A Robot Centric Perspective on the HRI Paradigm

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The industrial revolution undoubtedly defined the role of machines in our society, and it directly shaped the paradigm for human machine interaction - a paradigm which was inherited by the field of Human Robot Interaction (HRI) as the machines became robots. This paper argues that, for a foreseeable set of interactions, reshaping this paradigm would result in more effective and more often successful interactions. This paper presents our Robot Centric paradigm for HRI. Evidence in the form of summaries of relevant literature and our past efforts in developing social-robotics enabling technology is presented to support our paradigm. A definition and a set of recommendations for designing the key enabling component, sociocontextual cues, of our paradigm are presented. Finally, empirical evidence generated through a number of experiments and field studies ($N = 456$ and $N = 320$) demonstrates our paradigm is both feasibly incorporated into HRI and moreover, yields significant contributions to the successfulness of a set of HRIs.

Keywords: Robot Centric Human-Robot Interaction, Participant roles, Interaction roles, Non-verbal cues, Sociocontextual cues

1. Introduction

There is a significant desire within society to see useful robots ubiquitous in our day-to-day lives. Whilst this desire is somewhat fuelled by Hollywood's depictions of robotics in the movies, it has a underpinning of real need. For instance, the global ageing population phenomena poses significant challenges. The Australian Treasury 2010 Intergenerational Report (Australia & Swan, 2010) suggests that health spending on those aged over 65 is likely to increase sevenfold by 2050 as the number of working-age-persons per older-person is expected to fall from the present ratio of 5:1 to 2.7:1. Globally, we are moving to a situation of increased strain on the aged services and we are searching to facilitate ageing-in-place; robotics is widely acknowledged as a potential enabling technology. This is just one example of a real need that is motivating society's desire to see robots ubiquitous.

The concept of intelligent machines assisting people is pervasive in many technological tools in use today. The effectiveness of the da-Vinci robot system that assists surgeons in complex procedures is now supported by level II evidence (Geller, Siddiqui, J.M.Wu, & Visco, 2008). Robotic

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telepresence has proven itself through deployments in dangerous or unreachable environments, with applications ranging from nuclear material handling demonstrated at the Fukushima nuclear plant disaster in 2011 to planetary exploration with the Mars Rover. Telepresence for teleconsultation and telehomecare are the subject of numerous trials in Australia and overseas, (Quan, Niwa, Ishikawa, Kobayashi, & Kuno, 2011 for instance). Force extenders that support workers in lifting heavy loads are commonplace in the manufacturing industry (Bock, Linner, & Ikeda, 2012). While these examples concern devices that are expensive and have complex interfaces requiring significant training, recent advances in machine intelligence together with the availability of low-cost sensing and computing platforms have now made it possible to build affordable robots aiming at a typical consumer market that incorporate these capabilities.

This, along with the previously mentioned needs, has given strength to the emerging field of assistive social robots; robots that are able to co-exist collaboratively with humans, as assistants, as tools, and as companions. However, a number of challenges remain open in order to achieve an appropriate degree of societal integration and acceptance for robots in this specific application space. These machines must become intelligent agents capable of perceiving and understanding human behaviour and needs, communicating with humans in a human-appropriate manner, and responding safely, efficiently and proactively to directions whether they be explicit or implicit. Furthermore, they must imitate the rich behaviours typically displayed by humans when acting as social entities in order to elicit particular expected behaviours from the interacting humans and/or to lessen the risk of social rejection. As a prerequisite to this, the machine must be capable of the non-trivial challenge of exhibiting behaviours perceived to be congruent with that a human would issue in a similar context (Ishiguro, 2011). Alternatively the machine could issue simplified behaviours/cues if, whilst clearly not congruent with that of a human, they were interpreted with an equivalent meaning. If feasible, this approach would allow lesser-humanistic¹, and thus more achievable (in terms of their required technical capabilities and physical form), to fulfil this requirement. Our research focus questions at the core of this are: How could the paradigm for Human Robot Interaction (HRI) in the aforementioned application/interaction space be shaped to enable such agency? Can a lesser-humanistic robot exhibit behaviours/cues that are reliably interpreted by human interaction partners as intended? What form would such behaviours/cues take?

The breakdown of this paper is as follows: Section 2 presents a literature review illustrating the current paradigm for HRI and highlighting areas of potential opportunity. Section 3 presents our evidenced perspective on the paradigm shape required to enable robots to move into society. Following this, Section 4, describes and details our work, guided by this perspective, on sensing and perception of human cues. Section 5, describes our work, guided again by this perspective, on designing cues for eliciting a particular human response, and details two large scale field studies in which we explore real-world embodiments of our paradigm for HRI. Findings from our explorations of our paradigm are discussed, conclusions are drawn and future work is proposed in Section 6.

