UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI BARI ALDO MORO

Seminar Announcement

DIPARTIMENTO DI INFORMATICA

The Seminars on "Information Technology Outlook" – PhD Programme in Computer Science and Mathematics

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Aula Hume,
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"IN ROBOT WE TRUST"

Abstract

As intelligent machines become increasingly integrated into daily life, from autonomous vehicles to service robots, the question of trust has become a central concern in human-robot interaction. This talk examines the psychological, moral, and cultural dimensions that shape the human willingness to trust robotic systems. Factors such as a robot's appearance, behaviour, and the user's cultural or religious background are shown to significantly influence trust and acceptance. Beyond the human perspective, the concept of Artificial Trust is introduced: the idea that robots themselves might assess and decide whether to trust their human partners. This reciprocal model of trust raises important questions about autonomy, agency, and ethical responsibility. Can current technologies support such capabilities, and should robots be empowered to disobey human commands?

Dr Samuele Vinanzi is a Senior Lecturer in Robotics and Artificial Intelligence at Sheffield Hallam University. He has obtained his BSc and MSc in Computer Engineering at the University of Palermo and his PhD in Computer Science from the University of Manchester. He specializes in Cognitive Robotics: an interdisciplinary field that integrates robotics, artificial intelligence, cognitive science, and psychology to create robots that perceive, reason, and interact like humans. His focus is on enabling social collaboration between humans and robots