

Kim Baraka

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Assistant Professor (Tenure-track)

Social Artificial Intelligence Group, Department of Computer Science, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

De Boelelaan 1105, 1081 HV Amsterdam, Netherlands

@ k.baraka@vu.nl • kimbaraka.com

bit.ly/33VMCCj • @kimbaraka • bit.ly/2N5RDSa • bit.ly/32Keomu • 0000-0003-4381-4234

Pronouns: he/they

Note to digital viewers: All colored text contains hyperlinks.

EDUCATION

- Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), The Robotics Institute (RI)** PITTSBURGH, PA, USA
Ph.D. in Robotics Aug '16 – Aug '20
Thesis committee: [Manuela Veloso](#) (co-advisor), [Francisco S. Melo](#) (co-advisor), [Henny Admoni](#), [Aaron Steinfeld](#), [Iolanda Leite](#), and [Luca Iocchi](#). GPA: 4.0/4.0.
- Instituto Superior Técnico (IST), Universidade de Lisboa** LISBON, PORTUGAL
Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) May '17 – Aug '20
Awarded “with Distinction” as part of the [CMU/Portugal dual degree program](#).
- CMU, RI** PITTSBURGH, PA, USA
M.S. in Robotics Aug '14 – May '16
Thesis committee: [Manuela Veloso](#) (advisor), [Illah Nourbakhsh](#), [Stephanie Rosenthal](#), and [Heather Knight](#). GPA: 4.0/4.0.
- American University of Beirut (AUB)** BEIRUT, LEBANON
Bachelor in ECE Oct '09 – Dec '13
Graduated “with High Distinction”. Minors in [Physics](#), [Mathematics](#), and [Philosophy](#).
Final Year Project supervisors: [Rouwaida Kanj](#) and [Ayman Kayssi](#). GPA: 4.0/4.0.

EMPLOYMENT

- Vrije Universiteit (VU) Amsterdam, Dept. of Computer Science (CS)** AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS
Tenure-track Assistant Professor (Universitair Docent 2) Apr '21 – present
Member of the [Social Artificial Intelligence group](#).
- The University of Texas (UT) at Austin, ECE Department** AUSTIN, TX, USA
Postdoctoral Research Fellow Sep '20 – Mar '21
Conducted research on algorithms for robots learning from humans in the [Socially Intelligent Machines \(SIM\) Lab](#), under [Andrea Thomaz](#).
- INESC-ID** LISBON, PORTUGAL
Junior Researcher May '17 – April '19
Worked as part of the [Group on Artificial Intelligence for People and the Society \(GAIPS\)](#), led by [Ana Paiva](#). Conducted part of my Ph.D. research within the [INSIDE](#) project in partnership with the [Child Development Center](#) at the [Hospital Garcia de Orta](#).
- Visiting Researcher** Jun – Jul '15
Conducted Human-Robot Interaction research in the [GAIPS](#) group under [Ana Paiva](#). Work included programming a social mobile robot for fluid interaction in a study with autistic children and integrating a 3D animation software with a manipulator robot.
- AUB** BEIRUT, LEBANON
Research Assistant: Task scheduling in the future Smart Power Grid Oct '13 – Jul '14
Designed a fast heuristic algorithm for the NP-hard Resource Leveling Problem in the context of task scheduling for houses connected to the future Smart Grid. Supervisors: [Rouwaida Kanj](#) and [Fadi Zaraket](#).
- Research Assistant: Vehicular Ad Hoc Networks (VANET)** Feb – May '13
Designed a smart sensing architecture for cognitive VANETs. Supervisor: [Hassan Artail](#).
- European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)** GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
Summer Intern Jun – Jul '13
Contributed to [Garfield++](#), a software for simulation of gaseous particle detectors, and studied its applications to the Time Projection Chamber of the [ALICE](#) experiment on the Large Hadron Collider. Supervisors: [Christian Lippmann](#) and [Heinrich Schindler](#)

Musical Lights BEIRUT, LEBANON
Main Engineer Oct '13 – Jul '14
 Developed an innovative interactive music educational system within a startup environment. Strategized and contributed technical details of U.S. patent application No. 20150332601.

