avataResponsibility workshop 2024

"Where no proxy has gone before: avatars & responsibility frameworks"

Avatars in the form of digital or robotic embodied representations of a person in virtual or physical environments are being deployed in fields such as healthcare, education, social interaction or workspace. Alternatively termed as digital/ robotic twins, clones or duplicates of real humans, personal avatars can be coupled with AI technologies such as (personalized/small/large) Language Models to the extent that their human users do not control them in real time. This seems to raise new challenges in terms of agency ascriptions, (dis)enhancement of human capabilities and oversight, potentially opening new responsibility gaps. The purpose of this two-day workshop is to explore the new set of issues opened by use of digital and robotic avatars, and to assess the limits of our current frameworks of responsibility in relation to these issues.

Venue: Faculty of Philosophy, University of Bucharest (Splaiul Independentei 204 St.)

Day 1: Thursday, October 10

10.30 – 11.00: Arrival, welcome coffee & registration

11.00 – 11.05: Introduction & welcome address

11.05 – 12.00: **Paula Sweeney** (University of Aberdeen): *Personal Avatars and the Problem of Uniqueness* (Keynote)

12.00 – 12.20: Coffee break

12.20 – 12.50: **Stefano Dafarra** (Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia): *Humanoid robotic avatar systems*

12.50 – 13.20: **Alex Dancu** (Augmented Human Lab, Singapore): *AI Tools for Navigating Life*

13.20 – 14.30: Lunch break

14.30 – 15.00: **Faez Aghaee** (Aarhus University): *Avatars as Representations and the Responsibility Gap*

15.00 – 15.30: **Mihaela Constantinescu** (CCEA, University of Bucharest) – *Do GenAI avatars open new responsibility gaps?*

15.30 – 16.00: Coffee break & networking

18.00: Conference dinner

Day 2: Friday, October 11

10.30 – 11.00: Arrival & coffee

11.00 – 11.40: **Daniele Pucci** (Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia): *Artificial and Mechanical Intelligence* (online)

11.40 – 12.20: **Kathryn B. Francis** (Keele University): *Simulated morality: How Virtual Reality has changed our understanding of moral decision-making*

12.20 – 12.40: Coffee break

12.40 – 13.10: **Fabio Patrone** (University of L'Aquila): *Virtual personal identity: how to persist in virtual worlds*

13.10 – 13.40: **Emilian Mihailov** (CCEA, University of Bucharest): *Artificial agents and the attribution of moral responsibility*

13.40 – 14.40: Lunch break

14.40 – 16.00: **Round table: Prospects for future research on avatars** (for workshop speakers only)

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