2. Related Literature

Undoubtedly, the role of machines was largely defined during the industrial revolution and it was this promising role that lead to the emergence of the field of robotics. However, these origins have directly shaped the paradigm of a robot's role in a task to be perceived as that of the Task Completer (Groom, 2008). Figure 1 illustrates this paradigm which originally consisted simply of the human acting upon a machine, perhaps simply pressing 'the button', to complete a task. Over time two additional feedback mechanisms were introduced. The first sees the machine provide 'Cues' back

¹The term humanistic references to the set of human traits/attributes/affects encapsulated in the perspective presented by the field of Humanistic Psychology (Colman, 2009).

Figure 1. The traditional paradigm for human-machine/robot interaction

to the human; typically information such as task progress, performance, status, etc. is feedback to the human. The second sees the machine actively sense the ‘World’ in order to self-evaluate and self-correct; typical sensing information such as distance to target, rate of task completion, etc. are feedback to the machine’s control/action strategy. Whilst the addition of these feedback pathways are well known to improve task performance and interaction, they have not altered the paradigm’s fundamental shape.

Common approaches guided by this perspective (Rahimi & Karwowski, 1990 and Robins et al., 2010 for example) see the human as central in the interaction paradigm; the human leads the interaction, communicates the task to be done and defines the intentionality of the situation. Conversely, the robot is a passive, albeit intelligent, participant at this level of the interaction and is the Task Completer; which is problematic for social robotics. Whilst this human-centric interaction paradigm is appropriate for task-defined operations such as Urban Search and Rescue (Burke & Murphy, 2004), it is less appropriate in scenarios where robots and humans are peers, and/or the human/s are unaware of the robots task/intentions (demonstrated in Severinson-Eklundh, Green, & Huttenrauch, 2003 and Kirchner, Alempijevic, & Dissanayake, 2011 for example).

Consider the exemplar scenario shown in Figure 2. In this scenario the Task Leader instructs the lesser-humanistic robot to deliver an object to a particular member of a task-naïve group, shown in Figure 2(a). This task-scenario, which is foreseeable in the context of social robotics, is problematic for the traditional HRI paradigm shown in Figure 1. Specifically, an individual who is naïve to the task has unwittingly landed in the role of the Task Leader, shown in Figure 2(b). At best the task will be ill-defined in this individual’s mind. As such, leading the interaction and/or interpreting cues from the robot is problematic, and in some cases the individual may simply ignore the robot and walk away (as was demonstrated prevalent by Satake et al., 2009, Dautenhahn, 2007 and Finke et al., 2005 for example). New requirements arise in such a scenario: instantiating an interaction, resolving ambiguity and shaping the participant roles.

Clearly then, in scenarios foreseeable in social robotics particular components of the task potentially should be Task Leader human defined, Task Naïve human defined, robot defined or jointly defined. Thus, depending on the immediate task, the leadership role in the interaction may best be placed with the human, robot or jointly. Herein lies the limitation imposed by the traditional paradigm, there is a need for social robots to move from the role of the Task Completer and into the role of an Interaction Peer; an Interaction Peer will assume the role of Task Leader, Task Completer or Task Naïve as appropriate during the interaction. The question thus becomes, How can the

Figure 2. Exemplar Scenario

paradigm be reshaped so that both the human and robot roles are that of an Interaction Peer?

Fortunately a wealth of Human Human Interaction literature exists in the fields of Psychology, Behavioural Science and Robotics that can be built upon. For instance, it has been well demonstrated that a person's attention and intention is revealed from observable cues such as head/shoulder/body pose and that another person's attention and intention can be influenced directly by these acts/cues (Imamoglu, 1975, Mehrabian, 1971, Brown, 1965 and Kendon, 2004 for instance). A robotics-domain specific example is Social Signal Processing (SSP) (Vinciarelli, Pantic, Bourlard, & Pentland, 2008) which focuses on enabling the robot to ascertain a wealth of information from the interacting human through processing cues. However, enabling machines to issue socially interpretable cues designed to elicit particular behaviour is not the primary focus. Furthermore, it has been well demonstrated that a person's current behaviour can predict their future behaviour and that a person's current behaviour can influence/elicit particular behaviour from another person (Guerin, 1999, Brown, 1965, Kendon, 1977 and Kendon, 1973 for instance). Also, it is well known that we (humans) actively utilise the aforementioned during our interactions to negotiate our roles and to establish ourselves as interaction peers (Watzlawick, Bavelas, & Jackson, 1967). A robotics-domain specific example is Mixed Initiative Interaction (MII) (Hearst, 1999) which demonstrates the benefits of bi-directional communication during a task by the interaction partners in the case where one partner is a machine. However a prerequisite assumption for MII is that of the human having some sense of the 'goal', albeit in the presence of uncertainties, that can be mutually driven towards through grounding. In the case where the interacting human is truly task-naive this assumption is tested. However, whether it is possible to build upon the aforementioned and enable a robot to adopt

Figure 3. A paradigm for Robot Centric Human Robot Interaction

this strategy and assume the role of an Interaction Peer, thus reshaping the interaction paradigm, is a somewhat open question.

