



WISE Network Talk

“Perspectives from the Margins: My Academic Journey in Social Robotics”

By Dr. Giulia Perugia

When: Tuesday, 27 June 2023,
16.30-17.30
Flux 0.150

Abstract/About the session:

In this talk, Giulia Perugia will share her academic journey as an interdisciplinary social scientist in Social Robotics. She will explain how she experienced not being *the* traditional robotics scholar and how her ‘outsider’ status gave her a privileged position to observe the field from the margins and informed her research vision. She will then introduce her research investigating issues of bias and discrimination in the design of social robots and explain how these issues might mirror deeper representation issues existing in Robotics and society.

Bio:

Dr. Giulia Perugia is an Assistant Professor at the Human-Technology Interaction group of Eindhoven University of Technology. She holds a BA in Literature and Linguistics, an MSc in Cognitive Science, and a double degree Ph.D. in Assistive Technologies. From 2018 and 2021, she was a postdoctoral researcher at Uppsala Social Robotics Lab (Sweden). As a social scientist, her research lies at the intersection of Social Robotics, Social Psychology, and Ethical and Inclusive HRI. She aims to do research that positively impacts people’s lives by fostering human well-being and empowering marginalized and vulnerable user groups. In detail, she works extensively on issues of bias and stereotyping related to the design and perception of humanoid robots, investigates how we can promote the co-design and co-creation of AI technologies for specific user groups together with those user groups, and is interested in translating ethical issues into testable experiments and design problems. Dr. Perugia’s research earned her several awards. She got shortlisted for the RSJ/KROS Distinguished Interdisciplinary Research Award in 2020 after winning it in 2017 and received an honorable mention at the ACM/IEEE HRI conference in 2022.