

Preface

Autonomous humanoid robots have begun to display levels of human-like behavior and appearance that call for responsible attention to important psychological, sociological, philosophical, and spiritual implications of human-robot interaction (HRI). As ongoing commercial development of these robots makes human-robot interaction increasingly common, elements of human culture beyond the technical community need to engage HRI phenomena and seek clearer understanding of their potentially significant effects upon human society. It is plausible, for example, to anticipate that cumulative HRI experiences may produce novel and fundamental changes in our broadly shared concepts of human uniqueness, identity, consciousness, freedom, moral responsibility, and moral status; indeed, they could alter structures of human society itself.

Accordingly, this AAAI-07 Workshop invites paper presentations and discussion of these potential changes among members of the artificial intelligence community — it welcomes, as well, participation and contributions from representatives of other areas, such as psychology, sociology, philosophy, and theology. The basic objective of the workshop is to cultivate dialogue of a scope and quality that will improve awareness and understanding of specifically human implications of human-robot interaction.

Presentation of papers will be followed by open discussion among all participants.

– *Ted Metzler, Workshop Chair*