

Preface

Autonomous humanoid robots have begun to display levels of human-like behavior and appearance that call for responsible attention to important psychological, sociological, philosophical, and spiritual implications of human-robot interaction (HRI). As ongoing commercial development of these robots makes human-robot interaction increasingly common, elements of human culture beyond the technical community need to engage HRI phenomena and seek clearer understanding of their potentially significant effects upon human society. Moreover, artificial intelligence is maturing in ways that oblige its own technical community to examine the effects of HRI upon other components of human culture. It is plausible, for example, to anticipate that cumulative HRI experiences may produce novel and fundamental changes of the following kinds:

- altered concepts of human identity
- altered concepts of human consciousness
- altered concepts of human freedom
- altered concepts of human society
- altered concepts of human moral status
- altered concepts of human moral responsibility
- altered concepts of human uniqueness

Accordingly, this AAAI-06 Workshop invited paper presentations and discussion of the foregoing kinds of potential changes among members of the artificial intelligence (AI) community ^ it welcomed, as well, participation and contributions from representatives of other areas, such as psychology, sociology, philosophy, and theology. The basic objective of the workshop was to cultivate dialogue of a scope and quality that would improve awareness and understanding of specifically human implications of human-robot interaction. The fact that this topic has become timely and important

seems particularly meaningful as our AAAI-06 gathering prepares to celebrate the fiftieth year of AI.

Presentation of papers to an audience of attendees at AAAI-06 in Boston was followed, during an afternoon session, by open discussion. Both sessions were linked in real time via multipoint videoconferencing to additional gatherings of invited scholars at the Universität Augsburg, in Augsburg, Germany, and at Oklahoma City University, in Oklahoma City, USA.

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