

# Preface

The 9th International Conference on Social Robotics (ICSR 2017) was held in Tsukuba City, Ibaraki prefecture, Japan, during November 22–24, 2017—its first edition in Japan. This book gathers the proceedings of the conference, comprising 74 refereed papers, reviewed by the international Program Committee, and presented during the technical sessions of the conference.

The International Conference on Social Robotics brings together researchers and practitioners working at the confluence of humans and robots, and on the impact on our culture as well as work and life styles as a consequence of the spread of robotic systems into our society. The theme of the 2017 conference was “Embodied Interactive Robots” to emphasize the variety of interactions, the fundamentals of robot embodiment, and the necessity of understanding all the aspects of human–robot interactivities.

The International Conference on Social Robotics is an established international forum for the exchange of ideas and discussions on social robotics. The conference provides researchers and practitioners with the opportunity to present their latest research and to engage in dialog on the latest progress in the field of social robotic systems. Robotic systems are expected to have an impact on the quality of human life through assistance, enabling, for instance, independent living or providing support in work-intensive, difficult, and possibly complex situations. In Japan, robotics is currently of the primary strategical priorities of the government that engages in a large and ambitious robotics program, where the societal stakes are central.

In addition to technical sessions, ICSR 2017 included four workshops: (1) Social Robot Intelligence for Social Human–Robot Interaction of Service Robots; (2) Human Safety and Comfort in Human–Robot Interactive Social Environments, (3) Modes of Interaction for Social Robots (MISR 2017): Postures, Gestures and Microinteractions; and (4) Religion in Robotics. ICSR 2017 featured two world-renowned researchers in social robotics as keynote speakers.

The conference venue, Tsukuba, known as the Science City, provided the participants with the opportunity to experience Japanese culture in a very green environment.

We would like to express our appreciation to the Organizing Committee for putting together an excellent program, to the international Program Committee for their rigorous review and selection of the papers, and, most importantly, to the authors and participants, who greatly enhanced the quality and effectiveness of the conference through their papers, presentations, and conversations.

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