3. Proposed Paradigm for Robot Centric HRI

A Robot Centric HRI paradigm was devised in order to probe this question; Robot Centric in the sense that the robot has agency and is not limited to the role of Task Completer but is positioned as an Interaction Peer that can lead the interaction and resolve ambiguity in situations of naivety. Our paradigm for Robot Centric HRI, as presented in Figure 3, is built upon the foundations of the traditional paradigm but has had two additional feedback mechanisms/branches added in order to capture and exploit the aforementioned wealth of knowledge in the fields of Psychology and Behavioural Science. The branch labelled **Read** depicts the addition of the capacity for the robot to sense and subsequently perceive (read) the behavioural cues being displayed by the human. The second branch, labelled **Elicit**, indicates the addition of the ability of the robot to present behavioural acts designed to elicit particular behavioural responses from the interacting human; whereas, the traditional model's cues were primarily intended to provide information to the human upon which they may or may not choose to act. These branches and our exploration of them are detailed in the following sections. However, in order to provide insights into our interpretation of a lesser-humanistic robot, we will first present a brief note on our research platform.

Our mobile robot research platform is shown in Figure 4. The robot is based on a Segway RMP and is primarily instrumented with an XSens IMU, two Hokuyo UTM-30LX laser range finders, an RGB-D camera (the SwissRanger/Dragonfly combination has been replaced with a Microsoft Kinect), two Exact Dynamic iARM human-safe manipulators (an additional manipulator has been subsequently added). The robot stands approximately 1.5m tall and weighs approximately 70kg. Through participation in RoboCup@Home 2010 (Alempijevic et al., 2010) and 2011 (Alempijevic et al., 2011) and previous work (such as Caraiian & Kirchner, 2010, Richards, Paul, Webb, & Kirchner, 2010 and O'Callaghan, Singh, Alempijevic, & Ramos, 2011), we have developed a rich set of core capabilities: including capabilities in locomotion, navigation, path-planning, mobile manipulation, and sensing and perception. It is this platform and these capabilities that have facilitated our research

Figure 4. The RobotAssist Platform

probing these branches and our paradigm. Additional details of our platform are available from Kirchner & et al., 2010 and www.robotassist.org

4. The Read Branch: Sensing and Perception of Human Cues

The Read branch, shown in Figure 3, is designed to enable the robot to sense the behavioural cues (such as the base cue of human presence, and deeper cues such as head direction, pose, gestures, etc.) being displayed by the interacting human/s. This sensing allows additional sources of rich-information to be obtained by the robot. This information is then interpreted through the robot's contextual understanding and through human behaviour-to-meaning mapping available from the fields of Psychology and Behavioural Science (a similar approach to that of Huang & Mutlu, 2012). The resultant interaction-context knowledge is then exploited by the robot to derive an action plan. An example of our work in this branch and its contribution to HRI along these lines is given below.

The core cue that must first be robustly detected is that of human presence. A vision based system intuitively seems attractive and Open CV's Haar face detection algorithm is an example of such

Figure 5. An example of OpenCV's Haar face detect's false positives

a system. However, vision based systems are inherently susceptible to a number of reasonable-to-expect occurrences such as variations in illumination conditions. Figure 5 shows such a case. In this figure, three 'faces', indicated by the superimposed rectangles, were detected by Open CV's Haar face detection algorithm. Whilst Haar face detection is arguably one of the leading approaches in terms of robustness and performance, clearly these particular detections are false positives. This is problematic as the occurrence of false positives reduces our ability to rely on the human detection and thus limits that which can be built upon the output. For instance, a robot that attempted to interact with 'people' defined by a Haar detected face would have limited success in social robotics. Furthermore, Haar face detection is by no means the only technology that suffers similar false positives.

For these reasons we developed the 3D range-data based robust person detection technique presented in Hordern & Kirchner, 2010. This technique uses projections of the 3D data on to a 2D horizontal plane and shape matching to enable segmentation. Fourier descriptors (FD) describing the segmentations are then created. Finally, a Support Vector Machine (SVM) trained with a range of differently shaped/sized people is then used to classify the observed as either Human or Non-Human. A database of 25 people was collected and used to test this approach. The results show that single-observation based, computationally efficient shape features can be used to robustly detect the presence of a person in the scene with an accuracy of 99.4%. This technique is capable of detecting people in profile, facing away from the sensor, along with when facing the sensor. Furthermore, the technique is robust to a wider range of lighting conditions whilst maintaining comparable computational efficiency to OpenCV's Haar face detection.

This social robotics suitable approach to robust person detection has provided the front end required to alleviate the aforementioned false positive issues. Furthermore, with an input of a high-confidence point cloud segmentation labelled as being a person, additional valuable information becomes reliably available through exploiting anthropometrics. An example is shown in Figure 6. In this example, post robust person detection, Haar face detect on a depth image of the point cloud segmentation provides a bounding box for the face. The nearest point to the sensor within the box is typically the nose, and the location of the nose relative to the bounding box indicates the head pose. Clearly this simplistic approach would suffer in a large search space, however it inherits robustness from the person detection approach and produces valuable information in this limited search space.

