Social Robots

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What are Social Robots?

- "A social robot is an autonomous robot that interacts and communicates with humans or other autonomous physical agents by following social behaviors and rules attached to its role."
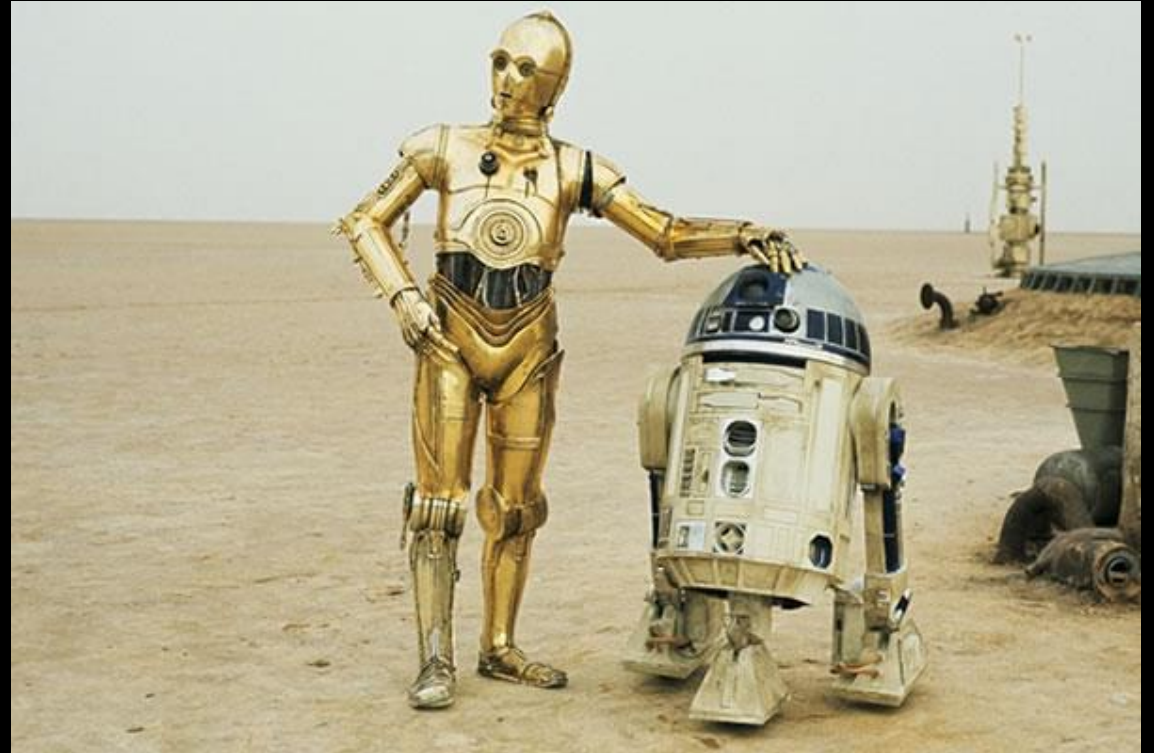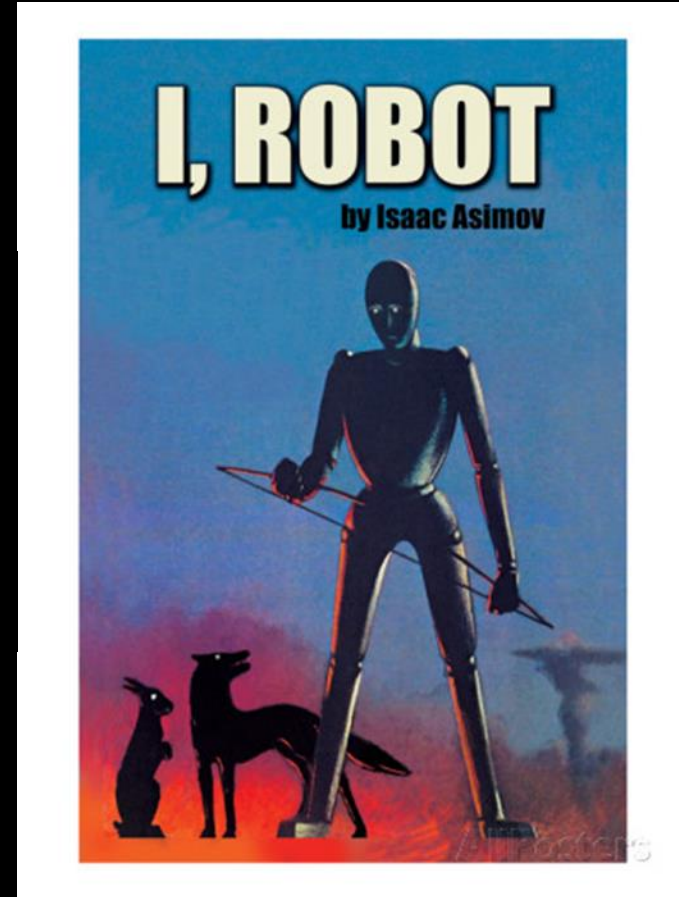
Social Robots are Happening.
What areas of our lives will they effect?

