Robots: ethical or unethical?

Intro
Ambassador Lionel Veer & ADG SHS Nada Al-Nashif

What change caused by robots can we expect?
Prof. Vanessa Evers
How do robots concretely change our lives? With her robots Prof. Evers will show some examples.

Which are the ethical dilemmas?
Prof. Mark Coeckelbergh
The ‘Frankenstein risk’: who will be in charge, man or robot? Furthermore: is robotic behavior ethical and how does it affect humanity, for example our social life.

How can we ensure that innovation is ethical?
Prof. Peter-Paul Verbeek
How do humans and robots interact, and how can development and innovation in robotics be shaped in an ethical way?
Prof. Verbeek will present UNESCO’s COMEST report which advises Governments on these challenges.

Ask a question to the speakers by using the hashtag #UnescoRobots!

Nada Al-Nashif is UNESCO’s Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences since 16 February 2015. Prior to joining UNESCO, she served as Assistant Director-General/Regional Director of the International Labour Organization’s Regional Office for Arab States, based in Beirut, Lebanon. Previously she worked at UNDP, where she started her UN career in 1991, serving in Libya, Lebanon, Iraq and at Headquarters in New York. As a development economist and practitioner, she serves in an advisory capacity on several boards, notably the Boards of Trustees of Birzeit University and the Human Development NGO, Taawon.

Vanessa Evers is a full Professor of Human Media Interaction at the University of Twente. Her research focuses on Human Interaction with Autonomous Agents such as robots or machine learning systems and cultural aspects of Human Computer Interaction. She is best known for her work on social robotics such as the FROG robot (fun robotic outdoor guide), that can interpret human behaviour automatically and respond to people in a socially acceptable way. She was a visiting researcher at Stanford University (2005-2007). She has published over 80 peer reviewed publications, many of which in high quality journals and conferences in human computer interaction and human robot interaction. She serves on Program Committees of HRI, CHI, CSCW and ACM Multimedia.

Mark Coeckelbergh is Professor of Philosophy of Media and Technology at the Department of Philosophy, University of Vienna, Austria and the current President of the international Society for Philosophy and Technology. He is also part-time Professor of Technology and Social Responsibility at the Centre for Computing and Social Responsibility, De Montfort University, UK. He is also a member of the Robotics Council of the Austrian Bundesministerium for Traffic, Innovation, and Technology and advises the Foundation for Responsible Robotics. Previously he was Managing Director of the 3TU Centre for Ethics and Technology. His publications include Using Words and Things (Routledge 2017) and New Romantic Cyborgs (MIT 2017). He is an expert in ethics of robotics and artificial intelligence.

Peter-Paul Verbeek is professor of philosophy of technology at the Department of Philosophy and co-director of the DesignLab at the University of Twente, The Netherlands. His research focuses on the philosophy of human-technology relations, in relation to philosophical theory, ethical reflection, and practices of design and innovation. Verbeek is a member of UNESCO – COMEST (Committee on the Ethics of Science and Technology), of the Dutch Council for the Humanities, and many others. Furthermore he is author of, among other books, Moralizing Technology: Understanding and Designing the Morality of Things (University of Chicago Press, 2011), in which he analyzes the moral significance of technologies and its implications for ethical theory and for design practices.