Welcome to ROBOPHILOSOPHY 2016/ TRANSOR 2016,

Robophilosophy/TRANSOR 2016 is the hitherto largest conference in Humanities research in and on social robotics. In organizational terms, this meeting is a double conference—it is the second event in the biennial ROBOPHILOSOPHY conference series and the fourth event in the series of research meetings organized by the TRANSOR Research Network (Transdisciplinary Studies in Social Robotics). Two years ago, when we, as members of a small research group, organized the conference *Robo-Philosophy 2014 — Sociable Robots and the Future of Social Relations* (August 19-22, Aarhus University, Denmark), we hoped to be able to coin a concept that would open up a new line of research: "philosophy of, for, and by social robotics." We established a biennial conference series in Robophilosophy, scheduled to run into the 2020s in different locations. At the same time we joined forces with colleagues working on social robotics from the perspectives of other areas in the Humanities to create the TRANSOR network, at present listing 89 members. Since its beginning in 2015 the TRANSOR network so far organized in three international workshops: *Methodological Problems of Social Robotics* (Aarhus)*, The Significance of Simulation* (Kolding) and *Social Robotics and Imagination* (Copenhagen).

The decision to combine Robophilosophy 2016 with a TRANSOR event was motivated by the requirements of the domain, social robotics, and the prospect of increased impact. Human Robot Interaction Studies (HRI) so far largely proceed without drawing on the expertise on socio-cultural interactions that Humanities research can offer. We felt that this was the right time to send out a strong signal that the rapid development of social robotics research and industry calls for a concerted and integrated effort across the disciplines of the Humanities to contribute to a better understanding of the transformative potentials of human-robot interaction.

The conference title alerts to the fact that in our current situation we cannot wait until we know what robots *can* do and then decide on what they *should* do. Rather, we need to keep descriptive and normative questions of social robotics in close vicinity. The normative questions of what social robots *should* do require a deeper and, in particular, a more comprehensive analysis of the facts of human-robot interaction than HRI so far has provided. What social robots *should* do we can best determine if our analysis of what they *can* do includes the methods and categories of human self-understanding, which belongs to the specific expertise of the Humanities.

To promote a new line of research is hard work and only possible as a joint effort. We would like to thank all those who have supported this enterprise and carried it further, especially our colleagues in the TRANSOR Steering Committee, Gunhild Borggreen, Kerstin Fischer, and Cathrine Hasse. Among those who made this conference possible we first want to thank you, the speakers and participants of this conference, and in particular also the organizers of our six conference workshops. We would like to thank our 'offsite' co-organizers, Gunhild Borggreen, Kerstin Fischer, and Cathrine Hasse, who provided valuable support throughout—during planning, announcement, and review. We are grateful to all additional members of our program committee and to all conference chairs for devoting their time and effort. We thank Vibeke Holm and Christina Vestergaard for energetically facilitating the art exhibition on "Children's Imagined Robots" by Victor van den Bergh and David Robert (including contributions by Cathrine Hasse). We would like to thank Gitte Grønning Munk and Ib Jensen at AU-Communication/Conference Support for help

with many practical tasks, and their colleague Nikolai Lander for providing the conference with another striking graphical theme. Particular acknowledgement is due to our conference staff manager Søren Schack Andersen, who also assisted us with great circumspection and efficiency in preparing the Proceedings and this program book. We thank our intern, Oliver Quick, for reliable help and all student conference staff members for agreeing to work during a vacation week. Finally, we would like to thank the Head of the School for Culture and Society, Bjarke Paarup, for his continuous moral support of our engagement for robophilosophy.

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It is ironic that education and research in the Humanities are drastically reduced in *some* countries at a time when the voice of the Humanities is most needed to inform policy makers and to provide inspiration to robotics research and industry. Soon we may say: 'each country has the robots it deserves.' It is ironic that the politicians of *some* countries stress the significance of "cultural identity" in the migration debate or promise to "create new jobs" for unemployed youth at a time when it should be clear that the "robot revolution" threatens both, jobs and cultural values. The only route to *culturally sustainable robotics* is via a strengthening of Humanities research and its new link to robotics. Such political themes are not, as such, on the conference program but we are very glad that both of the two global networks of 'concerned roboticists,' the *Foundation for Responsible Robotics* (FRR) and the *Global Initiative for Ethical Considerations in Automated Information Systems* (IEEE) decided to participate with a research workshop, thereby creating explicitly a resonance space for the political and legislative implications of the research presented. We very much hope that during the next five days we will jointly succeed in creating a meeting of (still exclusively human) minds that will clarify how we, in our theoretical and practical engagements, can live the "robotic moment" of human history which, as Sherry Turkle put it so felicitously, is not *whether* but "how we let robots into our lives and who we are willing to become."

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