

Journal of Future Robot Life

Call for papers for a special issue entitled:

Too Far Down the Uncanny Valley? Or Bodily processes for Robots?

Imagining the Intersectional Future of Technology, Labour and Interstellar Travel

Guest edited by Alec Balasescu (Royal Roads University, Canada) and Sandra Fernandez (Independent Researcher)

Private companies are offering space tourism. The world increasingly holds technology as the answer to the climate crisis. Advances in robotics raise questions concerning how we engage with robots and their potential rights. However, the first Chinese woman astronaut is met with questions about parenting during press conferences, and companies continue to struggle with gendered and racialized biases in coding software.

For this special issue of the Journal of Future Robot Life we invite multidisciplinary submissions that can take any form, from the classic academic approach or ethnographies of space design sites, to fictional ethnographies of the technological future, speculative reflections, or science fiction short stories.

As we imagine, design and remake the future we must grapple with reconfigurations of public and private, but also which bodies are allowed to partake in this process, their representation, and their interaction with technology as the new signifier of 'progress'. This special issue creates room for debate around the embodiment of human assumptions within the design of interactions with automated systems, from robot technology to labour and AI, passing through robot reproduction, to the possible "faces and bodies" of robots. Here robots are understood to comprise any automatic systems and technology, including AI, with which humans interact.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- How does the development of new technologies account for how different bodies use and engage with them?
- Intersectionality, Labour, Software and Hardware: How are our biases embedded in future software and infrastructure design? What are the current efforts to imagine the future other than populated by 'neutral', and yet masculine, androids? What might a 'neutral' robot mean, and how are they gendered, racialized, and classified in today's imaginary?
- Labour and Gender in Outer Space: With space travel currently requiring all aspects planned and designed to emphasise practicality, how will the management of bodily excretions, particularly those linked to the politically charged field of reproduction such as ejaculation or menstruation, develop?
- Ethnographies of Imagined Futures: What will fieldwork based human and social sciences look like in the future or in space? What type of limitations may appear? How does fieldwork change?

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE:

Prospective authors should follow the JFRL author guidelines:

<https://www.iospress.com/catalog/journals/journal-of-future-robot-life#author-guidelines>. Manuscripts must be submitted online at <https://www.editorialmanager.com/jfrr/>. During the submission process, there will be steps to designate the submission to this special issue. Please also indicate the special issue in a cover letter.

Manuscript submission due: 01 December 2022

First reviews completed: 31st January 2023

Revised manuscript due: 01 March 2023

Second review completed, final decisions to authors: 15 April 2023

Final manuscript due: 01 June 2023

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