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Speaker: Vivian Herdel, PhD student, Department of Industrial Engineering & Management, BGU

Title: Emotion Appropriateness in Human-Drone Interaction

Abstract: The growing presence of drones in human spaces has sparked curiosity in the interaction community regarding their role as social creatures. One approach to conveying social aspects of drones, or robots more generally, is to incorporate emotions. Yet, the effects of appropriate and inappropriate emotions displayed on drones remain largely unexplored. In this work, we conducted two online Validation and Perception studies (N1=100, N2=97) to examine how the appropriateness of emotions influences people's perception of drones in a common service scenario. Our findings reveal significant differences in how drones are perceived based on whether they display appropriate or inappropriate emotions, impacting most aspects of human perception assessed, such as warmth and usefulness. Furthermore, our qualitative data revealed valuable insights into people's thought processes regarding emotion appropriateness. We offer design considerations towards the use of emotions in Human-Drone Interaction and contribute a deeper understanding of emotion appropriateness in robotics.

Bio: Viviane Herdel holds a Bachelor of Science in Sensors and Cognitive Psychology from the Technical University of Chemnitz. She furthered her education with a Master of Science in Neurocognitive Psychology from Oldenburg University.

Currently, in her fourth year of Ph.D. studies at Ben Gurion University, Viviane focuses her research on the utilization of displayed emotions on drones and their appropriateness in human-drone interaction. Her academic pursuits revolve around affective computing, social robotics, and user experience research, showcasing a strong interest in the intersection of emotions and technological interfaces and artifacts.