

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Robot companionship in Covid</b>
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>Loneliness is on a rise during this pandemic. In such challenging times, robots understanding and showing emotions can help in building relationships with humans that foster emotional security. The purpose of this study is to investigate if emotional robots can help to decrease the feeling of loneliness. Do robots showing emotions help to decrease the feeling of loneliness? Answer the question by considering the following aspects: Use cases, user acceptance, mental health</p>
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Exemplary literature</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Odekerken-Schröder, G., Mele, C., Russo-Spena, T., Mahr, D. and Ruggiero, A., 2020. Mitigating loneliness with companion robots in the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond: an integrative framework and research agenda. <i>Journal of Service Management</i>.</li> <li>• Stiehl, W.D., Lieberman, J., Breazeal, C., Basel, L., Lalla, L. and Wolf, M., 2005, August. Design of a therapeutic robotic companion for relational, affective touch. In <i>ROMAN 2005. IEEE International Workshop on Robot and Human Interactive Communication</i>, 2005. (pp. 408-415). IEEE.</li> <li>• Stiehl, W.D. and Breazeal, C., 2005, October. Affective touch for robotic companions. In <i>International Conference on Affective Computing and Intelligent Interaction</i> (pp. 747-754). Springer, Berlin, Heidelberg.</li> <li>• Wang, J., Liu, T., Liu, Z. and Chai, Y., 2018, June. Affective interaction technology of companion robots for the elderly: A review. In <i>International Conference on E-Learning and Games</i> (pp. 79-83). Springer, Cham.</li> <li>• Stiehl, W.D., Breazeal, C., Han, K.H., Lieberman, J., Lalla, L., Maymin, A., Salinas, J., Fuentes, D., Toscano, R., Tong, C.H. and Kishore, A., 2006. The huggable: a therapeutic robotic companion for relational, affective touch. In <i>ACM SIGGRAPH 2006 emerging technologies</i> (pp. 15-es).</li> </ul>
<b>Additional information</b>	<p>Kind of thesis: bachelor or master Start: as soon as possible Publication options: Excellent works should be submitted to international conferences or to the working paper series on Market-oriented Management of the chair of Marketing and HRM.</p>
<b>Contact</b>	<p>The exact focus can be determined individually with the supervisors. The work is supervised by Prof. Dr. Ruth Stock-Homburg and Niyati Rawal at the Chair of Marketing and Human Resources Management. Contact: <a href="mailto:niyati.rawal@tu-darmstadt.de">niyati.rawal@tu-darmstadt.de</a></p>