

What's New



ERL event @ISR Testbed

From February 5-8 the European Robotics League Consumer Robots Local tournament took place at the ISRoboNet@Home Testbed, bringing the Homer UniKoblenz team to Lisbon for a true showcase of the best of what social robots are doing nowadays. The home team was a victor on two benchmarks: "Welcoming Visitors" and "Visiting my Home", but besides the competition, the event left, in both teams, a great will to share resources and knowledge. <https://bit.ly/2X71kns>



PhD Thesis Defense

Congratulations to new PhD Pedro Guerreiro. Tutored by Professor João Xavier, his thesis titled "Distributed Algorithms for Collaborative Learning" focused on creating algorithms that manage to coordinate whole networks of agents that can capture data nowadays (like small sensors, handheld devices, teams of robots) to produce a centralized solution and distributed hypothesis testing.



1st place on NASA Internship

Student Marina Gouveia ranked first in the 2018 edition of the NASA International Internship Program. Funded by FCT, this program allows Portuguese students to participate in short duration internships in the USA. Currently, an MSc student at IST, Marina is developing her thesis in a topic related to space robotics, at the German Aerospace Center, with joint supervision from Rodrigo Ventura and Endre Papp (DLR).



Escola Azul visits Taguspark

On February 12 a group of students visited the innovative ISR infrastructures at the Taguspark campus, where they got the opportunity to control the FUSION vehicle themselves. Their school, Anselmo de Andrade, in Almada, is also involved in the Escola Azul program, supported by Ministério do Mar with cooperation from organizations from all over the country, with the aim of improving ocean literacy.

Opportunities



International Conference on Robot Ethics and Standards

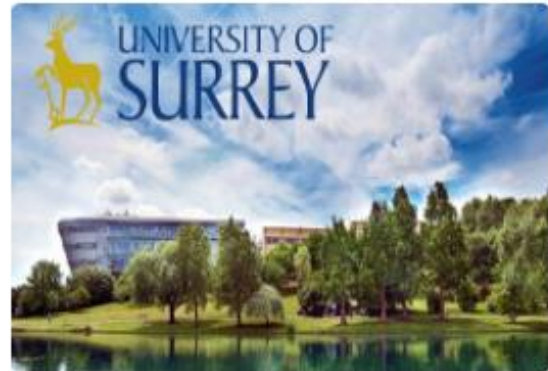
ICRES'19 is the fourth edition of this conference series and will be held within the premises of London South Bank University, during 29- 30 July 2019. The ICRES conference provides a multidisciplinary forum for discussing the fundamental and pressing safety, ethical, legal, and societal issues in Artificial Intelligence and Robotics. There's a current call for papers, which will be open until March 11. This event also involves several Workshops, including the International Workshop on Urban Intelligence.



PhD Courses

Lectures for "Nonlinear Control Systems" will start on March 6th. The contents span a vast spectrum of topics, starting with basic mathematical machinery and progressing, to a level where students will become familiar with advanced control systems analysis and design techniques.

"Social Robotics" is also scheduled for the second semester, to discuss multiple aspects of the modelling of mixed human-robot societies. Attendees will be challenged to bring aspects of their scientific background to innovate in the modelling.



PostDoc Positions

A full time, 30-month grant at IST, to develop novel research work on the topic of multi-UAV cooperative navigation. The research will be carried out in the context of a fully funded 3-year R&D project, in collaboration with different research labs with expertise in robotics, nuclear physics, and communications. Applications until March 1st.

A 3-year position to conduct research into the development and application of Bayesian optimisation for non-invasive brain stimulation approaches, at Surrey Uni. The work will involve the application of machine-learning, Bayesian optimisation, non-invasive electrical stimulation and fMRI. Applications until March 3rd.



Job Opportunity

The Device Technologies research group at Ericsson Research in Stockholm, Sweden is building a world-class team of researchers and engineers to solve the most relevant challenges in future devices. The candidate will provide the company with system concepts, technology, and intellectual property, to secure long-term success and competitiveness.

XVI Meeting of the
Portuguese Society
for Neurosciences

Lisbon, May 30 to June 1, 2019

**REGISTRATION AND
ABSTRACT SUBMISSION
NOW OPEN**



SPN2019
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Open Call for SPN2019

SPN2019 aims at bringing together the vibrant Portuguese Neuroscience community, that has been contributing to significantly advance in this defying area. From May 30 to June 1, an exciting meeting is being prepared to create a unique opportunity to discuss the most recent advances in neuroscience. For more on how to submit or register for the event, go to



Lx Machine Learning School

From July 11 to 18 a leading Engineering and Science school in Portugal will take place at IST. The Summer School welcomes researchers and graduate students in the fields of Natural Language Processing and Computational Linguistics, but also computer scientists who have interests in statistics and machine learning and even industry practitioners who desire a more in-depth understanding of these subjects. Apply until March 31st

Media & Culture



Radio Interview

Reporter Isabel Meira of Antena 2 visited the Mobile Robotics Lab at ISR and interviewed Prof. Pedro Lima and other researchers about the SocRob and INSIDE projects. Both these projects focus on robotics for human interaction and work towards a reality where they might become common aids in our daily lives. Hear the interview [here](#), to learn more. The theme of robotics is approached from minute 2:18:40.



Hyperprolific Authors

How are some authors publishing one paper every 5 days? A recent study took a closer look on authors who had published more than 72 papers a year, from 2000 and 2016, to understand the dramatic increase in this type of authors. Explore the data yourself and form your take on authorship norms, by reading the article here: <https://go.nature.com/2CWsasF>



National strategy for AI

The National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence is looking to, both in short and long term, invest in the potential of AI. In a strategic plan that was publically in the Iberian Laboratory of Nanotechnology, there seems to be a high investment in schools, with planned projects to increase collaboration between students and proficiency in programming. There will also be an investment in higher education and societal matters, in order to increase the impact of the field. Read more in this news article from Observador (in Portuguese).



Robotics Exhibition at MAAT

An [installation](#) focusing on applications and implications of robotics in society can be visited until May 20 in MAAT. ISR researchers Hugo Simão and Marteen Jongeneel share their opinion after visiting: "The exhibit raises abstract and moral questions and offers a bit of history and some parts are even interactive. Even though we work with robots we are more focused in details so it's interesting to think about these questions on the whole. The general public has very high expectations but not much knowledge on current limitations and I think that after visiting, even without a background in tech, you leave with a better notion."

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