBot board game.

- Outreach: New methods for engaging with different stakeholder groups, as well as policy recommendations.
- Research: Our methodology and findings, including an interdisciplinary publication that brings a reality check on robots and presents an expanded notion of the user.
- About REELER: Meet the whole interdisciplinary team behind this site and an overview of our main objectives.









### **Mentimeter response**



Do you agree a social dimension is missing in robot technology development?



### **Ethnographic research in robotics** Jessica Sorenson, Aarhus University Karolina Zawieska, De Montfort University

### **Mentimeter questions**



### Which words do you associate with their work?

# Why ethnography?

What ethnography can bring to robot ethics and engineering design practice.







## Ethnographic methods

- Qualitative interviews
- Participant observation
- Field notes
- Document & media analysis
- Visual elicitation





## Case examples





# Case examples





#### Common language



### What kind of data did we produce?



# Analysis

- Nvivo qualitative data analysis (QDA) software
  - 177 interviews
  - 139 coded transcripts
  - 15,789 coding references
  - 114 codes per interview

Х Select Code Items Search (CTRL+F) Nodes **REELER nodes** Dehumanization & Humanization Humanization (independence, restoring dignity) Standardization, Reduction of human complexity Transformation of physical space (Enveloping) Transformation of sociality, human activity Education Educational background Formal education Informal learning Professional background Reskilling (upsilling, deskilling) Training Imaginaries New Node OK Cancel

### Analysis

"We have a joint WhatsApp conversation thread where we write down observations...about calving, about udder infections..."
#### **Mentimeter questions**



#### Which words do you associate with their work?



# **Ethnographic research in robotics**

By research assistant Jessica Sorenson, Aarhus University Postdoc Karolina Zawieska, De Montfort University



#### **Mentimeter question**



#### Which words do you associate with their work?



What ethnography can bring to robot ethics and engineering design practice.



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# Karolina Zawieska De Montfort University

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- Qualitative interviews
- Participant observation
- Field notes
- Document & media analysis
- Visual elicitation

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# Case examples

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# Case examples

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# Challenges

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#### Common language

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# Analysis

- Nvivo qualitative data analysis (QDA) software
  - 177 interviews
  - 139 coded transcripts
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Standardization, Reduction of human comp	plexity	
Transformation of physical space (Enveloping)	ng)	
Transformation of sociality, human activity		
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Educational background		
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Professional background		
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![](_page_46_Picture_1.jpeg)

# "We have a joint WhatsApp conversation thread where we write down observations...about calving, about udder infections..."

# What kind of data did we produce?

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#### **Mentimeter question**

![](_page_48_Picture_2.jpeg)

#### Which words do you associate with their work?

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# Outreach methods in REELER Mini-publics, Sociodrama and Social drama

By Professor Cathrine Hasse and Professor Kathleen Richardson

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### **Mentimeter question**

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Could you imagine using mini-publics in technology design?

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#### Learn more at:

#### https://responsiblerobotics.eu

![](_page_51_Picture_3.jpeg)

Perspectives on Robots

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#### **Mentimeter response**

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Could you imagine using mini-publics in technology design?

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#### Development of Robots: Coping with Uncertainty, bounded Rationality and Complexity

By Professor Andreas Pyka

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### **Mentimeter question**

NB! Se om vi kan finde et billede der kan bruges...

What are important and meaningful sources of knowledge in robot design and development?

# REELER Development of Robots: Coping with Uncertainty, bounded Rationality and Complexity

Robot technology is one of the 21<sup>st</sup> century's megatrend and will penetrate all sectors (agriculture, industry and services).

Successful robot development will play an outstanding role in determining firm, region and national competitiveness.

![](_page_55_Picture_3.jpeg)

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# Development of robots is part of the combinatorial innovation process

We are observing a fundamental transformation of economic systems driven by new technologies with far-reaching implications for society as a whole:

- Robotics, artificial intelligence, bioeconomy, digitalization, renewables ....
- Most technologies are still in an infant phase.