University of California San Diego, ECE Department SAN DIEGO, CA, USA
Summer Intern Jul – Aug '12
 Worked in the Telecom Integrated Circuits and Systems group under [Gabriel Rebeiz](#). Built and tested all parts of a 7 MHz Ham Radio on a Printed Circuit board.

GRANTS, AWARDS, and HONORS

Connected World Academy Assistants Grant, VU (9 months, total value €14.5k) Jun '22
 “Who’s a good robot?!” Human-robot teaching interactions inspired by dog training” (in collaboration with [Daniel Preciado Vanegas](#)).

Network Institute Research Voucher, VU (total value €1k) Jun '22
 “Human-robot teaching interactions inspired by dog training: an exploratory co-design approach” (in collaboration with [Daniel Preciado Vanegas](#)).

Network Institute Academy Assistants Grant, VU (10 months, total value €20k) Jul '21
 “What makes a Good Teacher? Modeling Inter-Individual Differences in Humans who Teach Agents” (in collaboration with [Daniel Preciado Vanegas](#)).

“Innovation PhD” Tenure-Track Project Grant, CS dept., VU (4 years, personal value €135k) Jun '21
 Granted by the VU CS dept. for the project “Robot behavior learning with influenceable human teachers” (in collaboration with [Gusztai Eiben](#) and [Koen Hindriks](#)).

RSS Pioneer Jun '19
 Selected to be part of a fully funded doctoral consortium at the “Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS)” conference (acceptance rate 30%)

Best Paper and Best Student Paper Award Nominations May '19
 AAMAS'19: “An Optimization Approach for Structured Agent-Based Provider/Receiver Tasks” (conference acceptance rate 24%)

CMU/Portugal Ph.D. Fellowship (4 years) Aug '16 – present
 Awarded by the [Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia](#) (Portugal)

CMU M.S. Research Funding (1.5 year) Jan '15 – May '16
 Tuition and stipend coverage for research in the [CORAL](#) group.

IEEE Student Enterprise Award Aug '13
 Awarded for innovative Smart Home technology (included \$800 monetary prize)

AUB Dean’s Creative Achievement Award May '13
 Awarded for creative innovation in Bachelor thesis work

AUB Full Merit Scholarship (4.5 years) Oct '09 – Dec '13

AUB Dean’s Honor List (all semesters) Oct '09 – Dec '13

“Most Uncanny” Award at the 2015 Robot Film Festival Nov '15
 Awarded for a short movie featuring a Baxter robot programmed to dance with humans

RobotArt Competition (\$2,500 prize) Jan '16
 Awarded for collaborative robot painter (9th place)

TEACHING

TAUGHT COURSES

VU Amsterdam, AI Master program AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS
Socially Intelligent Robotics (co-taught with [Koen Hindriks](#)) Nov – Dec '21
Socially Intelligent Robotics Project (co-taught with [Koen Hindriks](#)) Jan '22
Product Innovation Project (pilot, Bachelor) (coordinated by [Fabio Massacci](#)) April – Jun '22

GUEST LECTURES

Leiden University
Law and Human-Machine Interaction course (Master), taught by [Eduard Fosch-Villaronga](#) May '22
Utrecht University, Department of Media and Culture Studies

Expanding Performance course, taught by Laura Karreman	May '22
CMU, Robotics Institute	
Human-Robot Interaction course (Bachelor), taught by Henny Admoni	March '20
TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS	
IST, Dept. of Computer Science & Engineering	LISBON, PORTUGAL
Machine Learning and Intelligent Decision Making (Master)	Feb – Jun '18
CMU, RI	PITTSBURGH, PA, USA
Human-Robot Interaction (Master)	Jan – May '17
AUB, ECE Dept.	BEIRUT, LEBANON
Digital Integrated Circuits (Bachelor/Master)	Feb – May '13
Assisted in homework solutions/corrections and lab assignments.	
Electronic Circuits (Bachelor)	Oct '12 – May '13
Taught weekly problem solving sessions for two editions of the course.	
TEACHER TRAINING	
Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence and Educational Innovation, CMU	PITTSBURGH, PA, USA
Future Faculty Program (equivalent to Dutch BKO)	Jul '19 – Aug '20