Another example in which we exploit the inherited robustness from the person detection front end to enable an otherwise potentially limited technique is in Kirchner, Alempijevic, & Virgona, 2012. This method leverages the findings of an anthropometric survey of approximately 9000 soldiers by the US army which reported notable variations in the size and shape of peoples' head, neck

Figure 6. Haar face detect based head pose detection

and shoulders region (Gordon, Churchill, Clauser, Bradtmiller, & McConville, 1989). Specifically, a scale and viewing angle robust feature vector constructed from analysing a 3D point cloud was designed to encapsulate this information; here within referred to as the Head-to-Shoulder Signature (HSS - shown in Figure 7). The HSS was then utilised as the basis for Support-Vector Machine (SVM) based robust *in situ* person recognition. Our results show that our feature vector constructed from a single observation is suitable for distinguishing between stationary and in-motion, both towards and directly away from the robot, individuals ($N = 25$) who are unaware that they are being scanned, with a mean accuracy of 78.15% and a peak accuracy of 100% for nine of the participants. The robustness of this approach is further apparent when considering that the results were collected over the five subsequent days from the training data collection day - i.e. post variations in the participants' general appearance.

In pursuit of additional information, robustness (through data fusion) and suitability for social robotics, a person detection approach based on a different sensing mode was devised. This approach to person detection (presented in Hilsenbeck & Kirchner, 2011) is not 3D data reliant, but rather, is audio based. In this binaural approach the robot exploits the spectral structure (in the audio frequency domain) and characteristics specific to human-originating sound (speech or humming for instance) to robustly detect the presence and gender of human speakers. Our results show that our approach is capable of robustly and reliably detecting spectral patterns that conform to the spectral signature of speech, without reliance on *a priori* speaker knowledge. Furthermore, our results show that the speaker gender and bearing can also be reliably determined.

The previously mentioned examples of the Read branch sensing approaches are, however, only partially illustrative of the overall contribution of the branch. Another key contributor is the interaction-context knowledge, and subsequent action plan, derivable through the output of these technologies. For instance, take the exemplar scenario presented in Figure 8. In this scenario the robot has visually (RGB-D) and audibly (binaural) observed the scene; from the aforementioned a wealth of interaction-context knowledge is available. For instance, as shown in Table 1, the aforementioned sensing approaches together can reveal with high confidence: that two people spoke, the locations of these two people, who said what, and what was likely intended as a command to the robot; along with additional information such as the speakers' likely genders. Furthermore, with this interaction-context knowledge available, the formation of an informed and intelligent action plan becomes possible. For instance, in this case the action is *<Get Daniel a Coke>*. Clearly then, the Read branch has the ability to significantly contribute to the robot's interaction-context knowledge and action plan formation, and thus enables significant contribution to HRI.

Figure 7. Segmented point cloud with the constructing elements of a HSS and a stylised HSS shown

Figure 8. Exemplar Scenario: The robot observes this scene visually and audibly

Table 1: Interaction-context derivable from exemplar scenario

Source	Output
3D Person Detection	Two people detected with high-confidence. Person 1 is a $\{x_1, y_1, \theta_1\}$ and Person 1 is a $\{x_2, y_2, \theta_1\}$.
Head Pose	Person 2 is looking at me (the robot). Person 1 is looking at the bearing from themselves, to Person 2.
Person Recognition	Person 2 is Daniel. Person 1 is Gavin.
Logic	Daniel is looking at me (the robot). Gavin is looking at Daniel.
Interaction Model	Daniel is interacting with me (the robot).
Audio Person Detection	There were two sources of audio. Both are identified as human originating with high-confidence increase the overall confidence of the presence of two humans. Source 1 was at -15° and is male, Source 2 was at 20° and is male; increases the overall confidence of the location of the two humans The audio " <i>I will have a tea</i> " is from Source 1. The audio " <i>Get me a coke</i> " is from Source 2.
Logic	Source 1 is Gavin, $-15^\circ = \theta_1$. Source 2 is Daniel, $20^\circ = \theta_2$.
Logic	Gavin said " <i>I will have a tea</i> ". Daniel said " <i>Get me a coke</i> ".
Interaction Model	Gavin was not looking at me (the robot) when he spoke " <i>I will have a tea</i> ". Gavin is not issuing me (the robot) a command.
Interaction Model	Daniel was looking at me (the robot) when he spoke " <i>Get me a coke</i> ". Daniel is issuing me (the robot) a command.

