

Online International Symposium

# Limits of the human, machines without limits?

Contemporary stage and robotics :  
exchanges and collaborations

Organised by:

Dr Izabella PLUTA, Symposium Leader, University of Lausanne - Centre d'études théâtrales and Laboratoire de cultures et humanités digitales, supported by Collège des humanités Until-EPFL, Dr Salvatore Maria ANZALONE, University Paris 8 - CHArt Laboratory, Dr Gunter LOESEL, Zurich University of the Arts - Institute for the Performing Arts and Film, Dr Erica MAGRIS, University Paris 8 - Theatre Department

6 - 7 - 8  
OCTOBER  
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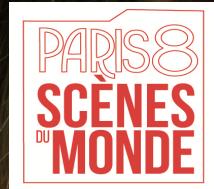
Centre d'études théâtrales

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Zürcher Hochschule der Künste  
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# DAY 1

# Wednesday October the 6th

**9h30-CET**

9:30-10:00  
Welcome

Dr Pluta Izabella (University of Lausanne), Dr Erica Magris (Paris 8 University), Dr Anzalone Salvatore (Paris 8 University), Dr Loesel Gunter (Zurich University of the Arts).

10:00-11:00 Keynote speaker: prof. Parker- Starbuck Jennifer (Royal Holloway University of London, United Kingdom) :

“Limits of the (non)Human: Cyborgs, Technologized Animality, and Boundary Crossings”.

chair: Dr Pluta Izabella (University of Lausanne)

**11:15-12:15**

**PARALLEL PANELS**

Panel 1. Posthuman subjectivities, chair: Dr Magris Erica (Paris 8 University)

Abramovic Boris (RELATE, Aalborg University), “Performing Robots: the uncanny and otherness”.

Dr Fuoco Ester (University of Genova), “The other seen by itself. Posthuman aesthetics in ‘Rimini Protokoll’s Uncanny Valley’.

Dr Macioszek Sabina (Poland), “Human-machines ecologies: theatre as a platform for creating specific relationships between humans and new technologies”.

Panel 2. New ecosystems: redefining the human and the machine relationship, chair: Dr Pluta Izabella (University of Lausanne)

Arnulf Théo (PHD candidate at Paris 8 University), “Installation and performance, labs for robotic diversity?”.

Prof. Chen Chu Yin (National Tsing Hua University in Taiwan, INREV Paris 8 university), Círcu Silvia, Teles de Castro Isadora (INREV), “Promoting a sustainable behavioral coevolution within an emerging Human-Machine co-creation”.

Panel 3. Autonomous agents and human actor: how to create together?, chair: Dr Ha-gemann Simon (University of Lorraine, France)

Branch M. Boyd (Improvisational Media and Performance Lab, London), Dr Mirowski Piotr and Dr Mathewson Kory (DeepMind, London), “Hell is other people’s robots”.

Alcubilla Troughton Irene (PhD candidate at Utrecht University), “Rule-based Improvisation for Developing Social Robots: The Value of Limits and Emergence in HRI”.

**12:25-13:05**

**FORUM**

Discussion of all participants of the day with reports from all panels

*Break: 13:05-13:40*

**13:40- 14:40**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

13:40- 14:40 Keynote speaker: prof. Paré Zaven (University of Rio de Janeiro, The Intercontinental Academia, Brazil):

“An interaction design study with robots. From non-verbal interaction to conversation”.

chair: Dr Loesel Gunter (Zurich University of the Arts).

# DAY 2

# Thursday October the 7th

9h45-CET

9:45

Welcome (Check in)

10:00-11:00: Keynote speaker: prof. Ishiguro Hiroshi (Department of Systems Innovation, Osaka University, Visiting Director of ATR Hiroshi Ishiguro Laboratories, Japan):

“Art and technology with androids”.

chair: Dr Anzalone Salvatore (Paris 8 University)

11:15-12:15

**PARALLEL PANELS**

Panel 1. Stage as an empathy machine, chair: Dr Piotr Mirowski (DeepMind, London)

Dr Loesel Gunter (Zurich University of the Arts), “Mechanical Mothers, Rubber Hands and Child Machines. A Psychological Approach to Anthropomorphization of Machines on the Theatre Stage”.

Prof. Bergmann Michael (Ryerson University, School of Performance, Toronto, Ontario), “Cultivating Empathy through Robotic Performance”.