RESEARCH SUPERVISION

CURRENT PH.D. STUDENTS

VU Amsterdam, AI section	AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS
Muhan Hou (main supervision)	Nov '21– present
“Multi-modal Teaching of Robot Social Behavior.” (with Koen Hindriks and Guszti Eiben).	
Utrecht University, Media and Culture Studies	UTRECHT, THE NETHERLANDS
Irene Alcubilla-Troughton (co-supervision)	Apr '22 – present
“Relational Social Interaction and Communication. A Performing Arts Approach to Non-Verbal Human-Robot Interaction.” (with Maaïke Bleeker and Koen Hindriks, part of the Acting Like a Robot project).	

OTHER PH.D. LEVEL MENTORING/COLLABORATION

UT Austin, SIM Lab	AUSTIN, TX, USA
Mai Lee Chang (currently at Carnegie Mellon University)	Sep '20 – present
“Fairness in human-robot teams”. In collaboration with Greg Trafton (U.S. Naval Research Laboratory).	
Taylor Kessler Faulkner (currently at the University of Washington)	Sep '20 – present
Shih-Yun Lo	Sep '20 – Mar '21
Akanksha Saran (currently at Microsoft Research)	Sep '20 – present

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

VU Amsterdam	AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS
Murat Han Aydođan (Erasmus+ student, Koç University)	Jul '22 – Sep '22
“Prosody of Human Teachers in Interactive Reinforcement Learning”	
Raj Bhalwankar and Mehul Verma	Nov '21 – Aug '22
“What Makes a Good Teacher? Modeling Inter-Individual Differences in Humans who Teach Agents”	
Fajjaaz Chandoe (co-supervised with Muhan Hou)	Feb '22 – Jun '22
“Automatic Calibration of External Vision System for Robot Perception”	
Hendrik von Kentzinsky	Feb '22 – Sep '22
“Robotic Improviser for Open-ended Non-verbal Interactions with Humans”. Co-supervised with Maaïke Bleeker and Irene Alcubilla Troughton.	
UT Austin, SIM Lab	AUSTIN, TX, USA
Kenneth Mitra	Aug '21 – present
“Prosody-Sensitive Interactive Reinforcement Learning with Verbal Cues”. Co-supervised with Taylor Kessler Faulkner and Akanksha Saran.	
Ojas Patel, Rakesh Johny, Rohan Rao, and Roshan Rajan	Nov '20 – Mar '21
“Multi-modal Teaching Interface for a Robot Arm”	
CMU	PITTSBURGH, PA, USA
Jocelyn Huang and Patrick Lin	Jan – May '17
“Designing Autism-like Behaviors for a Humanoid Robot”	

Minji Kim and Harleigh Awner *Jan – May '17*
"Building a 3D Animated Avatar Exhibiting Autism-like Behaviors"

MASTER THESES

VU Amsterdam

Jorn Verheggen (main supervisor) AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS
Mar '22 – present
"Shaping Robot Behavior through Interactive Kinesthetic Teaching"
Nienke Prent (main-supervisor, co-supervised with Daniel Preciado) *Mar '22 – present*
"Human-Robot Teaching Interactions Inspired by Animal Training"
André Jesus (second reader, main supervisor Eliseo Ferrante) *Jul '21 – Mar '22*
"Autonomous Racing System identification"

CMU, RI

Samantha Speer (thesis committee member, main supervisor Illah Nourbakhsh) PITTSBURGH, PA, USA
Nov '19 – Apr '20
"Grounding Abstract Concepts With Robotic Manipulatives"

