

“Gießener Abendgespräche Kognition und Gehirn“

Mittwochs, 18.00 bis 20.00 Uhr, Raum F009

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„Machines That Act Like Persons“

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Will it be possible one day to have machines that live up to human communication abilities and that take on the role of social partners? A goal of research in artificial intelligence is the advancement of human-machine interaction by systems which make communication with the human more intuitive. At Bielefeld University we have developed an anthropomorphic machine with person-like qualities, named "Max". Embodied in virtual reality, Max can perform diverse actions and conduct a dialog with the human. By the help of microphones and video cameras or tracker systems, Max can "hear" and "see", and process verbal instructions and gestures. With a synthetic voice and an articulated body and face, Max can speak and gesture, and express emotions. Our research is led by the expectation that the study of artificial communication will help to enhance the understanding of human communication. For many years, Max has also been employed in a public computer museum, providing the visitors with various information and engaging them in a conversation. Perhaps, machines that act like persons may become helpful assistants for people in the information society.