Selma Šabanović is an Assistant Professor of Informatics and a member of the Cognitive Science Program at Indiana University, Bloomington since 2009. She is the founder and director of the R-House Human–Robot Interaction Lab, in which scholars from social and technical disciplines collaborate on the study and design of interactive and assistive robotic technologies for everyday living. In 2014, Šabanović received IU’s Outstanding Junior Scholar award. Prior to her employment at IU, she spent 2008/9 as a lecturer in Stanford University’s Program in Science, Technology and Society. She was also a visiting scholar at the Intelligent Systems Institute in AIST, Tsukuba, Japan and the Robotics Institute at Carnegie Mellon University in 2005. She received her PhD in Science and Technology Studies from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 2007. Šabanović’s research combines the social studies of computing, focusing particularly on the design, use, and consequences of socially interactive and assistive robots in different social and cultural contexts, with research on human–robot interaction (HRI) and social robot design. She has published on cross-cultural studies of social robotics research and user perceptions of robots, design and evaluation methods for human–robot interaction, ways of increasing user participation in robot design, and interdisciplinary collaboration in social robotics. Her current projects include the cross-cultural comparison of user responses to and designs of everyday robots, observational studies of the adoption and use of assistive robots in eldercare, participatory design of assistive robots with older adults, research on group effects in interactions between multiple people and multiple robots, and the critical study of the development and use of interactive robots in society. Šabanović has been on the organizing and program committees of the ACM/IEEE Human–Robot Interaction Conference (HRI), the IEEE International Symposium on Robot–Human Communication (RO-MAN), and the Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S), among others. She is a Robotics Section Associate Editor for the Journal of Entertainment Computing.

Die Gender-Gastprofessur an der Universität Bielefeld


Mit der Etablierung der Gender-Gastprofessur setzt sich die strukturelle Absicherung von Geschlechterforschung und interdisziplinärem Austausch fort. Innerhalb der Universität fügt sich diese Initiative in die Zielsetzung des Rektorats ein, Gleichstellungsfragen sowie Gender- und Diversity-Themen zu stärken.

Weitere Informationen unter:
www.uni-bielefeld.de/gender/gendergastprofessur.html
Social scientists have suggested the notion that people can relate to robots socially, leading to the development of a "robotics culture," in which we explore and redefine our notions of self and others in relation to emerging interactive technologies. Our expectations from human social relationships, in turn, impact both how these technologies are designed and how people use and make sense of them. In this talk, I will discuss how cultural and social norms and practices inform robotics design and use, and how robotic technologies in turn can affect social and cultural meanings and practices. I first discuss how robotics researchers in the US and Japan are constructing culturally variable conceptions of social order, cognition, and interaction in the process of creating socially interactive robots; in particular I will show how Japanese robotics researchers are defining robots as culturally specific artifacts. I will then describe how culturally variable perceptions and expectations of robotic technology can be seen among potential users of robots through the results of a survey study performed in the US, South Korea, and Turkey and generative design research on domestic robots in S Korea and the US. The latter series of studies shows users base their expectations and desires regarding domestic robotic technologies on the social hierarchies and cultural values in their homes, which should be addressed more explicitly in robot design. I also discuss how robots can be used as tools for the cultural study of cognition, and how we might apply a dynamic understanding of culture to design culturally appropriate robots. In conclusion, I propose the notion of culturally robust human–robot interaction design as a guide for future research and design.

Suggested readings:

