Welcome to our first issue of 2019 that includes a rich set of recent ISR-Lisboa activities.

I hope you like the new layout (ISR-Connected 3.0!) and I wish you many personal and scientific achievements throughout the year.

Best regards,

José Santos-Victor

What's New

ISR Project - Feedbot

Feedbot aims to be a symbiotic robot for meal assistance to motion-impaired people, able to autonomously adapt to the wide range of motions of the user, in a way that it becomes increasingly easier for them to feed comfortably. This FCT project, which started in September 2018, entails collaboration between IST, CMU and M-ITI. Learn more in the news section of welcome.isr.tecnico.ulisboa.pt/

Best Dissertation Video

João Cartucho won the best Master dissertation video award from the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department. João was supervised by Manuela Veloso and Rodrigo Ventura, on a thesis entitled "Robust Object Recognition through Symbiotic Deep Learning in Mobile Robots", partially carried out during his internship at CMU, supported by the Undergrad Internship Program (UIP) of CMU-Portugal.

Serbian Delegation Visit

On January 14, the Delegation of the Minister for Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia was welcomed by ISR Directors. The visit was a chance to talk about all the previous collaborations with Serbian Institutions and researchers and to extend honest hopes of further tightening cooperation in the future.

Congratulations to new PhD

Pedro Lourenço defended his dissertation: "Globally Convergent Simultaneous Localization and Mapping: Design Techniques, Analysis, and Implementation", tutored by Professors Pedro Batista, Carlos Silvestre and Pedro Oliveira, which addressed the problem of simultaneous localization and mapping, aiming to achieve global convergence and stability guarantees.
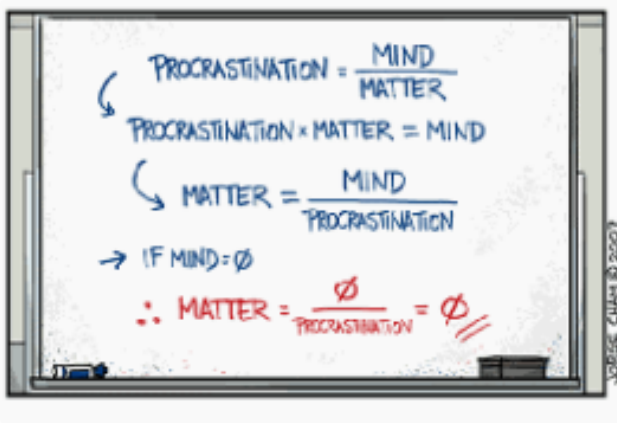
Opportunities

NeurULisboa Open Call

The Lisbon University Doctoral Program in Integrative Neuroscience congregates the resources of renowned academic and research institutions of the University of Lisbon, to provide advanced training in Neuroscience research. There's an open call for PhD candidates, with six fellowships to be awarded until February 14. More on neurulisboa-phd.com/

Fulbright Portugal Grant

Until the 31st of January the Fulbright Research Fellowship, with the support of FCT, is looking for candidates. This grant is destined to researchers who predict to spend a period in a North American University or Research Institute. Besides a monthly allowance and bureaucratic aid with visa and health insurance, the selected fellows. More on fulbright.pt

PhD Courses Available

Starting February 2019: "**Nonlinear Optimization**" check a previous edition of the course or contact Professor João Xavier. "**Discrete Event Systems**" for basic notions of Computational Science, from a Systems theory perspective. More here, or contact Professor Pedro Lima. "**Advanced Topics in Artificial Intelligence**" with Rodrigo Ventura and "**Computer Vision**" contact José Santos-Victor will also start soon. Finally, for an optional MSc course "**Processing Big Data**" contact Cláudia Soares.

Call for Applications

Open call for 10 scholarships awarded on behalf of the FCT-IST Networked Cyber-Physical Systems Programme, until January 31. For clarification contact Profs. António Pascoal or João Paulo Costeira. For a description of NETSyS, call requirements and instructions on how to apply go to http://netsys.larsys.pt/

Media & Culture

3rd Festival Antena 2

The conference and live radio taping will take place on February 9, at Teatro Nacional D.Maria II. The event, which is free entrance, will count on several participants to discuss the effects and influence of Artificial Intelligence at a global level and in the near future. Professor Pedro Lima will be representing ISR, with his contribution in the debate. Learn more information in rtp.pt/antena2
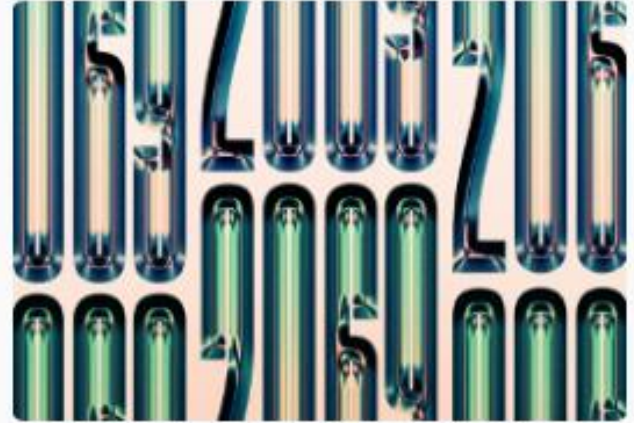

Chiado Conference

José Santos-Victor was a guest at "Conferências do Chiado" an event organized by Centro Nacional de Cultura and CidSenior. Inspired by the conferences that took place in Chiado around 1871, these events aim at creating a forum of reflection and open discussion about important societal questions. This time the discussion was "What does the topic of social robotics entail and how are going from understanding cognition to the emergence of a new era?"

Diário de Notícias Event

"What has been achieved, in robotics, in Portugal, even with a very conditioned market, is notable." José Santos-Victor, was one of the guests in the event "Christmas Stories", at Praça do Município in Lisbon. The setup allowed for an interesting discussion, of which the theme was: where we are in the world of robotics and AI and how are these technologies going to change our lives.

Essay on Talking Robots

"The next generation of computerized voices has to be human enough to connect with but not so human that we feel we're being lied to. That's no small feat." Starre Julia Vartan writes for the January issue of 2069 Digital Magazine, which draws on reporting, expertise, and imagination to predict what life will be like in the next 50 years.