5. The Elicit Branch: Issuing Cues to Elicit a Particular Response

The Elicit branch, shown in Figure 3, depicts the addition of the ability for the robot to surreptitiously act upon the interacting human in such a way as to result in the interacting human modifying their behaviour; either to directly resolve ambiguity or to elicit specific human action or additional information. This branch provides the foundation of the robot's ability to probe the user for more information that can be added to the its contextual understanding. This branch could be used for explicit actions (such as the robot issuing verbal commands/requests to the humans), however it is well known that negative human responses are common when robots are perceived as issuing explicit commands or dictating task/interaction structure (Syrdal, Dautenhahn, Koay, & Walters, 2009, Dautenhahn & Saunders, 2011 and Mutlu, Bartneck, Ham, Evers, & Kanda, 2011 for example). Clearly this is not appropriate in our case, as our aim is to bring robots to the role of a Interaction Peer along with the human, and not to move humans to the role of a Task Completer. Conversely, implicit actions, such as issuing non-verbal cues, have been demonstrated to be less susceptible to negative human response (Syrdal et al., 2009, Dautenhahn & Saunders, 2011 and Mutlu et al., 2011 for example). Furthermore, Goren, Sarty, & Wu, 1975 demonstrated that underlying rich humanistic cues are simplistic cue/s that when presented in isolation evoke a similar response. Specifically, Goren demonstrated that infants responded to simplistic primary shapes arranged in a face-like manner in much the same way as they did to actual faces. From this it seems potentially feasible that particular simplistic cue/s, which a lesser-humanistic robot is capable of exhibiting, may be interpreted similarly to specific rich cues. Finally, non-verbal cues are well known to result in rich, effective

and expedient communication (Kendon, 2004, Mehrabian, 1971 and Gieselmann & Waibel, 2005 for instance). Thus, our focus is one of implicit influence (eliciting particular behavioural responses) through this branch via the robot issuing non-verbal cues.

In order to devise non-verbal cues designed to communicate a specific message and that are suitable for a robot to enact, the fundamentals of non-verbal human cues were first examined. Fortunately a wealth of literature describing such cues exists in the field of Psychology and Behavioural Science (Mehrabian, 2007, Poyatos, 1997, Carton, Kessler, & Pape, 1999 and Knapp & Hall, 2009 are some key sources, and in particular Goren et al., 1975). The key points from these sources are: 1) Significant (both in terms of quantity and impact) communication can be conveyed non-verbally. 2) Complex cues are built through compounding simple cues. 3) Simple cues have well defined and known meanings through social norms. 4) Further meanings are ascribed to these cues based on the situation in which they are being interpreted (Context). 5) Fewer cues, or simple cues, require more context to interpret and are by nature more subtle. 6) A simplistic cue/s may exist beneath rich humanistic cues that when presented in isolation would be interpreted by a human similarly to the rich cue. From these sources and key points it seems that a simple cue which is heavily reliant on context will not only be enactable by a robot but will feasibly result in effective, expedient and surreptitious communication. These cues require social-interaction space and contextual-task space in order to be interpreted and, therefore for the sake of brevity will be referred to as sociocontextual cues in the remainder of this paper.

Two examples of Arm-based sociocontextual cues suitable for implementation on a robot are given in Figure 9 and two Gaze-based examples are given in Figure 10. All four are designed based on the that presented in (Mehrabian, 2007, Poyatos, 1997, Carton et al., 1999 and Knapp & Hall, 2009). The first, shown in the top sequence in Figure 9, is an Offering cue. The key is the half-second, *100mm* extension of the end-effector (hand) while holding an object. The next, shown in bottom sequence in Figure 9, is a Protecting cue. The key is the half-second, *100mm* retraction of the end-effector (hand) while holding an object. In both cues the arm can return to its initial position at *50mm/s* without this being perceived as a cue. The remaining two cues are gaze based. The first, shown in the left sequence in Figure 10, is an Individualising cue. The key is the half-second dip and half-second raise of the eyes in the vertical plane while the head is directed at the target for individualisation. The other, shown in the right sequence in Figure 10, is an Attention Directing cue. The key is the fifth-of-a-second to-object and fifth-of-a-second from-object movement of the eyes. The movement during the Attention Directing cue need not be restricted to the vertical plane, however, the start and end point of the cue should be the same point.

Enabled by our platform's core capabilities, the technologies, approaches and methodologies developed during our exploration of the Read branch, and the aforementioned sociocontextual cues, several sizeable field studies have been designed and conducted. As the target application domain of our research is social robotics these studies have been designed to be real-world. Our general guiding prerequisites are: that our studies are out-of-the lab in a novel and non-controlled setting, that the participants are naive to robots, our platform and our study, that they are of reasonable scale in terms of participant numbers, and that the robot is as autonomous as possible so as to reduce the likelihood of our during-study actions/interventions/decisions inadvertently creating an effect in the study. The following subsections present two of our most recent field studies designed to explore our paradigm for Robot Centric HRI.

5.1 Study 1: Individualising a particular member of a group

Ensuring that a particular and unsuspecting member of a group is the recipient of a salient-item hand-over is a complicated interaction, however, it is one foreseeable in social robotics. Upon the robot's arrival it is likely that the group will reconfigure (Dusan & Traum, 2007, Kendon, 1977 and

Figure 9. Sociocontextual Cues: Arm Based

Figure 10. Sociocontextual Cues: Gaze Based

Kendon, 1973) and, depending on the saliency of the object the robot is carrying, the group may actively compete for it (Guerin, 2003). In order to ensure the item is delivered to the correct person the robot must inform the intended recipient that the object is intended for him/her and, potentially more importantly, inform the remainder of the group that the object is not intended for them. This must be achieved by the robot in an effective, expedient, reliable and socially acceptable manner in order to avert any tendency within the group towards antinormative behaviour.

