


Topic	Ethics and Morality in New Technologies and Technology-Induced Services
<p data-bbox="204 474 336 501"><b>Overview</b></p> 	<p data-bbox="427 474 1385 658">Robots get increasingly involved in human lives. The rapid advancements in new technologies, such as service robots, confront people with new challenges and crucial ethical questions as well as problems for our society. Thus, ethical considerations in terms of a responsible, safe and trustworthy human-robot interaction need to be considered soon.</p> <p data-bbox="427 667 1385 734">How can we ensure robotic ethical behavior? How can we design ethical robots? Can or should robots act in accordance with human morality?</p> <p data-bbox="427 779 671 806">Sample topics are:</p> <ol data-bbox="480 857 1385 1962" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="480 857 1385 1021">1. <b>The Hedonic Calculus in AI-enabled technologies:</b> How can the hedonic calculus be conceptualized and applied? Will humans respond differently to humans vs. robots? These questions should be answered with a <i>quantitative study</i>.</li> <li data-bbox="480 1037 1385 1200">2. <b>Does Moral Blindness occur in human-robot interactions?</b> Moral or ethical blindness is a person's temporary inability to see the ethical aspect of a decision they are making. This investigation should be answered with a <i>quantitative study</i>.</li> <li data-bbox="480 1216 1385 1559">3. <b>Knobe Effect:</b> The Knobe effect describes a human perception where the goodness or badness of an action influences peoples' intentionality attributions asymmetrically; bad outcomes are judged as intentional, whereas good outcomes are judged as unintentional (Feltz, 2007). Initial data shows that this effect also exists in human-robot interactions. We now want to investigate this effect further. This investigation should be answered with a <i>quantitative study</i>.</li> <li data-bbox="480 1574 1385 1827">4. <b>Ethical customer-robot/AI interactions in services:</b> Ethics becomes increasingly relevant in customer-robot interactions and during service encounters. What are the most important constructs in literature and which underlying theories have been applied so far? These questions should be answered within a <i>structured literature review</i>.</li> <li data-bbox="480 1843 1385 1962">5. <b>Emotions and Ethics:</b> What are ethical implications of emotions during human-robot interactions? This question should be answered within a <i>structured literature review</i>.</li> </ol>

	<p>Exemplary literature:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wirtz, J., Patterson, P. G., Kunz, W. H., Gruber, T., Lu, V. N., Paluch, S., &amp; Martins, A. (2018). Brave new world: service robots in the front-line. <i>Journal of Service Management</i>, 29(5), 907-931.</li> <li>• Malle, B. F. (2016). Integrating robot ethics and machine morality: the study and design of moral competence in robots. <i>Ethics and Information Technology</i>, 18, 243-256.</li> <li>• Laakasuo, M., Palomäki, J., &amp; Köbis, N. (2021). Moral uncanny valley: A robot's appearance moderates how its decisions are judged. <i>International Journal of Social Robotics</i>, 13(7), 1679-1688.</li> </ul>
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Additional information</b>	<p>Type of thesis: Bachelor or master thesis</p> <p>Start: October/November 2023</p> <p>Requirements: Interest in topics on the interface between humans and AI/robots and ethics; for quantitative study: good statistical knowledge</p>
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