- Personal

- Professional

- Family

- Education

- Recreation
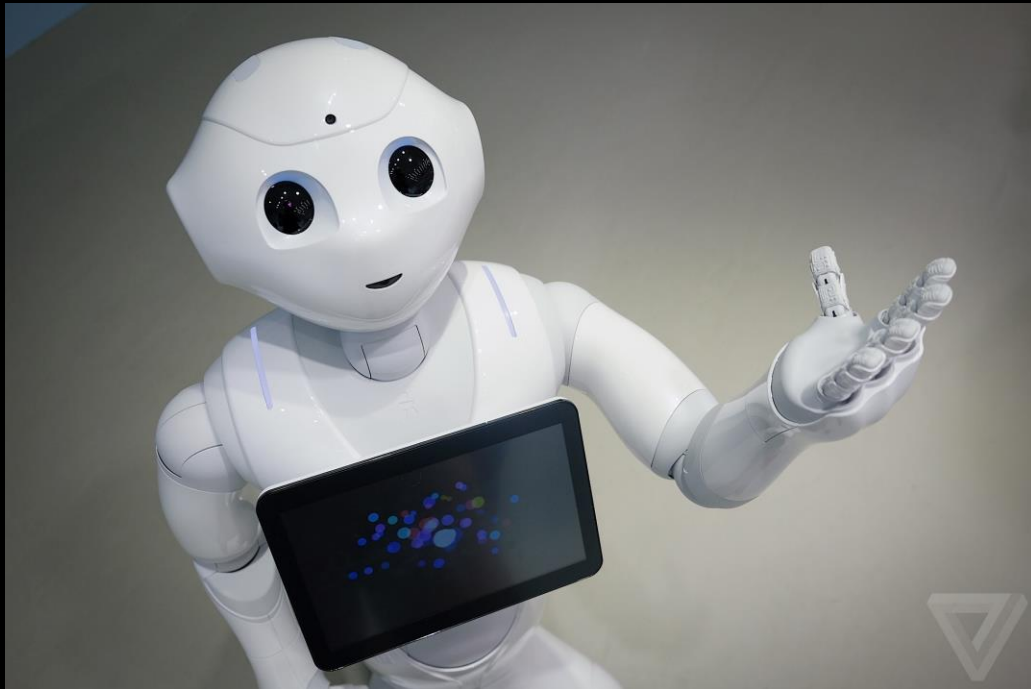
Fact vs. Fiction

Current Developments:

Social Robots as...

- Communication Mediators

- Household Companions

- Personal Assistants

- Educational Tools

- Social Media Outlets

- "Pets"

Current Iterations:

- Amazon Echo

- Siri

- Jibo

- Pepper

- SaviOne/Relay/Botler

Pepper & Botler

Social Robots are Controversial.