BACHELOR THESES

VU Amsterdam

Sam Shahbazi (main supervisor) AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS
April – July '22
"End-User Programming of Robot Trajectories by Using Natural Communication"
Fakhr-Eldin Jaber (main supervisor) *April – July '22*
"Robot Learning from Human Preference via Active Querying"
Bahadır Kuçuk (main supervisor) *April – July '22*
"Humanoid Robot Control from Human Joint Angles via 2D Camera"
Pleun Veenendaal (main supervisor) *April – July '22*
"Puppeteer Me: A Usability Study"
Marina Santos (main supervisor) *April – July '22*
"Human Perception of Responsive Robot Body Movement"
Nick Dijkhuizen (main supervisor) *April – July '22*
"Speech-based Hierarchical Teaching System For a Humanoid Robot"
Milan de Jonge (main supervisor, in collaboration with Fectar) *April – July '21*
"Optimizing how Users Explore an AR Space"
Daniëlle Dijkstra (second reader, main supervisor Koen Hindriks) *July '21*
"Design and Evaluation of a Guessing Game on the NAO Robot"
Lotte Hurkens (second reader, main supervisor Charlotte Gerritsen) *July '21*
"Eating Disorders Awareness through Serious Gaming"
Dewi Spooen (second reader, main supervisor Charlotte Gerritsen) *June '21*
"Improving the Recommendation of Meals in the PROMISS Application by Using Machine Learning Algorithms"

SERVICE and OUTREACH

RESEARCH-RELATED

Event organization

International

ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction 2024 (Alt-HRI chair)
RSS Pioneers '20 (Program chair)
ICRA'22 Debates on the Future of Robotics Research
HRI'22 Human-Interactive Robot Learning (HIRL) Workshop
RSS'21 Workshop on Robotics for People: Perspectives on Interaction, Safety, and Learning

Local

1st Interdisciplinary Workshop on the Digital Society (IWDS)

Lead Guest Editor

May '21
Special Issue on Robots and Autism: Conceptualization, Technology, and Methodology (Paladyn, Journal of Behavioral Robotics)

Assistant Editor

Feb '19 – present
Paladyn, Journal of Behavioral Robotics

Study group member

Sep '21 – present

IEEE Study Group on Metrology for Human-Robot Interaction

Program Committee Member

AAMAS'22 (Humans and AI/Human-Agent Interaction Area) **Best PC member award**

AAAI'22 Explainable Agency in Artificial Intelligence Workshop

HRI Pioneers '22

International Conference on Social Robotics '17

IEEE International Smart Cities Conference '22

International Workshop on Explainable, Transparent Agent and Multi-Agent Systems '21

International Workshop on Evaluation Methods Standardization for Human-Robot Interaction '17

Reviewer

(Journals) Frontiers in Robotics and AI; THRI; SORO; Adaptive Behavior; Paladyn; IEEE Systems; Industrial Informatics; RA-L...

(Conferences) HRI; IROS; Humanoids; ICDL-EpiRob; ICSR; RO-MAN; HAI; ACII; MOCO; Robophilosophy; Ubiquitous Robots...

(Workshops/Symposia/Consortia) RSS Pioneers; AAAI Symp. on AI for HRI; AHRI @ RSS'17; HRI Pioneers; MOCO doctoral consortium; EAAI @ AAAI'22...

(Book proposals) Springer Int. Series on Computer Entertainment & Media Technology

(Grant proposals) NWO Open Competition XS grant

MENTORING

Panelist: advice for post-PhD careers in robotics

New York City, NY, USA (remote), Jun '22

RSS Pioneers '22

Post-PhD forum mentor

Lausanne, Switzerland (remote), Oct '21

Symposium on Human-Machine Interaction: Perception, Social Learning, Personalised Adaptation in Educational Settings

Speaker at AI4ALL 'AI and Humanities' event

virtual, Jun '20

Gave a talk and Q&A to talented U.S. high school students from historically excluded backgrounds.

DEPARTMENTAL

VU Amsterdam

AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

Research team lead, Network Institute

Sep '21 – present

Leading a team aimed at improving research synergies across faculties/departments within and outside the VU.

Contact person for AI Master program

Feb '22 – present

Assisting prospective students with getting accurate information about the program content.

