Exploring human interaction: Nonverbal signals of gaze and pointing movements in Germany and Japan.

Abstract:

To improve social robots so as to make them acceptable as an interaction partner for humans, I investigate human nonverbal signals, such as gaze and pointing movements, and explore how humans behave during their interactions. During my talk I will present the various eye-tracking studies combined with ecologically valid real-time interaction I conducted to that purpose and present some of my results on gaze behavior, particularly gaze following. Gaze following is a phenomenon that so far has been heavily debated on. Specifically, whether it occurs in a reflexive manner, in response to social stimuli, or whether it is modulated by higher cognitive brain areas. Another factor I am interested in is culture as much of interaction may be culturally determined, thus I compare gaze data from Germany with gaze data from Japan.

Biography:

Jasmin Kajopoulos is a Ph.D. student of the Graduate School of Systemic Neurosciences, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich (LMU), Germany. She obtained a M.Sc. degree in Neuro-Cognitive Psychology and her B.Sc. degree in Biology at the LMU. She is currently working at the Institute for Cognitive Systems, TUM, and the Department of Psychology, LMU. Since 2015 she has been working to understand gaze behaviour in various cultures and in naturalistic environments and implementing mobile eyetracking. Recently she held a 1-year Postdoctoral Fellowship from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science for conducting research at the Waseda University, Japan, on Intercultural-differences of gaze behaviour. Her research interests include social neuroscience, human-robot interaction, decision-making during interaction, intercultural differences of gaze behaviour.