



Universität St.Gallen

Computer Science Insights @HSG - School of Computer Science

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Socially-Interactive Interfaces: Challenges and Perspectives

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In recent years, considerable efforts have been made to improve the expressive behaviors of artificial interactive agents that encounter human users in the role of animated virtual agents, as anthropomorphic robots, or as digitally enhanced everyday objects. However, experience has shown that impressive animations in conjunction with a realistic appearance are not enough to create sustainable affective bonds with the human user. Artificial interaction partners with anthropomorphic behaviors initially benefit from the novelty effect. However, they tend to lose their appeal to the user after a short time. The desire to establish long-term relationships between machines and human users is one driving factor to simulate socially interactive behaviors in devices. In my talk, I will present an overview of the state of art in socially interactive agents. I will focus on three essential properties of socially interactive interfaces: Social Perception, Socially-Aware Behavior Synthesis, and Learning Socially-Aware Behaviors.

Elisabeth André is a full professor of Computer Science and Founding Chair of Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence at Augsburg University in Germany. Elisabeth André has a long track record in multimodal human-machine interaction, embodied conversational agents, social robotics, affective computing and social signal processing. Her work has won many awards including the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibnitz Prize 2021 of the German Research Foundation (DFG). In 2017, she was elected to the CHI Academy, an honorary group of leaders in the field of Human-Computer Interaction. In 2019, she was named one of the 10 most influential figures in the history of AI in Germany by National Society for Informatics (GI). Elisabeth André is a member of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities, the Academy of Europe, the Asia-Pacific Artificial Intelligence Association and the German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina.

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