



SHOULD ROBOTS BE SOCIAL?

DAMITH HERATH

5:00 – 6:00 pm, 15 September 2014, Bldg 201 Rm 309B

The bright yellow painted industrial robots of the last century are invading not only work places but also homes. There is excitement and renewed interest in the possibility of increasing interaction of robots and humans. Two new conferences and affiliated journals (HRI and Social Robotics) help persuade the development of underlying technologies and ideas of social robots. However, the notion of social robots, until recently was purely in the science fiction. This is where art and science conjure new vistas for futures, bright and dark. In fact this intersection of art and science is the very birthplace of social robotics. In this talk, I will present a few robotic projects inspired by Stelarc's prosthetic head, an original art installation that sits between art and science and what we have learnt about social automatons in the process.

Damith Herath received his Ph.D. in Robotics from the University of Technology, Sydney, in 2008. He conducted human-robot interaction in the Thinking Head project at MARCS Institute at UWS, 2006-2012. He co-founded the multi-award winning start-up company Robological Pty Ltd 2014.