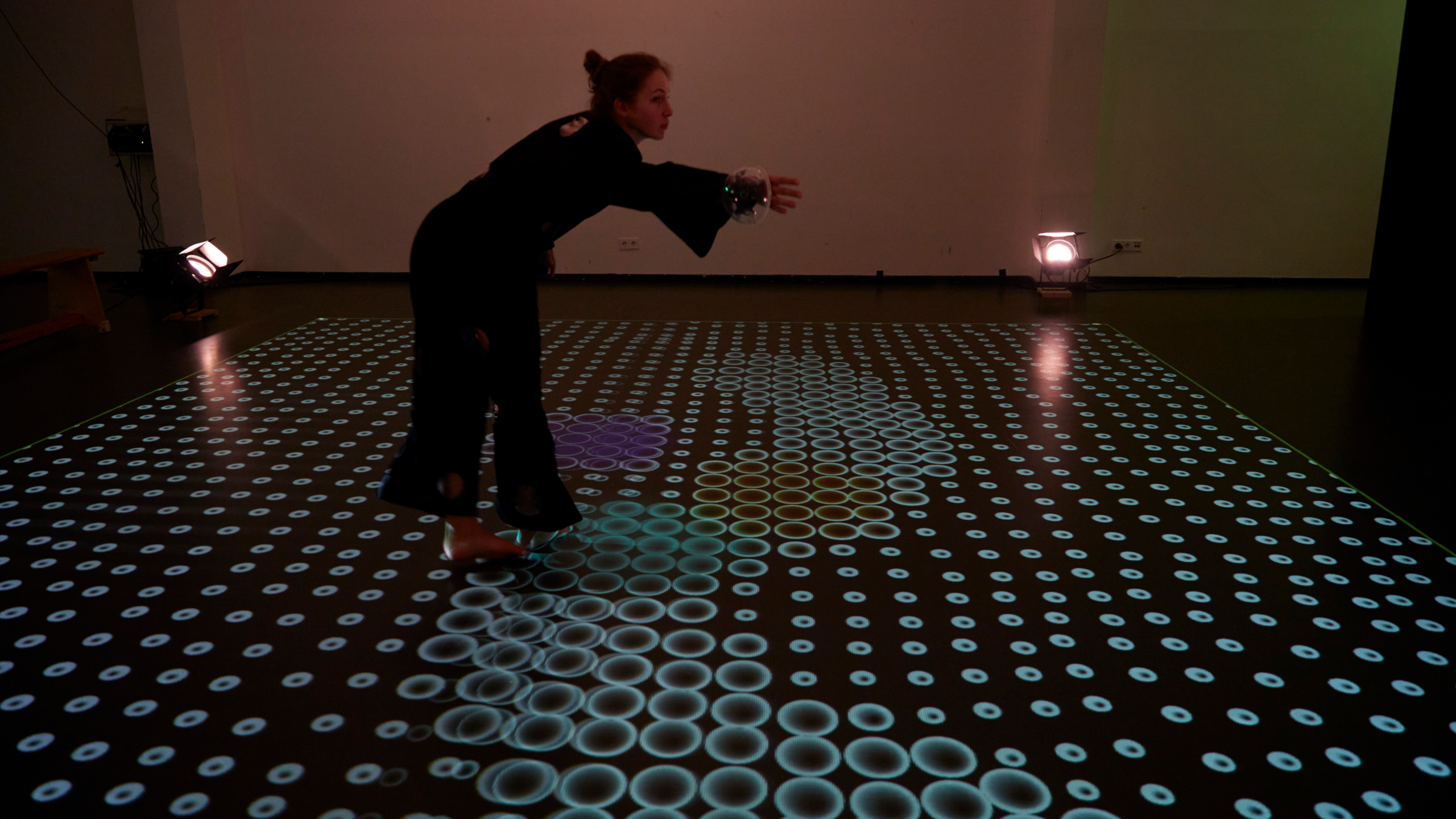
Guest lecture

Performative narratives for AI and social robots

By

Jorrit Thijn