 $\rightarrow$  innovation economics matter!

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# Development of Robots is part of the combinatorial innovation process

Technological Developments are not independent, but massively influence each other and create enormous new opportunities and challenges:

- Cross-fertilization (combinatorial)
- Societal implications
- Sustainability
- Ethics
- ..

![](_page_57_Picture_8.jpeg)

 $\rightarrow$  complexity and uncertainty

![](_page_58_Picture_0.jpeg)

# **Uncertainty and Complexity**

**Complexity** is related to the huge combinatorial possibilities and the dynamic relationships between different technologies (e.g. robotics and AI)

**Uncertainty** is an inherent feature of innovation. Innovation by definition cannot be known ex-ante and always includes surprises.

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![](_page_58_Picture_5.jpeg)

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# Experimental instead of Optimization Behavior

![](_page_59_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_59_Figure_3.jpeg)

 $\Rightarrow$  no simple linear processes and no profit maximization!

![](_page_60_Picture_0.jpeg)

# **Bounded Rationality**

"A body of theory of procedural rationality is consistent with a world in which human beings continue to think and continue to invent; a theory of substantial rationality is not."

![](_page_60_Picture_3.jpeg)

Herbert a Simon

![](_page_61_Picture_0.jpeg)

### Development of Robots: Encompassing Innovation Networks

![](_page_61_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_61_Figure_3.jpeg)

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Inter-firm	
innovation	
network	

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universityindustry network userproducer network

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REELER's Human Proximity Model

![](_page_62_Picture_0.jpeg)

# Conclusions

We emphasize a stylized new product development method, notably recognizing that roboticists have to:

- Acknowledge for market and technological uncertainty,
- Modularize robot designs and iteratively and recursively solve technical bottlenecks therein,
- Develop absorptive capacities concerning the overall technological development to design interfaces to connect with other technologies,
- Conduct repeated develop-test-plan cycles thereby possibly extending the set of stakeholders involved over time.

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# PERSPECTIVES ON ROBOTS A Reality Check of Imagined Futures!

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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 731726"

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Mentimeter question:

- 1. How will robotization affect the labour market?
  - a. Mass *un*employment
  - b. Continued high rates of employment

### Impact of robotization

- Robots do dull, dirty, dangerous work?
- People left to do 'meaningful' work?
  - Genuine creativity,
  - Social skills,
  - Physical dexterity?
- Mass unemployment? Exacerbating inequality?
- Role of education? Who can keep up?
- Social security, UBI? Robot tax?

![](_page_65_Picture_9.jpeg)

#### Structural change in composition of labor market (simplified)

![](_page_66_Figure_1.jpeg)

Emerging sectors, exploiting new technology	
More jobs, higher wages?	

#### Agent-based model

- Worker/ consumer agents
  - Employed at firm or unemployed
  - Skills, can upskill
  - Demand for products (in chronological order)
- Firm agents
  - Active in certain sector
  - Makes products (requiring different skills)
  - Product price depends on wages and # workers required
  - Hire/ fire workers
  - Change wages
  - Robotization increases productivity, lowers demand for labor
- Experimental variable: add sectors

✓ OLD wage / po
✓ NEW wage: all

Vacancy EMA

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w up sect 4

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New sector

![](_page_68_Figure_2.jpeg)

#### Structural change in composition of labor market (simplified)

- Robotization
- $\Rightarrow$  Productivity +
- $\Rightarrow$  Labor demand [i.e. increasing unemployment]
- $\Rightarrow$  Wage competition across sectors –
- $\Rightarrow$  Stalls wage-price spiral
- $\Rightarrow$  Stagnation of wages & income gap low- and high-skilled
- Emergence of sectors
- ⇒ Labor demand + [i.e. increasing employment]
- $\Rightarrow$  Wages + / Labor mobility required +