In the case of a salient object on 'offer' and a task-naïve group, the lack of established social norms and ambiguity of the situation facilitates deindividuation within the group (Cowley, 2008 and Guerin, 2003). Furthermore, as robots are typically perceived as machines and not conscious beings this deindividuation will be exacerbated through an increased sense of anonymity (Postmes & Spears, 1998) and the group is unlikely to feel subject to social influence or identification (Kiesler, Siegel, & McGuire, 1984). This culmination of the lack of social influence and norms, and deindividuation, leads to antinormative behaviour (Diener, Fraser, Beaman, & Kelem, 1976, Guerin, 2003 and Postmes & Spears, 1998). In which case, the group-decision is likely to be polarised to either the group expediently dispossessing the robot of the salient object that it holds, or not acting in the scenario (Diener et al., 1976, Guerin, 2003 and Postmes & Spears, 1998). However, as previously described, sociocontextual cues can individualise (reduce anonymity) and communicate intention (resolve ambiguity). Thus, it seems plausible for the robot to increase its likelihood of successful task completion by establishing appropriate participant roles. Which in turn seems plausible through the robot activating the Elicit branch by issuing particular sociocontextual cues. Testing these plausibilities was the focus of this study².

The study was conducted during a University Open Day, shown in Figure 11(a). The participants ($N = 456$, the participant distribution is shown in Table 2) were visitors to the Open Day (primarily final stage high school students and their parents). They were attracted without experimenter intervention to participate in the study by the robot through its actions. The study was a 2x2 design; *Gaze Based Individualising Sociocontextual Cue: Issued (Look) / Not Issued (No Look) x Participant Role: Interaction Partner (Selected) / By Stander (Onlooker)*. The arm based Offering sociocontextual cue was issued by the robot in all cases. The experimental procedure, illustrated in Figure 11(b), began with the robot autonomously making fairy floss (a.k.a. cotton candy). This novel spectacle enabled the robot to self-attract small groups (between 3 and 20 people). Once making the Fairy Floss was completed the robot looked up, scanned the crowd detecting the people and randomly selected an intended interaction partner from the pool of detected people. Finally, the cue case (Look or No Look) was randomly selected and issued whilst the arm based offering cue was executed, both cues were directed at the randomly selected interaction partner.

Whether the Fairy Floss was taken at all, the time elapsed prior to it being taken (if taken), whether it was taken by the selected participant or an onlooker, and a survey designed to probe the participants' perception of their entitlement to take the Fairy Floss were the measures used in this study. The driving hypotheses for the study was that: The robot's presentation of anonymity-reducing sociocontextual cues will lead to perceived and enacted reduced equality of participation within the crowd. Our predictions were that: upon presenting such a cue, the robot will be more successful in confining the interaction to the selected participant. Specifically, there would be 1) a decreased likelihood that the object will be taken by an onlooker as opposed to the selected participant, 2) an increased likelihood that the object is taken, and 3) a perceived and thus reported greater sense of entitlement to take the item for the selected opposed to the onlookers.

Figure 12 presents a selection of the key results from this study. Evidence to support our hypotheses and predictions was found. As shown in Figure 12(a), it was found that the object was

²This study was initially presented in (Kirchner et al., 2011), this section presents a commentary on the role of this study in evaluating the paradigm presented here within, and presents previously unpublished additional findings/insights.

(a) A stand at a University Open Day

(b) An illustration of the experimental procedure

Figure 11. Exemplar Scenario

Table 2: Participant Distribution

		Case	Onlooker	Selected	Total
Look	Male		150	24	174
	Female		85	16	101
No Look	Male		91	18	109
	Female		66	6	72
Total			392	64	456

(a) Time elapsed after the gaze cue before the item was taken

(b) Effect of Look Vs No Look on participants' percept on whether they are allowed to take the Item

Figure 12. Exemplar Scenario Results

taken significantly more frequently by the selected rather than the onlooker when the Look cue was issued, ($z=3.73$, $p<0.01$). No difference was found when the No Look cue was issued. Furthermore, it was found that the object was taken significantly more frequently when the Look cue was issued, ($p<0.01$), and significant difference in the time-to-take the item between the two conditions was also found, ($t=2.42$, $p<0.02$). Finally, of the 456 participants, 135 completed the optional survey. Figure 12(b) shows the effect of the presence (or absence) of the sociocontextual gaze cue on the participants' percept on whether they are allowed to take the item. As the responses to the survey items will be heavily influenced (by design) by the participant's role and experimental case, an overall test of internal reliability is inappropriate. Individual split measures of internal consistency see Cronbach's Alpha range from 0.61 to 0.80 (acceptable to good). Upon analysis a significant main effect for the participants' role (Selected Vs Observer) was found, ($F(1,129)=11.23$, $p<0.01$). However, the main effect and simple main effects for the case were not found to be significant, nor was the interaction effect.