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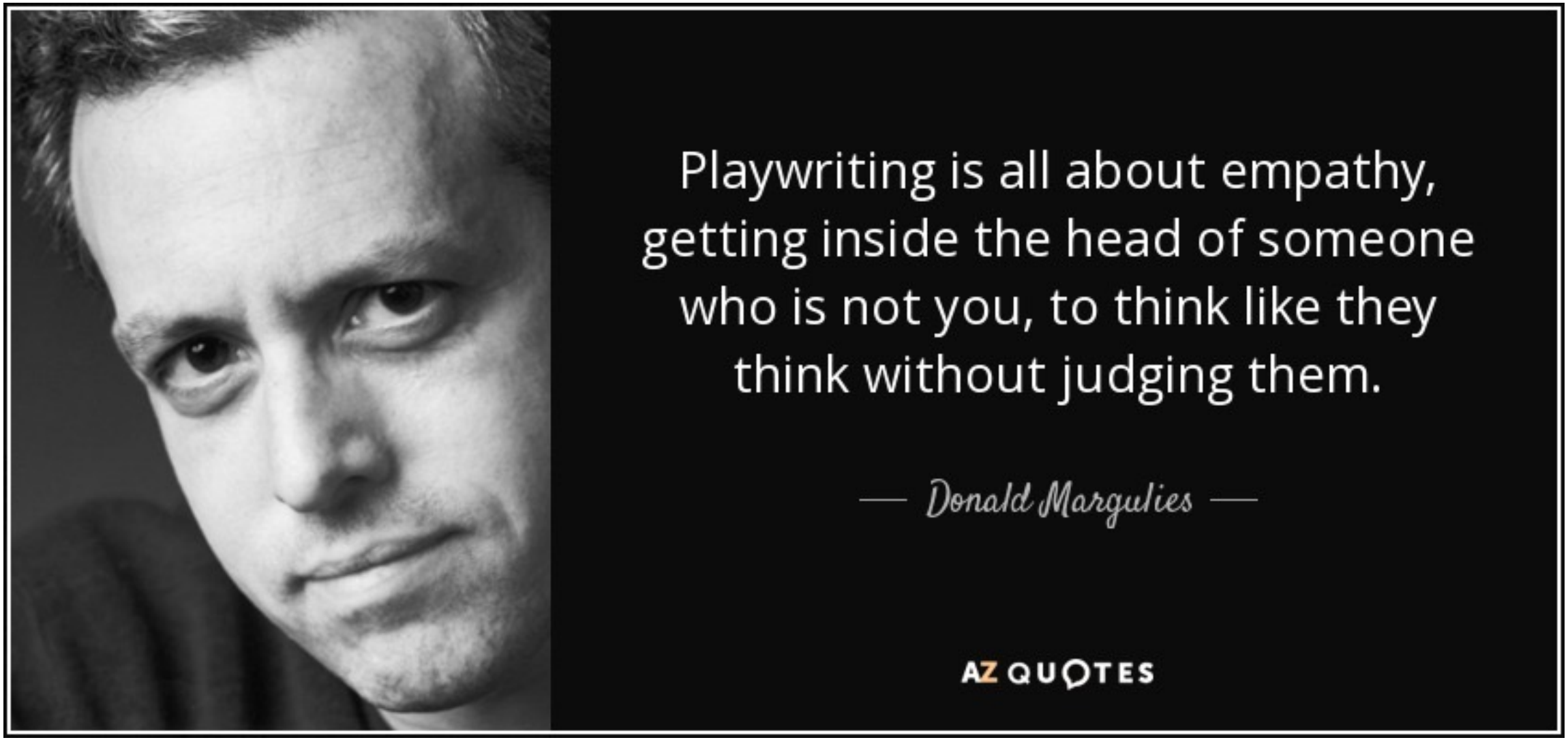
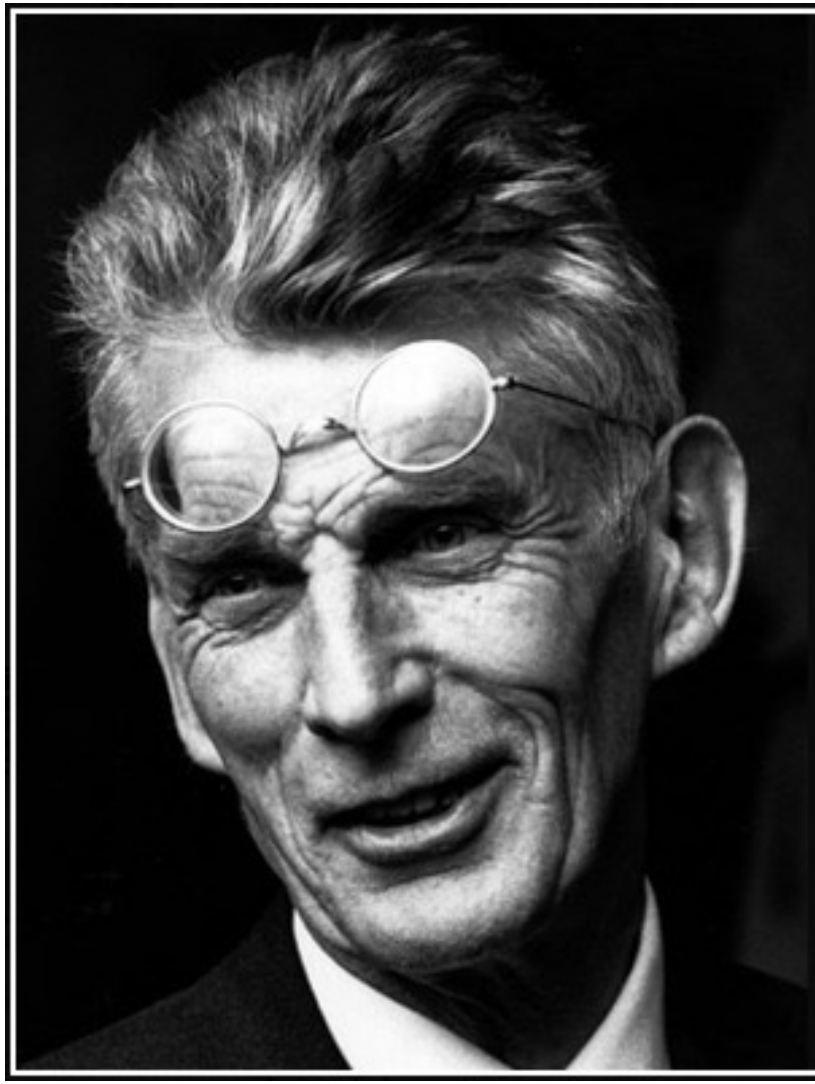
As a playwright, you are a torturer of actors and of the audience as well. You inflict things on people.