#### Policy interventions: differentiated by labor market conditions

- labor **surplus**, robotization:
  - Unemployment +
  - $\rightarrow$  product demand –
  - $\rightarrow$  labor demand –

- labor scarcity, robotization:
  - "Free up" workers +
  - 1. curbs wage-price spiral
    - $\rightarrow$  international competitiveness +
  - 2. labor migration possible
    - $\rightarrow$  exploitation new opportunities

- universal basic income\*\* + → product demand +
   → labor demand + → employment +
- robot tax +  $\rightarrow$  labor displacement –
- creation of new sectors & education + → employment + (→ demand + → employment +)

- universal basic income + → product & labor demand + → wages + → product prices + → international competitiveness –
- robot tax + → "freeing up" labor → sustained tension on the labor market → exploitation new opportunities -
- creation of new sectors → sustained tension on the labor market

### Changing *nature* of work

- Robots take over routinized work in predictable environments
- More nimble, dexterous robots, increasing prominence of creativity, social skills, physical dexterity


# Awareness-raising tools developed in REELER

By R&D Director Maria Bulgheroni



#### **Mentimeter question**



#### Gaming is learning!



## How to build multidisciplinary engagement?



The interactive toolbox reelertoolbox.ab-acus.com



BuildBot: A borad game to learn multi-perspective design

#### How to build multidisciplinary engagement?





BuildBot: A board game to learn multiperspective design

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NEXT LEVEL

#### Brickster: a serious game on product design

- "Text adventure" style using repurposed ethnographic narratives for
- Confront player with *ethical dilemma's* and *innovation economic issues* in product design
- Reveal consequences of choices in terms of:
  - Technical design options available
  - Evaluation of stakeholders of design



#### The REELER toolbox: structure



**Reading Time: 4 minutes** 

REELER

The Awareness-Raising Toolbox is the outcome of interdisciplinary collaboration in the EU project REELER (Responsible Ethical Learning with Robotics).

Here we present an interactive navigation experience towards raising awareness around ethical and responsible robot design and development.

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#### The REELER toolbox: structure

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This Awareness-Raising Toolbox is composed by eleven topics, that can be splitted in two sections. The first section, "While Developing", aims at embracing an ethical and responsible approach towards robot design and development. The second section, "Beyond Development", contains topics that don't necessarily impact development itself, but might interest you!



 Robot Beginnings: Learn about what drives robot design and development. 4 min read.

Collaboration in the Inner Circle: Does interdisciplinarity impacts research and development? Find out here. 3 min read.

Ethics Beyond Safety: Learn about the role of ethics in the context of research and development. 4 min read.

Y Inclusive Design: How to enhance your design and development process? Read more here! 5 min read.

Innovation Economics: Go deep into innovation economic systems around research and development. 5 min read.

Learning in Practice: Robotics imply an ongoing learning process. Find out how and who. 4 min read,

Economics of Robotization: Learn about what comes after the introduction of a robot on a large-scale. 5 min read.

Imaginaries around Robots: Find out what are common perceptions of robots among different people. 4 min read.

Meaningful Work Learn how robotization impacts work organization. What should you consider? 5 min read.

Q<sup>3</sup> Gender Matters: Go deep into the gender issues within robotics culture. 5 min read.

Human Proximity: Learn to better align different perspectives towards close collaboration. 4 min read.

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REELER

#### The REELER toolbox: the voices from the field

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Click on (1) to listen to the Affected
 Stakeholder. Click on the arrows to navigate.
 You can expand the content to full screen by
 clicking on the bottom right corner.

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#### The REELER toolbox: the interactive minigames



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#### The REELER toolbox: .... and much more

### Navigate it!

### reelertoolbox.ab-acus.com



## BuildBot: learning to play and playing to learn





## BuildBot: the board and the cards







#### BuildBot: how to play



#### Thanks!

#### ... and enjoy playing! ...