

# Towards a Symbiotic Society with Humans and AI

5th of March 2026

LUTIN, Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie, Paris

**Abstract** - This event aims to open an interdisciplinary space for dialogue around the notion of symbiosis between humans and intelligent technologies, by examining the current and future forms of coexistence between people, machines, and artificial intelligence systems within society. Machines and AI systems have taken on an increasingly proactive role in our living environments. They are no longer confined to industrial or production contexts, but are now embedded in everyday life, extending into fundamental domains such as education, health and medicine, therapeutic support, creativity, artistic and cultural practices, as well as systems of belief. In these contexts, technologies no longer merely execute actions but participate in complex relational dynamics: they accompany, suggest, stimulate, and support human activity, while continuously adapting through interaction with human practices. This evolution gives rise to processes of co-adaptation in which humans and machines progressively align their modes of action and interaction. The goal of this event is to explore the conditions under which such relationships can become genuinely symbiotic, understood as positive, sustainable, and desirable forms of coexistence. By bringing together perspectives from neuroscience, robotics, anthropology, medicine, the arts, and the humanities, the event seeks to reflect on how forms of human–technology coexistence can be conceived and constructed in ways that support, rather than constrain, the societies of the future.

## Program

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### **10:00 – Introduction**

*Salvatore M. Anzalone, Cognitions Humaine et Artificielle, Directeur du LUTIN, Université Paris 8*

*Lionel Obadia, Laboratoire de Recherche Historique Rhône-Alpes, Université Lyon 2*

*Erica Magris, Scènes du monde, création, savoirs critiques, Université Paris 8*

### **10:30 – Symbiosis Human and machines – critical (but constructive) anthropological considerations**

*Lionel Obadia, Laboratoire de Recherche Historique Rhône-Alpes, Université Lyon 2*

*This talk will address the issue of human – technology relationships, from instrumentalism to symbiosis, with a focus on AI and robotics. Drawing on recent scientific and SF literature and fieldwork expertise, I will map some of the major epistemic stances and logics regarding the very idea of “symbiosis”, the modes and outcomes it refers to, and the different “species” that are under consideration, and the very status of technologies like AI (tool ?). I will reflect upon empirical examples to open up a critical discussion bringing back the concept of “hybridization” at the forefront of the debate.*

### **11:20 – Long-Term Interaction in Social Robotics: Personalization and Trust as Key Challenges**

*Adriana Tapus, Autonomous Systems and Robotics Lab, ENSTA, Institut Polytechnique de Paris*

*Social robots are becoming increasingly present in our daily lives, and the design of their behaviors greatly affects the way people interact with them. To ensure optimal engagement, long-term adaptation and the personalization of a robot’s behavior to the user’s specific needs and profile should be envisaged. This presentation will explore innovative perception and interaction capabilities and address the challenges raised by inter-individual differences and intra-individual variability over time. Several studies that highlight these aspects and demonstrate the importance of personalized robotic interactions will be discussed. Beyond social and assistive contexts, such as robots supporting the elderly, and other vulnerable populations, the talk will also extend to educational and industrial setups, exploring how adaptive and human-centered interaction principles can enhance learning, safety, efficiency, and trust in human–robot collaboration across diverse environments.*

### **12:10 – Lunch**

**14:00 – The creativity challenge: Humans, Robots and Humbots**

*Todd Lubart, Laboratoire de Psychologie et d'Ergonomie Appliquées, Université Paris Cité*

*This presentation will examine diverse ways in which humans and AI systems, including social robots, can interact and foster creative thinking. A variety of examples including humans assisted by AI as well as AI assisted by humans will allow the topic of co-creation to be examined and offer the opportunity to explore avenues for future research and development.*

**14:50 – Avatars and the future society**

*Hiroshi Ishiguro, Department of Systems Innovation, Osaka University*

*The speaker has been involved in research on tele-operated robots, that is, avatars, since around 2000. Research on Geminoid modeled on oneself is not only scientific research that understands the feeling of presence of human beings, but also practical research that allows one to move one's existence to a remote place and work in a remote place. In this lecture, the speaker will introduce a series of research and development of avatars such as Geminoid and discuss in what kind of society humans and avatars will coexist in the future.*

**15:40 – Coffee break**

**16:00 – Panel session**

*Adriana Tapus, Autonomous Systems and Robotics Lab, ENSTA, Institut Polytechnique de Paris*

*Todd Lubart, Laboratoire de Psychologie et d'Ergonomie Appliquées, Université Paris Cité*

*Hiroshi Ishiguro, Department of Systems Innovation, Osaka University*

*Joffrey Becker, ETIS-Lab, ENSEA*

*Donatien Aubert, artiste, chercheur et auteur*

**17:40 – Conclusions**

*The seminar will be held the 5th of March, 2026, from 10:00 18:00 at LUTIN, Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie, level B2:  
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/X8nD6s9TJ3CBvDpF6>*

