

## 1. **Embodied Information Presentation**

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In this talk we survey recent research, development and commercial activities in the area of information presentation by artificial virtual and physical agents. That is, information presentation by embodied agents/virtual humans/avatars or by robots. The agents we consider assume the role of a receptionist, a sales person, a museum guide showing directions or someone explaining a painting or presenting a powerpoint presentation. Among the topics that will be discussed are the role of affect in the interaction, the importance of nonverbal issues in the communication, and differences in appreciation of the interaction depending on age and gender. Designing information presentation agents (virtual and physical) in such a way that it allows the development of short- and long-term social relationships between user and presentation agent will be discussed. Examples are taken from our own research, research performed at ICT (Marina del Rey), iCat research at Philips, Eindhoven, and research at the LIG laboratory in Lausanne, Switzerland.