What problems can we expect to see with the uprising of social robots?

Possible Problems:

- Education (especially with children)

- Social Placement (role of robots in society)

- Self-Reliance (humans relying on robots rather than self)

- Sky-net Scenario (robot apocalypse)

- Humanity (differentiating people from things)

Self-reliance/Social Roles

Helpful

- Technology as a tool

- More productive people

- Supplemental learning

- Enhancing human experience

- Mediating communication

Hurtful

- Technology as a crutch

- More lazy people

- Replacing traditional skills

- Replacing human experience

- Encouraging isolation

Possible Outcomes:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_bIoeBpSeU4

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ohcwksrvDOg

Education/Humanity:
Growing up with Robots

- Child Development

- Replacing Caregivers/Teachers

- Healthy Relationships

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJwNoaCNoTY (1:46)

- Would you trust a robot to play an integral role in the upbringing and education of your child?

- Do you think robot caregivers can produce healthy, emotionally well-balanced adults?
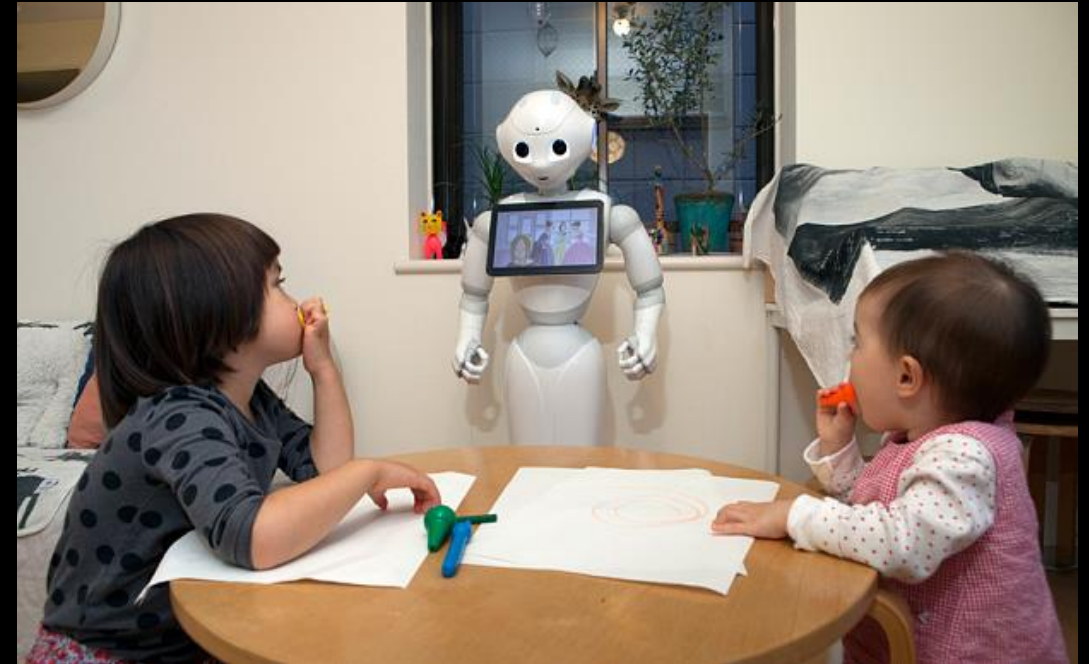
Social Robots are happening.

Things to keep in mind…

- Uncharted territory

- Boundary between Man and Bot

- Easier isn't always better

- Continue open discussion

- Be an informed consumer

The End.

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Sources:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_robot (Concise definition only)

- Cynthia Breazeal: http://robotic.media.mit.edu/project-portfolio/applications/

- Frank Tobe: http://www.therobotreport.com/news/2016-will-be-a-big-year-for-social-robots