

Human-Robot Interactions and Social Robotics in Legal, Ethical, and Social Dimensions

Anjali Raghav^{1,*}, Saquib Ahmed¹, Bhupinder Singh²

Abstract

Human-robot interaction and social robotics have emerged as transformative fields, reshaping human engagement with intelligent machines. This evolution brings profound legal, ethical, and social challenges that demand critical exploration. Also, legal firms often struggle to keep pace with the advancements, raising questions about liability, accountability, and privacy in human-robot interaction. However, social robots, designed to operate in dynamic human environments, present ethical dilemmas around autonomy, trust, and preserving human dignity. These issues such as data security, algorithm biases, and consent further complicate their integration into daily life. Moreover, the societal impact of robotics, including their influence on employment, social structures, and human relationships requires a balanced approach to innovation and regulation. This article delves into the intricate interplay between technology, law, and ethics emphasizing the need for a multidisciplinary strategy to address these complexities. Thus, the field can ensure harmonious coexistence between humans and robots in the evolving socio-technological prospects by fostering responsible innovation, transparent policies, and ethical design principles.

Keywords: Human-robot interaction (HRI), social robotics, legal frameworks, ethical challenges, socio-technological integration.

INTRODUCTION

Human-robot interaction (HRI) and social robotics are emerging fields where intelligent systems interact with humans in complex, dynamic, and often unpredictable environments. HRI concentrates on how humans interact with robots and how interaction can be designed, understood, and improved, while social robotics is more general for HRI, encompassing a vision of the robot as a collaborative partner, integrated into society. Their potential in revolutionizing industries, including healthcare, education, and customer support, is enormous, driving both effectiveness and availability [1]. But robots in human lives give multi-dimensional challenges people will be worried about liability, accountability, and data privacy when robots begin interacting with people and collecting sensitive data. The use of robots is

additionally complicated by ethical dilemmas such as the autonomy of robots, emotional dependency, and algorithmic fairness. Additionally, other implications, like disruption in job markets, human interactions, and cultural acceptance, need to be taken into consideration. This paper discusses the legal, ethical, and social aspects of HRI and social robotics, and their implications for the future of human-robot interaction. This article intends to give a snapshot of these technologies' challenges and opportunities, supplemented by what is currently known in terms of analytical frameworks and recommendations for responsible innovation [2]. Through an interdisciplinary outlook, the paper

*Author for Correspondence

Anjali Raghav
E-mail: anjalisingh3318bsr@gmail.com

¹Research Scholar, School of Law, Sharda University, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, India

²Professor, Sharda School of Law, Sharda University, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, India

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highlights the collaboration needed between technologists, policymakers, and ethicists to grapple with these intricacies and facilitate a balanced integration of robots into societies.

UNDERSTANDING HUMAN-ROBOT INTERACTION AND SOCIAL ROBOTICS

HRI is the study and design of human-robot systems and HRI centered on behavioral exchanges and methods used, including replicating human behavior and emotions, such as smiling and laughing, to build support and increase user engagement; Advancements in artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), and other domains that fall under robotics led to the development of HRI and social robotics. Early milestones include the development of industrial robots, like the Unimate, in the 1960s to perform repetitive manufacturing tasks [3]. Over the decades robots transitioned from mechanical devices to smart systems capable of adaptive behaviors. In this regard, the latest trends focus on human-centered designs that allow robots to interpret human intentions and work in different environments. Social robots used in welfare and healthcare settings are made possible by recent advancements in technologies, including AI algorithms, machine vision, natural language processing (NLP), and high-quality sensors. By using AI, robots can learn and make decisions on their own, while NLP allows them to comprehend and analyze language. Spatial awareness and object recognition are made possible through sensors such as cameras and LiDAR (light detection and ranging). Social robots are common in all industries. Robots used in healthcare include PARO, a therapeutic seal robot, that provides emotional and cognitive support to patients. These robots, such as Pepper and NAO, are used in the educational domain to improve instruction using interaction with the students. For example, customer service robots used in retail and hospitality are increasingly being used for improving operational efficiency and customer satisfaction. As HRI and social robotics flourish, they hold the promise of reshaping within society; however, so do the rights of our robots, the need for proper usage of such technologies, and the importance of bridging the gap between law and ethics to tackle the intricate issues that arise from this social evolution.

