

# Kim Baraka

Last update on March 6, 2022

Assistant Professor (Tenure-track)

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

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Pronouns: he/they

*Note to digital viewers: All colored text contains hyperlinks.*

## EDUCATION

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- 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

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- 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

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**Network Institute Academy Project Grant (10 months)** Jul '21  
 Granted by the VU Network Institute for the project “What makes a Good Teacher? Modeling Inter-Individual Differences in Humans who Teach Agents” (in collaboration with [Daniel Preciado Vanegas](#)).

**Innovation PhD project grant (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

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### 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

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#### CURRENT PH.D. STUDENTS

**Muhan Hou** *Nov '21– present*  
 “Multi-modal teaching of robot social behavior.” Co-supervised with Koen Hindriks and Gusztai Eiben.

#### OTHER PH.D. LEVEL MENTORING/COLLABORATION

UT Austin, SIM Lab AUSTIN, TX, USA  
**Mai Lee Chang** *Sep '20 – present*  
 “Fairness in human-robot teams”. In collaboration with [Greg Trafton](#) (Naval Research Laboratory).  
**Taylor Kessler Faulkner** *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  
**Raj Bhalwankar and Mehul Verma** *Nov '21 – present*  
 “What makes a good teacher? Modeling Inter-Individual Differences in Humans who Teach Agents”  
**Fajjaaz Chandoe (co-supervised with Muhan Hou)** *Feb '22 – present*  
 “Automatic Calibration of External Vision System for Robot Perception”  
**Hendrik von Kentzinsky** *Feb '22 – present*  
 “Robotic Improviser for Open-ended Non-verbal Interactions with Humans”, part of the [Acting Like a Robot](#) project. 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 AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS  
**Jorn Verheggen (main supervisor)** *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 PITTSBURGH, PA, USA  
**Samantha Speer (thesis committee member, main supervisor [Illah Nourbakhsh](#))** *Nov '19 – Apr '20*  
 “Grounding Abstract Concepts With Robotic Manipulatives”

## BACHELOR THESES

VU Amsterdam

AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

- 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 Spooren (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

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### RESEARCH-RELATED

#### Workshop co-organizer

##### International

- 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)

#### Program Committee Chair

- RSS Pioneers '20

#### 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) RSS Pioneers; AAAI Symp. on AI for HRI; AHRI@RSS'17; HRI Pioneers...  
(Book proposal) Springer Int. Series on Computer Entertainment & Media Technology

### 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*, 2022. (**accepted, in press**)
- [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. (**by invitation**)
- [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 P ev edic 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] **Baraka K.**: *“Enabling Role-Reversible Human-Robot Interaction by Leveraging Standardized Provider/Receiver Procedures”*. In the RSS’19 Pioneers Workshop, Freiburg, Germany, June, 2019.
- [W2] **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.
- [W3] **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.
- [W4] **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

European Space Agency, Advanced Concepts Team Science Coffee	virtual, Sep ’21
RSS 2021 Workshop on Robotics x Arts (invited panelist)	virtual, Jul ’21
An�ahuac University Mexico, Mechatronics Engineering Department	virtual, Apr ’21
Talking Robotics Seminar Series (video recording)	virtual, Mar ’21
Robotics Portfolio Seminar	Austin, TX (remote), Oct ’20

\*Equal contribution

VU Amsterdam, Social AI group	Amsterdam, Netherlands (remote), May '20
University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Mechanical Engineering	Baltimore, MD (remote), May '20
University of Hamburg, Dept. of Informatics	Hamburg, Germany (remote), May '20
TU Delft, Interactive Intelligence Group	Delft, Netherlands (remote), April '20
Accessibility lunch @ CMU	Pittsburgh, PA, Mar '20
NAO User and Developer Congress	Boston, MA (remote), Feb '20
The Invisible Jazz Labs lecture series (science lecture x improvisational art forms)	Pittsburgh, PA, Feb '20
Robots and Autism Researcher Panel (organized by ChartaCloud Robotteca)	virtual, Jun '19
Priberam Machine Learning Seminars (organized by Priberam Labs)	Lisbon, Portugal, Apr '19
Hospital Garcia de Orta Child Development Center (presented by Marta Couto)	Almada, Portugal, Oct '18
National Meeting of Science and Technology (invited poster)	Lisbon, Portugal, Jun '18
Instituto Superior Técnico, Institute for Systems and Robotics, SIPg group	Lisbon, Portugal, Jun '17
IBM Research Cognitive Colloquium (invited poster)	Yorktown Heights, NY, Sep '16
Innovation with Impact @ CMU (invited poster)	Pittsburgh, PA, Apr '16
AUB FEA Student and Alumni Conference	Beirut, Lebanon, May '13

## DEMOS

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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

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

(more press articles mentioning my work on my [website](#).)

## LANGUAGES

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

## ARTISTIC INVOLVEMENT

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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

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References are available upon request.