

# THE ROBOT SELF

## Call for Participation

A 1-day workshop at the  
2015 Living Machines Conference  
<http://csnetwork.eu/livingmachines/conf2015>

Organised by Tony Prescott, Kevin O'Regan and Paul Verschure

**Tuesday 28th July 2015**  
PobleNou Campus,  
University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona



### Synopsis

The human self has many facets—physical, temporal, social, conceptual and experiential. We will consider to what extent it will be possible, useful, or ethical to create robots that have a human-like “sense of self”. Might this, for instance, be a path to developing robots that have an understanding of human intentions and needs and are therefore safer and more helpful? Or, would such machines with selves then suffer like we do? Or, might they become uncontrollable? Our workshop will examine the different aspects of self in humans, how these might be realised in robots, and what we might learn about the human condition from the endeavour to create artificial selves.

### Plenary speakers

We are pleased to announce the participation of two distinguished international speakers who will each give a one hour presentation (including ten minutes questions) to the meeting.

#### *Phillipe Rochat*

Department of Psychology, Emory University

<http://www.psychology.emory.edu/cognition/rochat/>

Author of “Others in Mind: Social Origins of Self-Consciousness” (Cambridge University Press), Phillipe will speak on the development of the self in early childhood.

#### *Michael S. Graziano*

Department of Psychology, Princeton

<http://www.princeton.edu/~graziano/>

Author of “Consciousness and the Social Brain” (Oxford University Press). Michael will present his neuro-cognitive theory of the evolution of consciousness and consider its implications for artificial selves.

## The Robot Self

### Shorter talks (20 minutes + 10 minutes questions)

*Paul Verschure*

SPECS Lab, Universitat Pompeu Fabra  
<http://specs.upf.edu/people/331>

*Kevin O'Regan*

Laboratoire Psychologie de la Perception, CNRS  
Institut Paris Descartes de Neurosciences et Cognition  
<http://nivea.psych.univ-paris5.fr>

*Tony Prescott*

Sheffield Centre for Robotics, University of Sheffield  
<http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/psychology/staff/academic/tony-prescott>

*Minoru Asada*, Department of Adaptive Machine Systems, Osaka University  
[http://www.er.ams.eng.osaka-u.ac.jp/asadalab/index\\_en.html](http://www.er.ams.eng.osaka-u.ac.jp/asadalab/index_en.html)

*Mariano Alcañiz*

LabHuman, Polytechnic University of Valencia  
<http://www.labhuman.com/en/node/350>

*Matej Hoffmann*, iCub Facility, Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia  
<https://sites.google.com/site/matejhof/>

### Preliminary schedule

09:45 Welcome

10:00 Tony Prescott: Deconstructing the human self by synthesizing the robot self

10:30 Matej Hoffman: Modeling the mechanisms of body representation using machines

11:00 Coffee

11.30 Phillipe Rochat: Self-consciousness in human development

12.30 Kevin O'Regan: Why robots can have selves and feel

13.00 Mariano Alcaniz: t.b.a.

15.30 Michael Graziano: Consciousness and the Social Brain

16:30 Coffee

17:00 Minoru Asada: Robot self—development of an empathetic agent

17:30 Paul Verschure: The necessity of free will in social machines, biological and otherwise

18:00 Discussion

18:30 End

### Registration

Non-students 50 Euros

Students 25 Euros

Register at: <http://csnetwork.eu/livingmachines/conf2015/registration>

Convergent Science Network  
of Biomimetics and Neurotechnology