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Third International Conference, ICSR 2011
Amsterdam, The Netherlands, November 24-25, 2011
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Message from the General Chairs

In this volume, you will find the papers presented at the Third International Conference on Social Robotics (ICSR), held during November 24–25, 2011, in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. In the new and rapidly growing and evolving research area of social robotics, building a community that is collegial, supportive, and constructive is crucial for fostering the scientific qualities needed to answer the questions that this strongly interdisciplinary field poses. The diversity of backgrounds and the sheer number of the Chairs involved in organizing this conference characterizes that enterprise. Likewise, the diversity of the papers in these proceedings and of the research discussed at the conference is an indication of the growing interest in social robotics research from a multitude of perspectives.

ICSR 2011 built strongly on the earlier ICSR conferences (Korea, 2009; Singapore, 2010), and was very much in debt to the huge efforts of the Standing Committee headed by Shuzhi Sam Ge. We thank all Organizing Chairs of ICSR 2011 for their tremendous efforts in making this conference a success; not only in its scientific output, but also in connecting researchers from all over the globe.

November 2011

Jaap Ham
Vanessa Evers
Takayuki Kanda

Preface

The Program Chairs proudly present the proceedings of the Third International Conference on Social Robotics. We were extremely pleased to see the growing interest in the conference and the extraordinary effort by our co-organizers and the research community to create a high-quality venue for publishing and sharing scientific research in social robotics.

The main focus of our work as Program Chairs has been to nurture high-quality scientific contributions to the conference by establishing a fair and rigorous review process. We sought to strictly adhere to submission deadlines and introduce a two-stage review process and handling of papers by meta-reviewers—experts and leaders in social robotics made up of faculty members and senior researchers. Fifty-one papers were initially submitted to the conference. Each paper was managed by one of 20 meta-reviewers who assigned a minimum of two external reviewers to the paper. A total of 85 reviewers from the social robotics community contributed to the review process as external reviewers. After the reviewers completed their evaluations, the meta-reviewers summarized them in light of their expert opinion and made their recommendation. Twelve papers were accepted and 13 were conditionally accepted.

The conditional papers entered the second stage of the review process, which we refer to as the "shepherded process." The meta-reviewers took a more active role, working with the authors to improve the papers and ensuring that the conditions for acceptance were fully satisfied. Eleven out of 13 papers were approved through this process. This review process resulted in a total of 23 outstanding papers that are included in the technical program of the conference, resulting in a 45% acceptance rate in the full-paper track.

We acknowledge that some early research work might not yet have been mature enough to be included in the conference technical program. The Works-In-Progress (WIP) Track offers authors the opportunity to discuss early results of their work with the community. Not archiving their papers allows the authors to keep the copyright of the papers. We hope that the feedback they received during the conference contributes to the completion of their work and the authors submit their completed work to next year's conference.

We would like to thank all the Chairs, Co-chairs, meta-reviewers, and reviewers who made such an extraordinary effort to bring this conference to life.

November 2011

Christoph Bartneck
Bilge Mutlu

Organization

The International Conference on Social Robotics brings researchers and practitioners together to report and discuss the latest progress in the field of social robotics. The conference focuses on the interaction between humans and robots and the integration of robots into our society. The inaugural conference was held in Incheon, Korea (2009), and after the very successful ICSR 2010 in Singapore, we were proud to invite participants to the intriguing city of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

The theme of the 2011 conference was "Alive!" It expresses the vitality of the social robotics research, paying particular attention to the development of robots that appear increasingly social – the point that people perceive them to be alive. The conference aims to foster discussion on the development of computational models, robotic embodiments, and behavior that enable robots to act socially and the impact that social robots have on people and their social and physical environment.

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