



Parent Information Sheet

Title: Teaching Robots: Summer School and Research Study

Principal Investigators:

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Population: Children ages 12 - 14

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

We are running a 2 week summer school-research study for approximately ten young people aged 12-13 years old. We call it a summer school because participants will get to spend time at KTH university, to learn about social robotics and computer science and to become 'robot designers and researchers' for 2 weeks. It is also a research study, as we researchers are hoping to learn more about how young people can help to design and 'teach' robots to be more socially intelligent and will analyse the data we collect during the summer school to further understand human robot interaction.

Dates: Monday – Friday, 9:00 – 14:00, (lunch and snacks provided) from 2nd -13th August 2021

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

There are three key things we want to achieve with this summer school research study. Firstly, as a summer school, we want this to be an enjoyable and interesting experience for those who take part! We hope participants will learn something new and get a good insight into social robotics.

As a research study, we want to learn more about and explore (i) how young people can directly contribute to the design of robots, to make them better and (ii) how social robots can influence how groups of young people interact, specifically if/how they can make those group interactions smoother and more enjoyable. This is part of a larger research project funded by Digital Futures research center at KTH¹.

WHAT WOULD MY CHILD BE DOING?

If your child decides to participate, we will invite them to come to KTH campus every day for the dates above. They would take part in a number of group activities relating to designing and programming robots, as well as exploring the way robots can interact with humans and influence our behaviour. One of our big aims is to explore how social robots can make this type of group work more enjoyable for everyone who takes part, so many of our activities will involve working in groups either to design and teach a robot how to do that, or working with the robot to test it out.



¹ <https://www.digitalfutures.kth.se/research/postdoc-projects>

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE RISKS IF MY CHILD TAKES PART?

Participation in this experiment carries very little physical risk as the summer school will be hosted in our university classrooms and we are using small, compliant robots designed for human robot interaction. It's possible your child might feel shy, or uncomfortable at times when taking part in the design activities, particularly when discussing e.g. the types of inappropriate or awkward situations that sometimes happen in groups of young people. If that should happen, they can choose to stop participating or take a break away from the activities at any time.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

We will adapt the summer school-research study activities to reflect ongoing changes in Folkhälsomyndigheten's recommendations for preventing the spread of COVID-19. We are recruiting a fairly small number of participants (who will work in groups of 6 people maximum) and will be working in large university rooms that allow for some physical distancing. However, it is important that your child stays home if they or anyone in your house becomes unwell or tests positive for COVID during the course of the summer school-research study.

DATA COLLECTION AND HANDLING

We will follow the EU General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 (applicable since May 2018) to handle the data collected in this study. All data is stored and processed without information that can identify your child - they will be assigned a random number (e.g. in notes or file names where we refer to them with a number; we register the number on the consent form so we can find relevant information if necessary).

Across the different group activities, we expect to collect data including audio and video recordings from which we can extract features such as skeletal/body tracking data, emotional expressions and non-verbal communication behaviours, to be decided together with the participants as part of the robot design activities. At the end of the study, we will provide you with a full list of data collected and ask for your consent again before conducting further analysis.

When we publish the results of this study we will not use any identifying information about your child, but may include images of your child (without their name) in presentations if they and you agree to this on the consent form. We may make some anonymous data (such as e.g. skeletal tracking data, gaze data) available to other researchers outside of our project to facilitate transparency and openness in science. You have the right to request access to your child's personal data, to have their personal data corrected, deleted or to restrict the processing of their data.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS?

There are no costs to participate in the study. All materials will be provided free of charge and a free lunch as well as snacks will be provided on campus each day.

WHAT ARE MY CHILD'S RIGHTS AS A PARTICIPANT?

Your child's participation in this summer school research study is voluntary. They (and you) are free to withdraw consent and to discontinue participation in this study at any time without penalty. Your child has the right to withdraw from the study even if you would prefer that they continue.

WHO DO I CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

If you have any questions about this study, you may contact the primary investigator, Katie Winkle, at winkle@kth.se.