Dr LePage Louise (Lecturer and Programme Leader of Theatre at the University of York), “When stage robots make us weep: An argument for the significance of theatrical realism and character in creating robots we care about”.

Panel 2. Ways of subjectivation: objects, characters and puppets, chair: Dr Anzalone Salvatore

Takenobu Chikaraishi (Founder of Reiwa-Kogei LLC, associate professor to Tokyo University of arts, ATR Laboratories Osaka), «Development of a new robot business based on Kogei and art».

Prof. Fourmentraux Jean-Paul (Aix-Marseille University), “The robot being. Deviant machines, dysfunctional objects”.

Prof. Quinz Emanuele (Paris 8 University), “Objects with behaviour. Another genealogy for the performativity of the non-human”.

Panel 3. Performing robots in the cultural space, chair: Dr Ester Fuoco (University of Genova)

Dr Kotolloshi Ervina (Paris 3 University, IRET), “The robot-creator, a new displacement of the boundary between organic and inorganic ?”.

Xu Ruowen (PhD candidate at Utrecht University), “Emergence From the Void: Alter’s Technological and Cultural Performances of Emptiness”.

12:25-13:05

**FORUM**

Discussion of all participants of the day with reports from all panels

*Break: 13:10-14:00*

14:00-15:30

**ROUNDTABLE**

14:00-15:30: Roundtable: “Creative processes and collaborations”.

chair: Dr Pluta Izabella (University of Lausanne), Dr Magris Erica (Paris 8 University)

Poquet Thierry (Stage Director, France)

Riedel Martin (Circus artist, Germany)

Ziegler Chris (Assistant Professor, ZKM Karlsruhe Hertz, Laboratory, Germany)

Ventura Pablo (Choreographer, Media artist, Switzerland)

# DAY 3

# Friday October the 8th

14:15-CET

14:15 Welcome  
(Check In)

14:30-15:30: Keynote speaker: Prof. Bleeker Maaike (University of Amsterdam, Department of Media & Culture Studies, Netherlands), chair : Dr Gunter Loesel (Zurich University of the Arts)

«From HRI to Human Robot Intra-action, and some more lessons to be learned from the theatre».

*Break 15:30 - 15:45*

15:45-16:45  
**PARALLEL PANELS**

Panel 1. Embodiment and movement, chair: Dr LePage Louise

Dr Pignarre Florence (PhD in contemporary philosophy, Artist), “Robot on the stage. Dance with robot From experimentation to experience”.

Dr Eacho Douglas (Assistant professor at University of Toronto), “Becoming Automatic: Algorithmic and Robotic Performance after 2008”.

Dr Van Baarle Kristof (Post doc at Antwerp University), “Spectral machines”.

Panel 2. Robots, new materiality and disappearance of the human? chair: Dr Monteverdi Anna Maria

Morin Julie-Michèle (PhD candidate at University of Montreal and Antwerp), “The materiality of robots and why robotic matters on stage”.

Prof. Eckersall Peter (City University of New York), “The big laboratory”.

Panel 3. Stage and Robotics: between disorders and mythic tradition, chair: Dr Fuoco Ester

Cecconi Francesca (PHD candidate, University of Verona), “Tech insights in Puppet Theatre language”.

Prof. Riccio Thomas (University of Texas, Dallas), “Sophia Robot: A Mythic Narrative Performed”.

16:50-17:30  
**FORUM**

Discussion of all participants of the day with reports from all panels

17h30-18h  
**CONCLUSION OF THE SYMPOSIUM**

## Scientific Committee:

Prof. Atallah Marc (Univ. of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland), Prof. Casari Matteo (Univ. of Bologna, Bologna, Italy), Dr. Fuoco Ester (Univ. of Genoa, Genoa, Italy), Dr. Gallois Aurélie (Espace culturel Nymphéa, Amiens, France), Dr. Hagemann Simon (PRAG, Univ. of Lorraine, Nancy, France), Dr. LePage Louise (Univ. of York, UK), Dr. Mirowski Piotr (Deep-Mind, UK), Prof. Monteverdi Anna Maria (Univ. of Milan, Milan, Italy), Prof. Quinz Emanuele (Univ. Paris 8, Paris 8, France), Prof. Paré Zaven (Univ. of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), Prof. Riccio Thomas (University of Texas at Dallas, USA)

## Symposium Bureau

Théo Arnulf (PhD Candidate, University Paris 8, Theatre Department)  
[theatre.robots@gmail.com](mailto:theatre.robots@gmail.com)

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