

Application Form / Workshop Description

Please note:

There are lots of workshop proposals expected. A detailed description of your workshop proposal will make it easier for the organisers (and at a later stage the participants) to select the right workshops.

Session Title:

Robotics facing Law. The RoboLaw Kick-off Meeting

(Preferred) time of workshop:

5th March, 1.5 hours slot in the afternoon

Organiser(s):

- *Dr. Pericle Salvini, The BioRobotics Institute, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna (Italy), email: p.salvini@sssupsup.it*
- *Prof. Erica Palmerini, Dirpolis Institute, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna (Italy), email: e.palmerini@sssupsup.it*

Motivation and objective:

The need for a legal regulation of robotics is becoming increasingly urgent. Legal liability, insurance, road traffic classification, and privacy, to name just a few open issues brought about by robots, may hinder the development and diffusion of robotic applications in the next future. This workshop intends to show how the legal problem of robotics is currently being addressed at the European level by illustrating the objectives of the EU funded project RoboLaw.

Approach:

The workshop will consist of a series of targeted presentations of approximately 15 minutes on different aspects of robotics and law.

Agenda of the workshop:

Session 1 – RoboLaw: Kick-Off Meeting

- 16:30 – 16:40 Introduction by RoboLaw Project Officer (D. LAGIOU)
- 16:40 – 16:55 Presentations of RoboLaw Project by the Project Coordinator (E. PALMERINI)
- 16:55 – 17:10 From Ethical Issues to Robotics Answers and vice versa: A Philosophical Approach (A. PIRNI – P. SALVINI)
- 17:10 – 17:25 RoboLaw partner 2's speech (R. LEENES)
- 17:25 – 17:40 BioTech Robots and Cyborgs – Ethical Aspects (K. WARWICK)
- 17:40 – 17:55 Ethical and anthropological issues concerning robotics (F. BATTAGLIA)
- 17:55 – 18:00 Wrap-up and Conclusions (B. JURETZKI)

Confirmed Speaker(s):

- *F. BATTAGLIA (Humboldt-Universitat Zu Berlin, Germany)*
- *B. JURETZKI (European Commission – Project Officer, Directorate-General for Information Society and Media, Belgium)*
- *D. LAGIOU (European Commission – Policy Officer, Research & Innovation DG, Belgium)*

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- R. LEENES (*Stichting Katholieke Universiteit Brabant universiteit Van Tilburg, Netherlands*)
- E. PALMERINI (*Scuola Superiore di Studi Universitari e di Perfezionamento Sant'Anna, Italy*)
- A. PIRNI (*Scuola Superiore di Studi Universitari e di Perfezionamento Sant'Anna, Italy*)
- P. SALVINI (*Scuola Superiore di Studi Universitari e di Perfezionamento Sant'Anna, Italy*)
- K. WARWICK (*The University of Reading, United Kingdom*)

Abstracts

From Ethical Issues to Robotics Answers and vice versa: A Philosophical Approach

Alberto Pirni, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Italy

The question whether a clear distinction between ('natural') human beings and other biological organisms, between more-than-humans (artificially enhanced humans) and non-humans (artifacts, devices, synthetic substances, etc.) can be made – or has ever existed – is far from being answered.

In this framework, the awareness about the need of considering ethical issues is becoming year by year more prominent and deep. In this contribution, I would like to underline some theoretical and linguistic limits of such awareness, in order to suggest some methodological inputs devoted to an agenda of ethical questions related to robotics more adequate to the philosophical contents at stake.

BioTech Robots and Cyborgs – Ethical Aspects

Kevin Warwick, University of Reading, UK

In this presentation a practical look is taken at how the use of implant and electrode technology can be employed to create biological brains for robots and to enable human enhancement. The ethical issues likely to be encountered with this will be considered. The emphasis will clearly be placed on experimental scientific studies rather than theoretical ideas. The area of focus is notably a biological/technological connection, where a link is made directly with the cerebral cortex and/or nervous system. The presentation will consider the future in which robots have biological, or part-biological, brains and in which neural implants link the human nervous system bi-directionally with technology and the internet.

Ethical and anthropological issues concerning robotics

Fiorella Battaglia, Humboldt University of Berlin

According to Kant the "freedom of a rotating spit" (AA V 97) was equivalent to the very negation of freedom, because mechanical automation is not provided with will. Today, advances in robotics – but the same holds for neurobiology, pharmacology and genetics – may allow us to change the human body not only therapeutically but also as enhancement. These changes entail the need to re-consider in new ways the question of freedom at the boundary between humans and machines, and the following questions of self-determination and external determination. Since freedom is never intended as

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individual freedom, but always as freedom of an individual in relation to other individuals, we need to analyze the social and political problems that these changes involve, first of all, the question of justice.

How can participants contribute to, and prepare for, the workshop?

Further information:

www.robolaw.eu (will be ready soon!)

Planned follow-up:

The participants, if they agree, will be kept informed on the further activities.

Please reply to:

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and

Erica Palmerini

e.palmerini@sssup.it

The European Robotics Forum will take place from 5-7 March 2012 in Odense, Denmark, hosted by the Danish Technological Institute (DTI). More than 300 robotics researchers from industry and academia, as well as entrepreneurs and public investors are expected to discuss the latest developments, research challenges and business opportunities for European robotics. This year's theme of the European Robotics Forum is "European Robotics towards new horizons".