CMU, RI

PITTSBURGH, PA, USA

Interview Committee Member for Director Search

Oct '19 – present

Interviewed and rated candidates for the CMU Robotics Institute director position as a student representative.

Ethics Advocate

Jun '19 – Aug '20

Co-organized a student-led effort to introduce specialized ethics education in our robotics curriculum. Was invited to the faculty retreat to present our vision and survey findings.

IST

LISBON, PORTUGAL

Reading Group Organizer

Feb '18 – May '19

Started a campus-wide HRI reading group (now evolved into [Talking Robotics](#) podcast) at IST, where papers are discussed on a weekly basis, and discussion minutes are posted [online](#).

AFFILIATIONS

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Member

Dec '09 – present

PUBLICATIONS

(full texts available through [hyperlinks](#))

JOURNALS

[J1] Baraka K., Couto M., Melo F.S., Paiva A., Veloso M.: *“Sequencing Matters”: Investigating Suitable Action Sequences in Robot-Assisted Autism Therapy*. Frontiers in Robotics and AI, 9, 2022.

- [J2] **Baraka K.**, Melo F.S., Couto M., Veloso M.: “*Optimal Action Sequence Generation for Assistive Agents in Fixed Horizon Tasks*”, Journal of Autonomous Agents and Multi-Agent Systems, Springer, 2020.
- [J3] **Baraka K.**, Melo F.S., Veloso M.: “*Interactive Robots with Model-Based ‘Autism-Like’ Behaviors*”, Paladyn, Journal of Behavioral Robotics, Special Issue on Social Robots in Therapy 10(1), 103-116, De Gruyter, 2019.
- [J4] **Baraka K.**, Veloso M.: “*Mobile Service Robot State Revealing through Expressive Lights: Formalism, Design and Evaluation*”, International Journal of Social Robotics 10(1), 65-92, Springer, 2018.
- [J5] **Baraka K.**, Safatly L., Artail H., Ghandour A., El-Hajj A.: “*An Infrastructure-aided Cooperative Spectrum Sensing Scheme for Vehicular Ad Hoc Networks*”, Ad Hoc Networks 25, 197-212, Elsevier, 2015.

CONFERENCES

- [C1] Alcubilla-Troughton I., **Baraka K.**, Hindriks K., Bleeker M. “*Robotic Improvisers: Rule-Based Improvisation and Emergent Behaviour in HRI*”. In Proceedings of HRI’22, the ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (alt.HRI track), Sapporo, Japan, March, 2022. (acceptance rate 23.8%)
- [C2] **Baraka K.**, Couto M., Melo F. S., Veloso M.: “*An Optimization Approach for Structured Agent-Based Provider/Receiver Tasks*”, In Proceedings of AAMAS’19, the International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems, Montreal, Canada, May, 2019. (acceptance rate 24%) ***Best Paper and Best Student Paper awards nominee***
- [C3] **Baraka K.**, Melo F. S., Veloso M.: “*‘Autistic Robots’ for Embodied Emulation of Behaviors Typically Seen in Children with Different Autism Severities*”, In Proceedings of ICSR’17, the International Conference on Social Robotics, Tsukuba, Japan, December, 2017.
- [C4] **Baraka K.**, Melo F. S., Veloso M.: “*Data-Driven Generation of Synthetic Behavioral Feature Vectors Modeling Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders*”, In Proceedings of ICDL-EpiRob’17, the Joint IEEE International Conference on Development and Learning and Epigenetic Robotics, Lisbon, Portugal, September, 2017.
- [C5] **Baraka K.**, Melo F. S., Veloso M.: “*Simulating Behaviors of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders Through Reversal of the Autism Diagnosis Process*”, In Proceedings of EPIA’17, the Portuguese Conference on Artificial Intelligence, Porto, Portugal, September, 2017.
- [C6] **Baraka K.**, Rosenthal S., Veloso M.: “*Enhancing Human Understanding of a Mobile Robot’s State and Actions using Expressive Lights*”, In Proceedings of RO-MAN’16, the IEEE International Symposium on Robot and Human Interactive Communication, New York, USA, August, 2016.
- [C7] **Baraka K.**, Veloso M.: “*Adaptive Interaction of Persistent Robots to User Temporal Preferences*”, In Proceedings of ICSR’15, the International Conference on Social Robots, Paris, France, October, 2015.
- [C8] **Baraka K.**, Paiva A., Veloso M.: “*Expressive Lights for Revealing Mobile Service Robot State*”, In Proceedings of Robot’15, the Second Iberian Robotics Conference, Lisbon, Portugal, November, 2015. (also presented at the AAAI Fall Symposium on AI for HRI, Arlington, VA, USA, 2015)
- [C9] **Baraka K.**, Ghobril M., Malek S., Kanj R., Kayssi A.: “*Low Cost Arduino/Android-Based Energy-Efficient Home Automation System with Smart Task Scheduling*”, In Proceedings of International Conference on Computational Intelligence, Communication Systems and Networks (CICSyN), 2013.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- [B1] **Baraka K.***, Alves-Oliveira P.*, Ribeiro T.: “*An Extended Framework for Characterizing Social Robots*”, In Jost C., Le Pévédic B., Belpaeme T., Bethel C., Chrysostomou D., Crook N., Grandgeorge M., Mirnig N. (eds.) Human-Robot Interaction: Evaluation Methods and Their Standardization, Springer, 2020.

