Cooperation with autonomous machines through culture and emotion

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Background and Research aims



Evidence in literature

People treated machines differently based on machines'

• Gender – male or female voices (Nass, Moon, Green, 1997)

• Race of a virtual face (Nass, Isbister, Lee, 2000)

• Accent (Khooshabeh, Dehghani, Nazarian, Gratch, 2017)

Reeves and Nass's "Media Equation"

Evidence in literature

• Mentalization brain region (mPFC) showed no activation when playing rock-paper-scissors with a machine (Gallagher et al.), nor when playing prisoner's dilemma games with a machine (McCabe et al.)

 People experienced less negative emotion (less activation in bilateral anterior insula) when getting an unfair offer form a machine, compared to getting that from a human (Sanfey et al.)

We perceive less mind in machines

Hypothesis

- 1. positive cues of cultural membership could mitigate the default unfavorable bias people have towards machines.
- 2. emotion expressions could override expectations of cooperation based on cultural membership.

Method

 Iterated prisoner's dilemma games against virtual agents



2 × 2 × 3 between-participants factorial design:

counterpart type (human vs. machine) × *counterpart culture* (United States vs. Japan) × *emotion* (competitive vs. neutral vs. cooperative)







Competitive emotion style		Agent cooperate	Agent defect
	Participant cooperate	Regret	Joy
	Participant defect	<image/>	<image/>

Cooperative emotion style		Agent cooperate	Agent defect
	Participant cooperate	Joy	Regret
	Participant defect	Sadness	<image/>



Analysis

 Split the data into two sets: playing against same-culture agent/ playing against different-culture agent

 2 × 2 × 3 between-participants factorial design: counterpart type (human vs. machine) × counterpart culture (United States vs. Japan) × emotion (competitive vs. neutral vs. cooperative).

Depend variable: cooperation rate

C Cooperation Rates



Main effect of counterpart type: human > machine (P = .042) Main effect of emotion: cooperative > competitive (P < .001) neutral > competitive (P = .055) counterpart type × emotion interaction (P = .032)

Main effect of emotion: cooperative > competitive P < .001 cooperative vs. neutral (P = .104)

neutral vs. competitive (P = .100.)

Conclusion

 humans will resort to familiar psychological mechanisms to identify alliances and collaborate with machines.

 Positive cultural and emotional cues can override the default expectations created from social categorisation and promote cooperation.

 Emotion had the strongest effect in our experiment, showing that even a machine from a different culture group could be treated like an in-group member

Discussion



Validation study?



Gender of the virtual agents?



Analysis?



Interpretation of findings?



Should we customise social robots based on users' cultural background/gender...?

Does Removing Stereotype Priming Remove Bias? A Pilot Human-Robot Interaction Study

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Figure 1. White ROBOTIS Darwin-Mini robot.



Figure 2. Black ROBOTIS Darwin-Mini robot.

Day 1 Session 1: Trust

HRI '20, March 23-26, 2020, Cambridge, United Kingdom

Why Should We Gender? The Effect of Robot Gendering and Occupational Stereotypes on Human Trust and Perceived Competency

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