



## What's New



### Premi di Laurea GNB 2019

An Italian award at the National level, the "Premi di Laurea GNB 2019" is attributed annually in different categories, among hundreds of candidates. Laura Santos was distinguished with the Premio "Istituto di Biorobotica" by occasion of the XXXVIII Scuola Annuale del Gruppo Nazionale di Bioingegneria. Her Master thesis entitled "CopyRobot: Interactive Mirroring Robotics Game for ASD children" was developed at both IST and Politecnico di Milano, with tutors Alessandra Pedrocchi and José Santos-Victor.



### Smart Cities ERL Challenge

The SocRob team was at Milton Keynes for yet another major robotics competition. The Smart Cities Robotics SciRoc Challenge is an intensive ERL tournament. The team has been working for weeks in preparation, but as team leader Enrico Piazza explained: "Factors like object detection can only be improved when we reach the actual space, even though having a testbed at ISR is extremely useful." The Mbot featured a brand new arm/tray and speech add ons, to try to be the best service robot possible.



### Senior Member IEEE

Congratulations to Jacinto Nascimento for his election as Senior Member of the IEEE in recognition for his professional standing. The recognition is attributed to engineers, scientists, educators, technical executives or originators in IEEE-designated fields who have shown significant performance over a period of at least five of those years.



### Collaboration with ISS

Rodrigo Ventura leads a team which is trying to validate and compare different approaches to control a set of floating robots called SPHERES. In collaboration with MIT-Portugal, testing these robots requires conditions that are optimal at the International Space Station. September 23 marked the second of those ReSwarm test sessions, with a prospect for more in the future.





**Bartosz Zieliński**

PhD in Computer Vision, Assistant Professor at Jagiellonian University. Data Scientist at Ardigian  
Cracow, Lesser Poland District, Poland

### Visiting Researcher

Professor Bartosz Zieliński from Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, was at ISR as a collaborator, during the month of September. On Monday the 16th there was a presentation of his ongoing projects in the field of classification of microscopic and histopathological images, missing data processing, and topological data analysis, at the ISR meeting room.



### PhD Giovanni Saponaro

Giovanni Saponaro's defence of "Gestures and Object Affordances for Human-Robot Interaction" was held successfully on September 10th, at 2 PM. Doctor Giovanni developed his work on the challenges of making service robots which understand their surroundings and explore the world autonomously, by use of sensorimotor data collection and statistical models.

## Opportunities & Events



### Available Postdoc Position

A researcher position at LaSEEB regarding the project "Stroke Neurorehabilitation Augmented by Virtual Reality and EEG-neurofeedback: Neuroimaging-based Validation and Optimization", which aims to uncover multimodal neuroimaging biomarkers using a combination of functional and structural MRI and EEG, as well as develop a neuroimaging-based neurofeedback system for stroke rehabilitation.



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### PhD Opportunities

Norwegian University of Science and Technology is looking for a PhD candidate to work towards "Unsupervised and Interpretable Statistical Learning for Sequential Data". Apply until October 15. Also one within the scope of the EU-H2020 project DeepField and project AirCap, at the Robot Perception Group of the Max Planck Society. The start date can be as early as 1st October 2019



### European Researchers Night

Lisbon researchers took to the streets to interact with curious citizens at Jardim do Príncipe Real. Many R&D Institutes, from the Técnico family and more, represented their projects and showcased activities at the Lisbon Polo of this Europe wide event. Thank you to Heitor Cardoso, Cleberon Canuto and Ricardo Nunes who were present at Museu Nacional de História Natural e da Ciência, to represent ISR in this outreach event, and for their contact with the community.



### FLAD Applications 2020

The Fundação Luso-Americana para o Desenvolvimento has a series of open fellowships for communications in conferences at the USA. There are several open categories: Papers@USA 2020 for paper presentations in the US; USA@PT 2020 to support speakers in conferences and seminars; and R&D@PhD 2020, to provide internship opportunities for PhD candidates in Portuguese R&D Institutions.

## Media & Culture



### Interviews at Renascença

Early risers tuned in to Renascença last week to learn more, about robotics, from the genesis of the idea of a robot, to what is being developed nowadays. Monday through Friday, an interview with Prof. José Santos Victor, by radio host Carlos Bastos, was shared at around 6:20 AM. This showcased different aspects of research in robotics and systems and promoted discussion on future perspectives.



### Celebrations 500 years

The 20th of September marked 500 years from the first circumnavigation trip lead by Fernão de Magalhães. The project "Leva Portugal ao Mundo", integrated in the Escola Azul program by Ministério do Mar, symbolically launched a small vessel in the Ocean, which was broadcasted by RTP. "[Sesimbra a Bordo](#)" was developed by students with support from an ISR team, Câmara Municipal de Sesimbra, and Direção Geral de Política do Mar, who directly thanked the involvement of Luís Sebastião and ISR.