

Robots and Communication

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Robots and Communication examines human-robot interactions as models of communication. Robots are intriguing communicators because they are created in such a variety of forms. Some are built to appear humanlike, while others are not humanlike in any way, with many different designs existing in the continuum between these extremes. In order to explore human interactions with robots from across this range—from familiar to radically other— this book employs a range of different communication theories and considers how each of them provides a different perspective on what happens when humans and robots meet and interact. The analysis of a variety of human-robot interactions also allows this book to take its findings full circle, to suggest new ways to think about what communication, and being a communicator, entails. Its argument therefore has implications not only for human-robot interaction design, but also for human communication theory and practice more generally.

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Endorsement:

“Will communication between humans and robots improve as technical advances make robots more similar to us? Not necessarily, as Eleanor Sandry convincingly argues in this fascinating, insightful book. Drawing ideas and vivid examples from robotics, communication theory, philosophy, and art, *Robots and Communication* shows how our deep differences from humanoid as well as nonhumanoid robots enrich the communication experience. A must read for robot designers, communication theorists, and anyone concerned about our increasing interaction with machines.”

- Robert T. Craig, University of Colorado, USA

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Eleanor Sandry is Lecturer in the Department of Internet Studies at Curtin University, Australia. Her research examines communication theory and practice, both offline and online, with a focus on considering the value of the differences between communicators.

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