The results from this study demonstrate that a robot can assume the role of an Interaction Peer and defeat tendencies within the group towards antinormative behaviour through activating the Elicit branch of our Robot Centric paradigm for HRI with sociocontextual cues. Importantly, the results also show that the robot was significantly more able to complete its intended task (handover to a specific group member - 80% compared to 33.3% success - $z=3.73$, $p<0.01$) upon presenting the sociocontextual cue. Furthermore, our results also showed that the robot was able to achieve this surreptitiously, the participants' behaviour was effected as demonstrated by the success results, although the participants did not perceive a difference in entitlement to take the Fairy Floss between cases (non-significant main and simple main effects by case). From these results it is clear that the robot was able to activate the Elicit branch to its benefit without inducing a negative human response.

5.2 Study 2: Instantiating an interaction with a particular passerby

Successfully instantiating an interaction with a task-naive human is another example of a non-trivial, yet foreseeable, interaction requirement in social robotics. It has been found that interaction instantiation attempts based on increasing physical proximity and/or issuing greeting utterance often results in the human simply ignoring the robot (Satake et al., 2009, Dautenhahn, 2007 and Finke et al., 2005 for example). Whilst this is acceptable in a number of cases, it is not acceptable in the case where the robot must interact with a specific person. In order to ensure an interaction is instantiated with a desired person the robot must inform this person of its intentions in a compelling and directed (so as not to instantiate unintended interactions with onlookers) manner. This must be achieved by the robot in an effective, expedient, reliable and socially acceptable manner in order to advert any tendency towards antinormative behaviour.

Instantiating an interaction with a passerby on a city street is particularly challenging. Firstly, the passerby is likely to be subject to Attentional Overload (Milgram, 1970), a condition where excessive sensory stimulation, information and social contacts over-saturates one's attention. This inherently leads to a callous-like state in which the passersby, among other behaviours, ignore nonessential information (Inattentional Blindness) and fend-off others (Milgram, 1970 and Coon & Mitterer, 2008). A robot attempting to instantiate an interaction with a naive passerby is likely to be faced with these challenges, the passersby are likely to ignore the robot or, upon attending to it, perceive its request for an interaction as attempted panhandling and fend-off its attempt (Goldberg, 1995 and Lankenau, 1999). However, as previously described, sociocontextual cues can individualise (in this case potentially defeating Inattentional Blindness) and communicate intention (in this case offering, which could defeat the percept of the robot's role as being that of a panhandler). Thus, it seems plausible that a robot activating the Elicit branch, through issuing specific sociocontextual cues, could establish appropriate participant roles and successfully instantiate an interaction on a

Table 3: Participant Distribution

	Case	Onlooker	Selected	Total
Cues	<i>Males</i>	40	35	75
	<i>Females</i>	34	23	57
	<i>Mixed</i>	32	29	61
Control	<i>Males</i>	26	39	65
	<i>Females</i>	25	26	51
	<i>Mixed</i>	6	5	11
	<i>Total</i>	163	157	320

city street with a task-naïve passerby.

This study was conducted during business hours on a Thursday on a major city street in front of our University’s main building, shown in Figure 13(a). The participants ($N = 320$, the participant distribution is shown in Table 2) were typical passersby to the region, no particular demographic was evident. With regards to the table, ‘Male’ refers to the total number of participants in all male groups (even if it were a group of one), likewise for ‘Female’. ‘Mixed’ refers to the total number of participants in mixed gender groups. In the instance where the Selected belonged to a ‘Mixed’ group, ambiguity existed upon reviewing the data as to which particular individual, and thus gender, was selected. The participants were attracted without experimenter intervention to participate in the study by the robot through its actions. The study was a 2×2 design; *Gaze (Individualising & Attention Directing) and Arm Based (Offering) Cues: Sociocontextual / Control (Non-Sociocontextual) x Participant Role: Interaction Partner (Selected) / By Stander (Onlooker)*. The control (non-sociocontextual) gaze and arm cues were designed with balanced movement properties to the sociocontextual cues in order to control for attention attraction through movement alone. The experimental procedure, illustrated in Figure 13(b), began with the robot randomly selecting the experimental case (Sociocontextual Cues or Control). The robot then waited until it detected a person that was heading past in the periphery (far left or right of Figure 13(b)) and selected that person as the target for interaction instantiation. The robot autonomously detected and tracked all people in the scene. The robot then: Case 1) issued initial Individualising and Offering cues at the selected person and the Attention Directing cue to the cup of pens it was holding. Reissued the Offering and Attention Directing cues upon each $\Delta d = 0.5m$ increment towards the robot taken by the participant. If the participant made no Δd increment towards the robot then no cues other than the initial cues were issued. Or Case 2) issued the control set of cues regardless of the participants path.

