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Social Robotics

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Preface

The 8th International Conference on Social Robotics (ICSR 2016) was held in Kansas City, USA, in November 2016—its first year in the USA. This book contains the proceedings of the conference, comprising the 98 refereed papers, reviewed by the international Program Committee, and presented during the technical sessions of the conference.

The International Conference on Social Robotics brings together researchers and practitioners working on the interaction between humans and robots and on the integration of robots into our society. The theme of the 2016 conference was "Socio-robotics: Design and Implementation of Social Behaviors of Robots Interacting with Each Other and with Humans."

Now in its eighth year, the International Conference on Social Robotics is the leading international forum for researchers in social robotics. The conference provides researchers and practitioners the opportunity to present and engage in dialog on the latest progress in the field of social robotics. Social robots will improve quality of human life through assistance, enabling, for instance, independent living or providing support in work-intensive, difficult, and possibly complex situations. The conference aims to foster discussion on the development of computational models, robotic embodiments, and behavior that enable social robots to have an impact on the degree of personalized companionship with humans.

In addition to technical sessions, ICSR 2016 included three workshops: The Synthetic Method in Social Robotics (SMSR 2016); Social Robots: A Tool to Advance Interventions for Autism; and Using Social Robots to Improve the Quality of Life in the Elderly. ICSR 2016 had two world-renowned researchers in social robotics as keynote speakers: Prof. Maja Matarić, Chan Soon-Shiong Professor of Computer Science, Neuroscience, and Pediatrics at the University of Southern California, and Prof. Brian Scassellati, Professor of Computer Science, Cognitive Science, and Mechanical Engineering at Yale University.

The conference venue, Kansas City Country Club Plaza, provided the participants with the opportunity to experience Kansas City's jazz, barbecue, and fountains. The 15-block district is an excellent destination for shopping, dining, and entertainment.

We would like to express our appreciation to the Organizing Committee for putting together an excellent program, to the international Program Committee for their rigorous review of the papers, to KU Professional & Continuing Education for organizing the event, to Kansas City Marriott Country Club Plaza for hosting the event, to our generous sponsors SoftBank Robotics, University of Kansas School of Engineering, and Springer, and most importantly to the authors and participants who greatly enhanced the quality and effectiveness of the conference through their papers, presentations, and conversations.

We are hopeful that this conference will generate many future collaborations and research endeavors, resulting in enhancing human lives through the utilization of social robots.

September 2016

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Contents