WORKSHOPS AND SYMPOSIA (peer-reviewed)

- [W1] Hou M., **Baraka K.**, Hindriks K., Eiben G.: “*A Natural and Efficient Interactive Learning Framework for Human-Robot Social Greeting*”. In the HRI’22 Workshop on Human-Interactive Robot Learning, online, March, 2022.
- [W2] **Baraka K.**: “*Enabling Role-Reversible Human-Robot Interaction by Leveraging Standardized Provider/Receiver Procedures*”. In the RSS’19 Pioneers Workshop, Freiburg, Germany, June, 2019.
- [W3] **Baraka K.**, Melo F. S., Veloso M.: “*Towards an Embodied Simulator of Autistic Child Behaviors: an Improved Method for Selecting Simulated Behaviors*”, In Proceedings of the Workshop on Social Robots in Therapy at HRI’18, Chicago, USA, March, 2018.
- [W4] **Baraka K.**, Melo F. S., Veloso M.: “*Embodied Robotic Visualization of Autistic Child Behaviors with Varying Severities*”, In the Workshop on Behavior Adaptation, Interaction and Learning for Assistive Robotics at RO-MAN’17, Lisbon, Portugal, September, 2017.

*Equal contribution

- [W5] **Baraka K.**, Veloso M.: “*Multi-Channel Expression of State Information in a Mobile Service Robot using Animated Lights*”, In the Workshop on Autonomous Mobile Service Robots at IJCAI’16, New York, USA, July, 2016.

EDITORIAL NOTES

- [E1] **Baraka K.**, Beights R., Couto M., Radice M.: “*Editorial note: Special issue on robots and autism: Conceptualization, technology, and methodology*”, Paladyn, Journal of Behavioral Robotics, 12(1), 297-298, De Gruyter, 2021.

TECHNICAL REPORTS

- [TR1] **Baraka K.**, Couto M., Melo F. S., Paiva A., and Veloso M.: “*An Approach for Personalized Social Interactions between a Therapeutic Robot and Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*”, Technical Report GAIPS-TR-001-19. Group on Artificial Intelligence for People and the Society (GAIPS), Porto Salvo, Portugal, 2019.

THESES

- [T1] **Baraka K.**: “*Automated Action Selection and Embodied Simulation for Socially Assistive Robots using Standardized Interactions*”, Ph.D. thesis, August, 2020.
- [T2] **Baraka K.**: “*Effective Non-Verbal Communication for Mobile Robots using Expressive Lights*”, M.S. thesis, May, 2016.
- [T3] **Baraka K.**, Ghobril M., Malek S. : “*AAHA: Android/Arduino Home Automation System*”, Bachelor Final Year Project, May, 2013.