Measures for this study for the selected were: their head angle relative to their direction of movement (as shown in Figure 13(b)), whether they slowed, stopped, increase proximity to the robot, gestured towards the robot (Interact) and/or approached the robot to the point where physical contact could be made with it (Approach). Measures for the onlookers were: whether they approached the robot to the point where physical contact could be made with it (Approach). The driving hypotheses for the study was that: The robot’s presentation of sociocontextual cues would

(a) The city street in front of our University

(b) An illustration of the experimental procedure

Figure 13. Experimental Setting

overcome Inattentional Blindness and the Panhandler role and allow interaction instantiation with specific passersby. Our predictions were that: upon presenting the sociocontextual cues, the robot will be more successful in instantiating an interaction with a specific passerby. Specifically, upon presenting the sociocontextual cues, 1) there would be an significantly more gaze and movement based interaction indicators, and 2) this effect will be due to the sociocontextual cues.

Tables 4(a) & 4(b) present a selection of the key results from this study. Video from the robot's perspective was analysed post-experiment and data from participants that did not direct their heads towards the robot at any stage was excluded as it was reasonable that their behaviour was due to them having not noticed the robot. From the remaining, evidence to support our hypotheses and predictions was found. Through a series of 2x2 Fisher Exact Probability Tests and with reference to Table 4(a), it was found that significantly more passersby remain visually attending to the robot at head/movement-direction angles of 110° and 130° in the sociocontextual cue case, ($p=0.042$ and $p=0.040$ respectively). No significant difference was found for head/movement-direction angles of 60° and 90°. With reference to Table 4(b), it was found that significantly more Interact and Approach indicators of an interaction were displayed by the Selected participants in the sociocontextual cues

Table 4: Experimental Results
(a) Gaze based measures of an Interaction

Looking		60°	90°	110°	130°
Cues	<i>Y</i>	27	25	22	16
	<i>N</i>	26	28	30	34
Control	<i>Y</i>	27	21	13	8
	<i>N</i>	28	34	40	44

(b) Movement based measures of an interaction

Case		Interact	Approach
Selected	<i>Cues</i>	29	12
	<i>Control</i>	11	3
Onlooker	<i>Cues</i>	7	7
	<i>Control</i>	3	3

case than the control case, ($p=0.002$ and $p=0.022$ respectively). It was also found that significantly more Selected participants displayed Approach indicators than did the Onlookers in the sociocontextual cues case, ($p=0.014$). The same comparison was found to be non-significant for the control case. Finally, it was found that the participants' pass-by distance from the robot was significantly greater in the sociocontextual cue case ($\bar{x}=4.35$, $\sigma=1.12$ and $\bar{x}=3.86$, $\sigma=1.50$, $t(115)=1.99$, $p<0.05$). Whilst this is somewhat counterintuitive, it is consistent with the findings of Mumm & Mutlu, 2011 and has been shown to be an indication of interaction.

Firstly, it is of note that the sociocontextual cues and control cues were balanced - 52.7% and 51.6% of passersby looked at the robot once or more in the cases respectively, and this outcome distribution was found not significant through a 2x2 Fisher Exact Probability Test. This suggest that the effects seen were due to sociocontextual nature of the cues, rather than a difference in movement during the cues attracting attention, and that the sociocontextual cues were again surreptitious - the participants' behaviour was effected (as demonstrated by the results) although the participants did not display a perceived difference in visual attractiveness of the two cues cases. Furthermore, the results showed that the robot was significantly more able to complete its intended task upon presenting the sociocontextual cue. Importantly, the results from this study again demonstrate that the robot can assume the role of an Interaction Peer and overcome social tendencies, through activating the Elicit branch of our Robot Centric paradigm for HRI with sociocontextual cues, in order to increase its successfulness in achieving its task.

6. Concluding Discussion

A Robot Centric paradigm for HRI which adds two branches to the traditional paradigm for HRI was presented. Empirical evidence derived from explorations of the Read and Elicit branches was presented in Sections 4 & 5 respectively. Through this evidence, it was demonstrated that both Branches are feasibly incorporated into HRI and moreover, both yield significant contributions to a robot's ability to successfully derive and/or complete tasks. For instance, in Section 4 it was shown that interaction-context knowledge accrued by the robot through sensing and perception could be exploited to derive informed action plans. Furthermore, in Section 5 it was shown that the robot can significantly increase its successful task completion rate by overcoming social tendencies through activating the Elicit branch of our Robot Centric paradigm for HRI with sociocontextual cues.

Together the results presented here within illustrate the need for a revision of the traditional model for HRI and provide encouraging preliminary results towards exploring our paradigm. Whilst there is still considerable space around our Robot Centric paradigm for HRI remaining open for exploration, from our aforementioned work it is our perspective that social robotics will not fulfil their full potential whilst the associated HRI confines them to the role of a Task Completer. Situations in which the humans that the robot is sharing the environment with are not privy to the robot's task/intentions are foreseeable. As demonstrated here within, in such situations the robot can increase the likelihood of successful task completion by modelling the interaction on our paradigm for Robot Centric HRI.

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