LEGAL DIMENSION OF HUMAN-ROBOT INTERACTION

Assigning responsibility in HRI situations is still a matter of dispute and if a robot fails or causes injury, who's liable the manufacturer, programmer, user, or the robot itself? Also, personal data are often needed for social robots to work properly [4]. This has serious implications for privacy and data protection. For instance, companion robots used in healthcare environments collect confidential health information, requiring strong data security protocols. Regulation such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in Europe provides a measure of protection but needs to be adapted to the unique challenges that social robots present. However, existing laws also often trail technology, creating regulatory gaps. Around the world, countries are taking distinct paths toward regulation for instance, by focusing on fostering innovation in robotics, but also addressing ethical concerns; the European Union states it wants to create stricter laws around AI. Evidence-based, internationally harmonized regulations are crucial for enabling innovation whilst ensuring the public interest is protected [5].

ETHICAL DIMENSION OF SOCIAL ROBOTICS

As social robots become more autonomous, ethical questions emerge around their decision-making processes. For example, will robots be entitled to make life-critical choices in the medical field or the military? It is critical that the AI algorithms governing society are held to ethical standards and that humans retain control over robots. Social robots are created to establish emotional bonds with people, which creates its problems like dependence on the robot or impaired human interaction. When designing robots, one has to apply ethical considerations to ensure that human dignity is maintained and that relationships with robots do not supplant interactions with fellow humans. AI models that guide robots can reflect biases that are baked into their training data [6]. Facial recognition algorithms, for instance, may fail to recognize persons from various ethnicities, resulting in discrimination. It is about ensuring that such biases do not occur, and that technologies to automate decisions for our benefit must be transparent and explainable, to ensure that they are equitable.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF HUMAN-ROBOT INTERACTION

It is possible that robots can replace human labor, especially in manufacturing and logistics. On the other hand, they also open up new job opportunities in robot development, maintenance, and AI programming. Industries must reskill and upskill the workforce to halt job loss [7]. Social robots are increasingly entering the lives of people and as a consequence are modifying the relationships and overall social structure normally present amongst individuals. Robots in caregiving roles, for example, may displace human-to-human interactions that help ensure social cohesion. The transition to using robots to assist us may well happen, to ensure the benefits of human connection are not lost. Robot culture includes cultural ideas and cultural attitudes toward robots, which vary widely around the world and strongly influence the acceptance and adoption of robots. Some societies view robots as helpful partners; others are suspicious [8]. Building trust and acceptance requires public awareness campaigns and inclusive design practices.

TOWARDS A MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

This complexity of HRI and social robotics requires the interdisciplinary research of technologists, ethicists, and policymakers. Guidelines for responsible innovation must always ask: what does society need? Transparency and accountability are key. Key recommendations include: setting up global regulatory benchmarks; promoting ethical AI design; and advocating for public involvement in the development of robotics policies [9]. In summary, future research could focus on a long-term societal perspective of robots' impact, and guidance on how to include appropriate strategies in the adoption of robots in society [10].

CONCLUSION

While HRI and social robotics have a huge potential to improve human life, they raise important legal, ethical, and social issues. We have elaborated on these dimensions in this paper, to highlight the importance of clear liability frameworks to guide the appropriate level of accountability, as well as effective data protection to prevent privacy violations, and ethical AI design solutions to limit discrimination. A collaborative approach to mitigate these problems can bring a symbiotic relationship where robots and humans go hand in hand along with innovations without compromising on values.

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