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Preface

This book constitutes the refereed proceedings of the 12th International Conference on Social Robotics (ICSR 2020), held virtually in November 2020. The 57 full papers presented in these proceedings (comprised of 25 papers accepted for long-form presentation and 32 additional papers accepted for short-form presentation) were carefully reviewed and selected from 101 submissions. The papers focus on the following topics: human-robot trust and human-robot teaming, robot understanding and following of social and moral norms, physical and interaction design of social robots, verbal and nonverbal robot communication, interactive robot learning, robot motion and proxemics, and robots in domains such as education and health care.

The theme of this year’s conference is “Entertaining Robots,” which is meant to be a play on words signifying that robots can serve as captivating social agents, but also suggesting the challenges associated with managing these artifacts. In the near future, robots will be entering our social world, taking on a wide variety of roles. This conference offers a venue for researchers and those interested in social robots to examine the progress that is being made towards the creation of social robots. ICSR 2020 fosters discussion related to the innovative approaches to developing social robots, the promises of new robotic technologies, and possible positive and negative influences of social robots on society.

We would like to express our gratitude to the authors and participants for their contributions and support to the conference, the reviewers for their effort and constructive comments, and the Organizing Committee for the excellent organization and program. We hope the conference provides an effective platform for researchers and practitioners to share the latest research in the field of social robotics, and generate future collaboration in intradisciplinary research.

September 2020

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