

ThingsCon workshop

PUNK BOTS, RADICAL DESIGNERS?

Bias and Norm Awareness and Détournement Activities to take Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the design of embodied AI

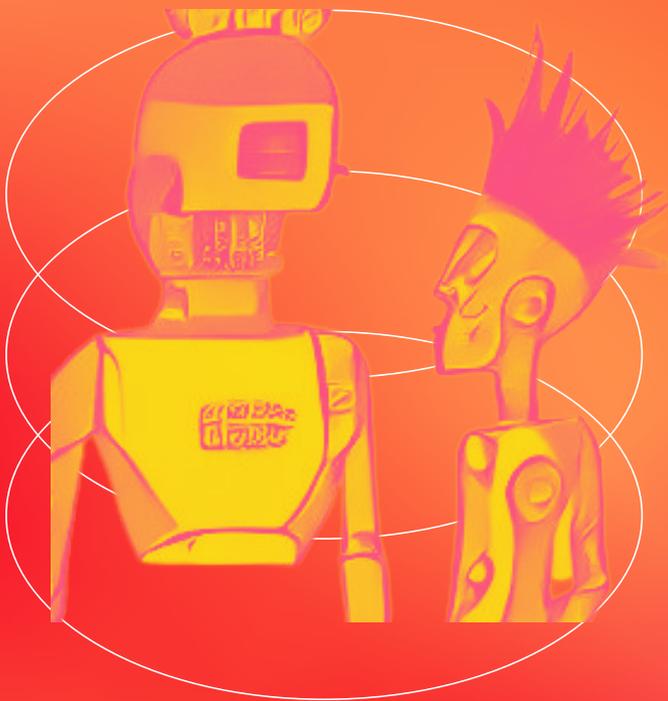


Image generated by the AI model Dall-E

BY

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ABOUT

Traditionally, designers and engineers are not trained to include reflection and practices that tackle social inequity; thus—willingly or unwillingly—encode certain (negative) values into the systems they design. At times, designers, developers and engineers claim that the racist, sexist, ableist results of their designs are entirely exterior to the development process and that they have not included judgements, biases, stereotypes and their values into technical systems.

In this workshop, after a brief introduction of the main DEI issues in embodied AI, we are going to engage in a hands-on activity to 1) understand our biases and norms as designers 2) overturn the status quo of robot design using detournement activities inspired by punk techniques by the Letterist international. These activities will help you to grow awareness and implement critical reflexion in your design process.



HEY OH,
LET'S NOT?

WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO?

Intro to DEI4EmbodiedAI -team

Examining embodied AI Bias and Norms: Hey, oh, let's not?
by Anne Arzberger and Maria Luce Lupetti

- We will explore personal biases towards gender, by looking at ourselves from a different perspective. We will play around with an AI classifier and datasets to become aware of our own gender biases, to better understand our unconscious associations, and challenge the way we often think in binary, narrow categories.

Punk bots against the status bots: turning human-robot
interaction scenarios against the status quo by Cristina
Zaga

- We will explore the current human-robot interaction scenarios and challenge the status quo. How? Using a technique developed by the Letterist International to reverse storylines and images according to punk feminist values.

Final reflections -team