INVITED TALKS and OTHER PRESENTATIONS

RSS Pioneers Workshop (invited talk)	<i>New York City, NY (remote), Jul '22</i>
European Space Agency, Advanced Concepts Team Science Coffee	<i>virtual, Sep '21</i>
RSS 2021 Workshop on Robotics x Arts (invited panelist)	<i>virtual, Jul '21</i>
Anáhuac University Mexico, Mechatronics Engineering Department	<i>virtual, Apr '21</i>
Talking Robotics Seminar Series (video recording)	<i>virtual, Mar '21</i>
Robotics Portfolio Seminar	<i>Austin, TX (remote), Oct '20</i>
VU Amsterdam, Social AI group	<i>Amsterdam, Netherlands (remote), May '20</i>
University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Mechanical Engineering	<i>Baltimore, MD (remote), May '20</i>
University of Hamburg, Dept. of Informatics	<i>Hamburg, Germany (remote), May '20</i>
TU Delft, Interactive Intelligence Group	<i>Delft, Netherlands (remote), April '20</i>
Accessibility lunch @ CMU	<i>Pittsburgh, PA, Mar '20</i>
NAO User and Developer Congress	<i>Boston, MA (remote), Feb '20</i>
The Invisible Jazz Labs lecture series (science lecture x improvisational art forms)	<i>Pittsburgh, PA, Feb '20</i>
Robots and Autism Researcher Panel (organized by ChartaCloud Robotteca)	<i>virtual, Jun '19</i>
Priberam Machine Learning Seminars (organized by Priberam Labs)	<i>Lisbon, Portugal, Apr '19</i>
Hospital Garcia de Orta Child Development Center (presented by Marta Couto)	<i>Almada, Portugal, Oct '18</i>
National Meeting of Science and Technology (invited poster)	<i>Lisbon, Portugal, Jun '18</i>
Instituto Superior Técnico, Institute for Systems and Robotics, SIPg group	<i>Lisbon, Portugal, Jun '17</i>
IBM Research Cognitive Colloquium (invited poster)	<i>Yorktown Heights, NY, Sep '16</i>
Innovation with Impact @ CMU (invited poster)	<i>Pittsburgh, PA, Apr '16</i>
AUB FEA Student and Alumni Conference	<i>Beirut, Lebanon, May '13</i>

DEMOS

Contributed to the preparation of numerous demos on several robotic platforms (CoBot, Baxter, NAO, Pepper, etc.), including for TV station representatives such as CBS News, National Geographic, and French TV; experts from industry and academia; city mayors; children and teenagers; and even the [White House](#).

MEDIA COVERAGE

“Robótica Social” (interview – in Spanish) Ain Tech podcast (Radio Anáhuac México)	<i>May '21</i>
“Embodied Interactions from Robotics to Dance” (interview) Robohub podcast	<i>Dec '20</i>
“Interactive Robots with ‘Autism-Like’ Behaviors” (interview) Versatilist podcast	<i>May '19</i>
“CMU students to compete in Robot Art 2016 contest” The Tartan, CMU’s Student Newspaper	<i>Dec '15</i>
“Vincent van Bot: the robots turning their hand to art” The Guardian	<i>Apr '16</i>
“Kim Baraka, yin et yang” (portrait, in French) L’Orient-Le-Jour, main French language Lebanese newspaper (more press articles mentioning my work on my website .)	<i>Aug '15</i>

LANGUAGES

Fluent in English, French, and Arabic. Advanced European Portuguese.

ARTISTIC INVOLVEMENT

I have had and continue to have a very active involvement in the field of contemporary dance as a performer, teacher and creator. I have received a neoclassical dance training from the [Beirut Dance Studio](#), taught ballet to adults and underprivileged children, and performed extensively with the [Beirut Dance Company](#) and the [Pillow Projects](#), among other companies. I have started creating my own choreographic work and teaching improvisational contemporary dance. More information can be found on [the art section of my website](#).

REFERENCES

References are available upon request.