*Please register to the seminar using the following link: <https://forms.gle/npHa1DYyDwcH11X9>*

## Biographies

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### Adriana Tapus



**Adriana TAPUS** is Full Professor in the Autonomous Systems and Robotics Lab in the Computer Science and System Engineering Department (U2IS), at ENSTA, part of IP Paris (QS=46), France. In 2011, she obtained the French Habilitation (HDR) for her thesis entitled “Towards Personalized Human-Robot Interaction”. She received her PhD in Computer Science from Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland in 2005 and her degree of Engineer in Computer Science and Engineering from Politehnica University of Bucharest, Romania in 2001. She worked as an Associate Researcher at the University of Southern California (USC), where she was among the pioneers on the development of socially assistive robotics, also participating to activity in machine learning, human sensing, and human-robot interaction. Her main interests are on long-term learning (i.e. in particular in interaction with humans), human modeling, and on-line robot behavior adaptation to external environmental factors. Prof. Tapus is an Associate Editor for International Journal of Social Robotics (IJSR), Senior Editor for International Journal of Robotics Research (IJRR) and Chief-in-Editor for Frontiers in Robotics HRI topic, and in the steering committee of several major robotics conferences (General Chair 2019 of HRI, Program Chair 2018 of HRI, General Chair 2017 of ECMR, Program Chair ICSR 2025, International Advisory Board ICSR 2026). She received the Romanian Academy Award for her contributions in assistive robotics in 2010. She was elected in 2016 as one of the 25 women in robotics you need to know about. She is also the PI of various EU and French National research grants. She received several awards for her research (e.g., Finalist of Best Paper Award IROS 2025). She has more than 250 research publications and she is listed for the fifth consecutive year among the World's Top 2% Scientists. In 2025, she was elected Honorary Member of the Academy of Technical Sciences in Romania.

### Todd Lubart



**Todd Lubart** obtained his PHD from Yale University. He is a full professor of psychology at University Paris Cité. Co-director of an applied psychology research laboratory, coordinator of several grants and contracts, he has approximately 300 scientific publications in articles, books and psychological tests. His lines of research involve the identification and development of creative potential, creativity assessments, creative giftedness, environmental support for creativity and the impact of generative AI on creativity. Todd Lubart was a member of the Institut Universitaire de France and is president of ISSCI (the International Society for the Study of Creativity and Innovation, [issci.online](http://issci.online)).

### Hiroshi Ishiguro



**Hiroshi Ishiguro** received a Ph. D. from Osaka University, Japan in 1991. He is currently Professor of Department of Systems Innovation at Osaka University, Visiting Director of Hiroshi Ishiguro Laboratories at the Advanced Telecommunications Research Institute (ATR), Project Manager of MOONSHOT R&D Project, Thematic Project Producer of EXPO 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, and CEO of AVITA, Inc. His research interests are interactive robotics, avatar, and android science. Geminoid is an avatar android that is a copy of himself. In 2011, he won the Osaka Cultural Award. In 2015, he received the Prize for Science and Technology by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. He was also awarded the Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Award in Dubai in 2015. Tateisi Award in 2020, and honorary doctorate of Aarhus university in 2021.

### Joffrey Becker



**Joffrey Becker** was trained in social anthropology at EHESS. He holds a teaching chair at ENSEA, and his research is affiliated with the ETIS laboratory (UMR CNRS 8051). His work focuses on robotics and artificial intelligence, aiming to understand how intelligent systems reconfigure representations, relationships, and practices.

## Donatien Aubert



**Donatien Aubert** is an artist, researcher and author. His theoretical and visual work aims to problematize contemporary anthropological mutations. He is particularly interested in the philosophical, scientific and political legacy of cybernetic paradigms, and their resilience in movements such as ecology. After graduating with honors from the École Nationale Supérieure d'Arts de Paris-Cergy, he carried out post-master's research at the Laboratoire de l'École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs (EnsadLab). He was part of the Spatial Media program, specialized in the creation of virtual reality experiences and shared 3D environments. He also holds a doctorate in comparative literature from Sorbonne University's Faculty of Arts and Humanities. His thesis presents how the arts of memory (ancient heuristics based on the spatialization of knowledge) have been updated in the field of human-machine interactions. Donatien Aubert creates hybrid works (videos, interactive installations, virtual reality programs, sculptures created by computer-assisted design and manufacturing, art & science projects), balancing, in the service of an epistemological and historical perspective, forms that owe as much to the classical culture of curiosity (scientific and literate) as to that of contemporary technoscience. He has been exhibited in several biennials in France and internationally (Némo, Chroniques, Elektra). He won the CNAP photographic commission "Image 3.0" in 2020 and the Curator's prize of the OPLINE Prize in 2024. His work was the subject of a solo exhibition at the Odile Ouizeman Gallery, Paris, in 2021 and at Le Hublot, Nice, in 2024. He is published in Paris by Hermann Éditions (Vers une disparition programmatique d'Homo sapiens ?, 2017) and has also participated in scientific works, notably *L'art de la mémoire et les images mentales*, published by the Collège de France in 2018.

