

ISR-Connected 2.0 - 22 May

issue 2018.6

This week IST celebrates the 107th anniversary (May 23rd) and there will be several activities on campus. In the official morning ceremony, the IST Distinguished Professor award will be given to Professor Isabel Ribeiro (details below). In the afternoon, ISR-Lisboa will showcase in the lobby of the North Tower to all visitors. Join (an enjoy) the celebration.

José Santos-Victor

What's New



Best M.Sc Thesis in Robotics

Paul Schydlo's thesis "Anticipation in Human-Robot Cooperation: A recurrent neural network approach for multiple action sequences prediction", supervised by José Santos-Victor and Lorenzo Jamone, was awarded the distinction of best M.Sc Thesis in Robotics by the Portuguese Robotics Society. Read it [here](#)

Distinction at ICARSC2018

"iCub, clean the table! A robot learning from demonstration approach using Deep Neural Networks" by Jaeseok Kim, Nino Cauli, Pedro Vicente, Bruno Damas, Filippo Cavallo and José Santos-Victor, was distinguished with the best paper award at the 18th IEEE International Conference on Autonomous Robot Systems and Competitions. Learn more by reading the paper [here](#)





Associação Portuguesa de Controlo Automático

APCA best Thesis Award

The Portuguese Association of Automatic Control award for best PhD thesis was attributed *ex aequo* to Pedro Casau, for his work "Synergistic Hybrid Feedback Control with Application to Autonomous Air Vehicles" with supervisors Prof. Carlos Silvestre and Prof. Ricardo Sanfelice (UCSC) and to Daniel Silvestre for "Fault-tolerant Stochastic Distributed Systems" supervised by Prof. Carlos Silvestre and Prof. João Hespanha (UCSB). Learn [more](#)

AHA project semi-finalist

The team working on the Portable Exergame Platform for Active Ageing (PEPE), a configurable augmented reality platform to promote active aging through physical training, was selected among 95 applications to attend a mentoring academy in Brussels. The project is on the running to be awarded a monetary prize from the Active and Assisive Living (AAL) Programme that aims to enhance the quality of life of older adults and strengthen the industrial base in Europe. [More](#)



INSIDE -robots in health

The INSIDE project is developing solutions from research to use in real-world interaction scenarios. Learn more about this ongoing initiative, developed from a collaborative effort with health professionals, where a robot, overseen by an ISR team, interacted with children with developmental disorders in order to serve as a therapy mechanism. Learn more about the project [here](#).

Inside ISR



People of ISR - Filomena Viegas

Filomena Viegas has been an ISR employee since it was founded. Being the operational person in charge of the financial execution of the FCT Pluriannual Program, that funds ongoing research activities in all the different groups, makes her a sort of guardian at ISR. Learn more about Filomena and the history of ISR-Lisboa in the latest "People of ISR", [here](#).

New PhD Shanghang Zhang

Shanghang Zhang successfully defended her thesis: "Deep Understanding of Urban Mobility from Cityscape Webcams", co-advised by Professor José Moura (CMU) and Professor João Paulo Costeira (ISR-IST). Her defence took place in Pittsburgh, with committee members André Martins (IST-Unbabel) RajrajKumar (CMU), Katarina Fragkiadaki (CMU) and Ricardo Cabral (Apple). Learn more about the work Shanghang has developed at ISR [here](#).



Happy birthday to Atabak

PhD student at the Computer and Robot Vision Lab, Atabak Dehban, celebrated his birthday, on the 10th of May, with some cake and drinks shared with everyone on the 7th floor. Wishes of many successful and happy years to come.

Press

Interview in Público

An interview of Professor José Santos-Victor was published in the newspaper Público, in the sequence of his participation in Graça Castanheira's "Imagine 2084" events at the Centro Cultural de Belém. In this interview, Professor Santos-Victor explains the long-term goals of teaching robots to learn from human demonstration, the challenges of developing visual or auditory perception in such systems and provide a better understanding of the human brain and cognition. Read the interview [here](#)



Professor Manuela Veloso joins J.P. Morgan

Manuela Veloso, a former student, lecturer and researcher at IST and a well-known professor at CMU is a recurrent partner of ISR activities. She will be heading for a new challenge starting in July as head of artificial intelligence research at J.P. Morgan. The American investment bank is preparing for wider adoption of automation. Read [more](#)

EU investment

The EU Commissioner for Science and Research continues to talk about the plans for investment until 2027. In this interview with Euronews, the Commissioner explained further his stance on Artificial Intelligence and investment in technology and what the political take will be for the coming years. Read or watch the interview [here](#)



Events

20 years of Expo

On the 22nd of May there will be an event at Pavilhão do Conhecimento to celebrate the 20 years of Expo 98. Dedicated to the Ocean and how it's part of it has been part of our countries culture and research it will feature an ISR-Lisboa participation. The Institute will be represented by the MEDUSA AUV in order to show the team's work in exploring the deep blue. Learn more [here](#).



Professor Isabel Ribeiro distinguished at Técnico

On the 23rd of May a solemn celebration of Instituto Superior Técnico will take place throughout the day. The session will count on the presence and intervention of the President of Técnico and several government figures and Professor Isabel Ribeiro will be honoured with the title of Distinguished Professor. Learn more about the event [here](#)

Wrap-up Robotics Festival

At the National Festival of Robotics 2018, that took place in Torres Vedras from April 25 to 29, ISR-Lisboa had a lot to celebrate. ISR researchers received awards for Best Article in Conference for ICARSC2018, Second Place in the Autonomous Driving competition and had two articles selected for a special issue of IJINT. The [SocRob](#) team also received an Honorable mention for their MBOT demos. Watch a video on the Festival, [here](#)





Networking for Data-Science workshop

On the past 15th of May a workshop took place at Auditório Abreu Faro with the aim of connecting people with industrial mathematics. Organized by a committee composed of representatives of the Mathematics Department of IST, CEMAT and ISR, the workshop counted on more than a hundred of participants who were students, researchers and from the industry. [More](#)

There are several opportunities for Post-doc positions:

At the University of Exeter's College of Engineering, Mathematics and Physical Sciences (bit.ly/2IkSv5N)

With the University of Southampton for EPSRC New Investigator Award project "Rapid fault-recovery strategies for resilient robot swarms". (goo.gl/gj7zSA)

Instituto Italiano di Tecnologia (IIT) in Genova is looking for someone to provide algorithms for the core research fields of Computer Vision, Signal Processing and Machine Learning (contact pavis@iit.it for more)

Two other Post-doctoral research assistantships are available to work on Distributed Optimization, statistical learning or Information Processing in the School of Industrial at the University of Purdue (contact gscutari@purdue.edu)