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Adrian David Cheok · David Levy (Eds.)

# Love and Sex with Robots

Third International Conference, LSR 2017  
London, UK, December 19–20, 2017  
Revised Selected Papers

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## Preface

This book consists of the proceedings of the Third International Congress on Love and Sex with Robots (LSR 2017), held in the vibrant city of London, UK, during December 19–20, 2017. There were a total of 14 presentations, two keynote speeches, and over 100 participants from 17 countries at this annual academic event.

One of the biggest challenges of the Love and Sex with Robots Conference is to engage a wider scientific community in the discussions of the multifaceted topic, which has only recently established itself as an academic research topic within, but not limited to, the disciplines of artificial intelligence, human–computer interaction, robotics, biomedical science, and robot ethics etc. It is encouraging to see a steady increase in the number of conference delegates over the past few years. The conference started with about 25 participants, held in conjunction with a larger computer science conference organized by AISB for its 50th anniversary. In three years, the size of the conference grew significantly to nearly 70 participants coming from all around the world. Of course, the continuing strong interest from the media contributed much to the publicity of the conference and its contentious topic.

At LSR 2017, we had fantastic and informative keynote speeches from Kathleen Richardson and David Levy. The choice of our first keynote speaker, Kathleen Richardson, the founder of the Campaign Against Sex Robots, perhaps came as a surprise to many. It was a step to bring forward the key values we aim to promote in the conference—inclusiveness of different viewpoints and openness of discussions. It created an open platform for opposing arguments, expanding the conversation on the various issues in intimacy between humans and robots. In his keynote speech “Can Robots and Humans Make Babies Together?,” David Levy continued to provoke our thoughts of the future by making the prediction that human–robot babies will be possible within the next 100 years.

We started a new award this year, the Inaugural David Levy Special Best Paper Award, which was bestowed to Marc Behrendt for his outstanding paper “Reflections on the Moral Challenges Posed by a Child Sex Robot.” This was the first time that an award was given at the LSR conference, and we will continue this award in future conferences to recognize the most visionary contributions.

Lastly, we hope all delegates enjoyed the discussions and experiences at LSR 2017. We also hope you enjoy reading these proceedings and find the resources helpful in your research.

December 2017

Adrian David Cheok

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# **Keynote Speeches**

# **“Man as an End in Himself”—the Libertine, the Culture of Sadism, Porn and Sex Robots**

Kathleen Richardson

19 December 2017

Since the time of slave-owning societies, a powerful misogynistic myth has led men to believe they originate and can exist outside of relations with woman. This myth is perpetuated in the Judaea-Christian-Islamic traditions of the monotheist God, who created the universe and man with no female participation. In these myths, Eve was born of Adam’s rib.

Enter the age of robots and AI, where mortal men reenact the fantasy of God and appoint themselves as the creators of a new life force. Through the fantasy of sex robots in the form of women, they believe that can exist without woman, and that her existence is incidental to his.

This egocentric misogynistic myth is reproduced over and over again, in the Enlightenment as the Libertine, the symbol of the free individual who inspired the cult of pornographic sadism. This patriarchial myth was turned again in the 20th century by Ayn Rand’s “Objectivism”. Rand attacked the concept and practice of altruism and interdependence with others. Rand’s theory of objectivism proposed that “man is an end in himself,” that his own happiness is, can, and must be met regardless of others.

Sex robots offer men a new way to engage in the fantasy of female annihilation and imagine they can use robots and AI to turn men into ends in themselves. But this myth is born from a distortion of the Real and if left unchallenged will result in the end of humanity.



# **Can Robots and Humans Make Babies Together?**

David Levy

20 December 2017

This talk gives a guided tour of the advances achieved by researchers in cell biology and biorobotics, which prompted the question whether it is possible for humans and robots to make babies together. Until the birth of the first test tube baby, it was believed that a human baby could only be conceived by the means of sexual intercourse between a man and a woman. A series of breakthroughs in stem cell research, such as the frog experiments done by John Gurdon, the ability to reprogram cells, the creation of embryos from skin cells, as well as the TNT technology, has proven once and again that life can be created by the genetic engineering of human cells. This talk also looks into the genetic robot, created from a set of computerized DNA codes that determine its personality. It is possible for such genetic codes from a robot to be combined with human cells to create a baby that has genetic information from both a human and a robot. The talk concludes by discussing the ethical implications related to the genetic engineering of human embryos.

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