## Organizers

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### Salvatore M. Anzalone



**Salvatore Maria Anzalone** is Maître de Conférences at Université Paris 8, member of the Artificial and Human Cognitions Laboratory (2016), leading the Cognition and Social Interactions group (2020) and Director of the LUTIN research platform (2024). He received his Ph.D. degree in Computer Engineering from the University of Palermo (2010). He collaborates since then with several institutions in Italy (University of Padua), Japan (Osaka University) and France (Sorbonne Université and Pitié-Salpêtrière Medical Hospital). His research interests focus on Social Robotics, spanning from the analysis of interpersonal dynamics to the development of socio-cognitive behaviors, with the goal of allowing robots to express high degrees of social intelligence. He extensively worked on such topics in the specific context of socially assistive robotics for children with neurodevelopmental disorders. He was awarded as JSPS Research Fellow from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (2011-2012) and recipient of a grant from the Japanese National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (2013). He participated in several national and European projects such as the FP7 Michelangelo. He coordinated the French-Swiss bilateral project ANR-FNS iReCheck (2019-2023), the French national project "Scène and Robotique" (2020-2023), he is part of the PEPR O2R (2023-2030) and, since 2017, he is part of the steering committee of the Artificial Intelligence and Robotics group of the Italian Association for Artificial Intelligence. Since 2021, he joined the editorial board of the Springer's International Journal of Social Robotics as managing editor.

### Erica Magris



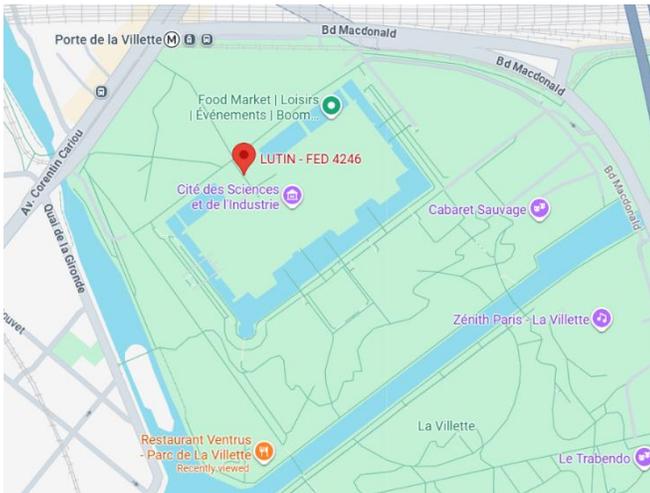
**Erica Magris** is Lecturer in Theatre Studies at the University of Paris 8 and Associate Researcher at THALIM (CNRS). Her research focuses on contemporary European theatre (20th–21st centuries), with particular attention to the relationships between theatrical practices, media environments, and technologies. She co-edited *Les Théâtres documentaires (Deuxième époque, 2019)* with Béatrice Picon-Vallin, and was co-principal investigator of the collaborative projects *Scènes augmentée (2015–2018)* and *Scène et robotique (2021–2023)*. She also co-directs the postdoctoral programme SCÈNE·R (Contemporary Scenes in the Digital Age).

## Lionel Obadia



**Lionel Obadia**, PhD in Sociology, is a Professor of Anthropology at the University of Lyon and has been a visiting scholar at the University of Brussels (2021) and Oxford (2022). He owns the chair “magic of technologies” at the Institut Universitaire de France (2025-2030). He first specialized in anthropology of religion, Asian religions and globalization. His main research interests included hybridization and cultural/religious transfers. He has conducted fieldwork in France, Europe and Israel (on Western Buddhism), Nepal (on Shamanism), United States (on Jewish messianism), and South India (in Auroville). Currently, he conducts research on magical thinking and beliefs in digital technologies, AI and robots in Europe and worldwide, as a member of executive committee of large programs on digital collaboration (PEPR Ensemble) and social robotics (PEPR O2R). He is the author of more than 10 books, edited 20 special issues of journals and published 180 journal articles and chapters in French, English, Spanish, and Chinese. Recently published : “Deadbots, griefbots and postmortem technologies - a computational challenge against death?” Jordi Vallverdu et al. (Eds) Seconddeath, Experiences of Death Across Technologies, Springer (2025).

## Venue



### Plateforme LUTIN - FED 4246

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### Arriving by public transport

**Metro:** Line 7, Porte de la Villette station.

**Bus:** Lines 71, 139, 150, 152, Porte de la Villette stop.

**Tram:** T3b (Porte de Vincennes - Porte Dauphine) Porte de la Villette stop.



**Lutin Userlab**  
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