

the BA
festival
of science
2-9 sept 06



Virtual Humans : Real Communication

07 September 2006 | 9am | Arts 2.02, University of East Anglia

The Talking Heads on our screens have robotic voices and fixed expressions. Can we bring them to life with realistic expressions and virtual behaviour?

Come and meet George, a virtual human with attitude, who learns from what he hears.

See how virtual humans use sign language to aid communication for profoundly deaf people, making information more accessible for people who find written text and spoken language hard to use.



jabberwacky.com
icogno

The event will include: three talks on virtual humans technology followed by a hands on demonstration session showcasing practical research projects.

Nonverbal communication in virtual humans

In order for virtual humans to be believable and to populate a future world alongside real people they will need to be able to communicate with us and each other non-verbally – but what sort of new simulated behaviour will this involve?

John Shearer, Informatics Research Institute, University of Newcastle

George: AI or digital celebrity?

A brief encounter with George & Friends. A study in Self-learning Artificial Intelligence; avatars with unexpected emotional responses; the emergence of digital selves; and more. Towards meeting the Turing Test: does George have a real personality?

Tim Child, Televirtual MediaLab Rollo Carpenter, Icogno Ltd

Signs for the future

Virtual Humans using sign language can aid communication for profoundly deaf people who use British Sign Language (BSL) as their first language. New technology makes it possible to generate realistic and natural sign language using a special gesture notation.

John Glauert, School of Computing Sciences, University of East Anglia

All tickets are £5 (Free to pass holders and members of the Norwich Research Park)

Book yours today, by phone, online or in person:

BA ticket hotline – 020 7019 4963

www.the-ba.net/festivalofscience

Tourist Information Centre at The Forum, Norwich

Free entry is available to British Computer Society members by prior arrangement with the BCS East Anglia Branch.



The BA Festival of Science is hosted by the University of East Anglia, Norwich Research Park and Norwich City Council, and will take place from 2-9 September 2006 in venues across UEA, NRP and the city of Norwich.

To view the full programme of events visit www.the-ba.net/festivalofscience

The BA Festival of Science is supported by the East of England Development Agency.

Event supported by British Computer Society,
East Anglia Branch