— Tony Kushner —

AZ QUOTES


Playwriting is all about empathy, getting inside the head of someone who is not you, to think like they think without judging them.
— Donald Margulies —
AZ QUOTES



Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try again. Fail again. Fail better.' You won't believe what you can accomplish by attempting the impossible with the courage to repeatedly fail better.

— Samuel Beckett —

AZ QUOTES

What to do with language?

- Contextual
- Empathy
- Gender
- Innerworld
- The here and now
- Non-verbale communications

Waiting for Godot – Samuel Beckett

Estragon: Let us go

Vladimir: We can not

Estragon: Why not?

Vladimir: We are waiting for Godot

Estragon: That is true

…

Are you sure, this is it?

Vladimir: This is what?

Estragon: Where we would wait

Vladimir: He said in front of the tree

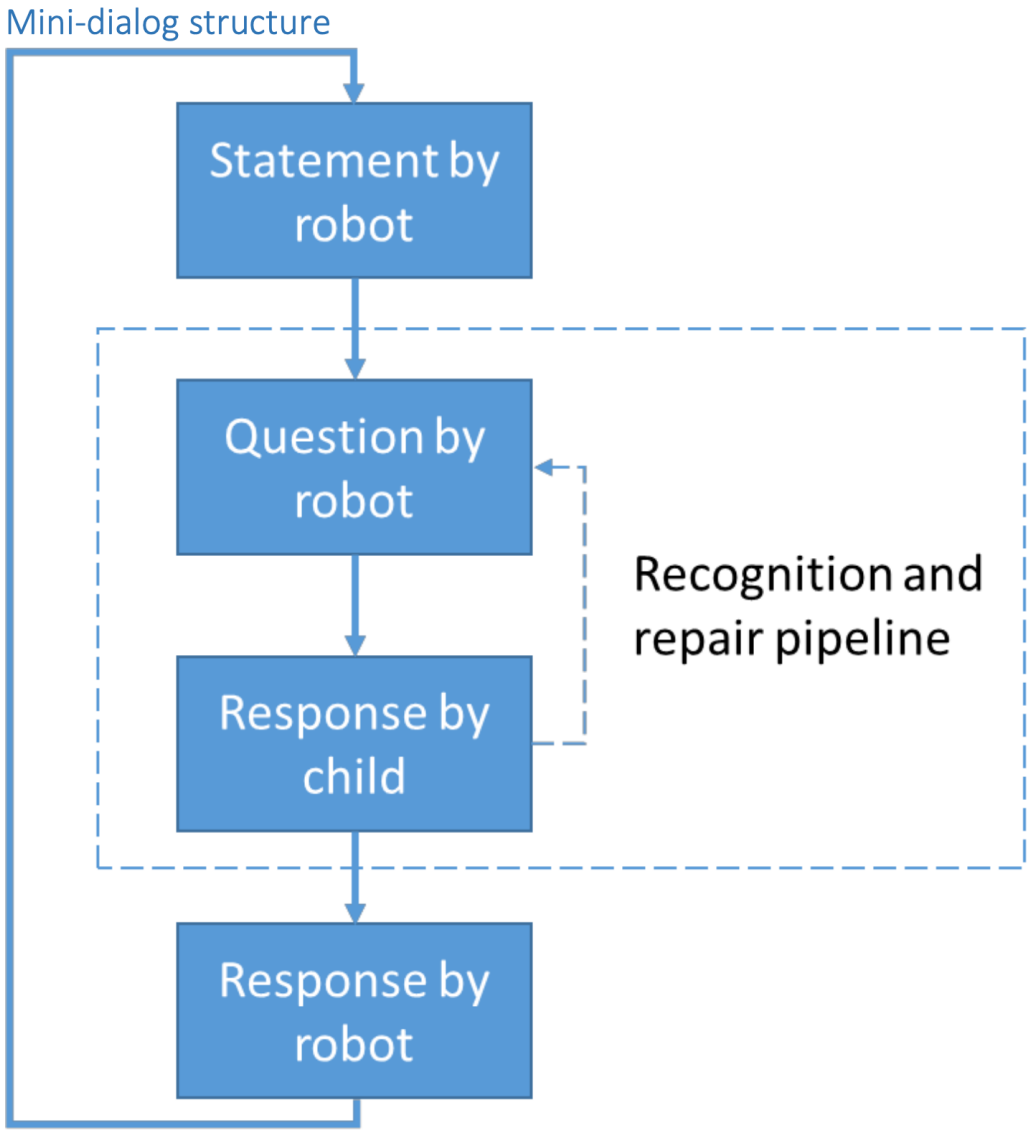
…

Do you see any other tree?

Estragon: What is it?

Vladimir: You would say: a weeping willow

Mini-dialog


Mini-dialog structure
Statement by robot
Question by robot
Response by child
Response by robot
Recognition and repair pipeline

Write some lines... #1

1. Statement by robot
2. Question by robot
3. Respons by human
4. Respons by robot

Robot: We can not

Robot: Why not?

Human: We are waiting for Godot

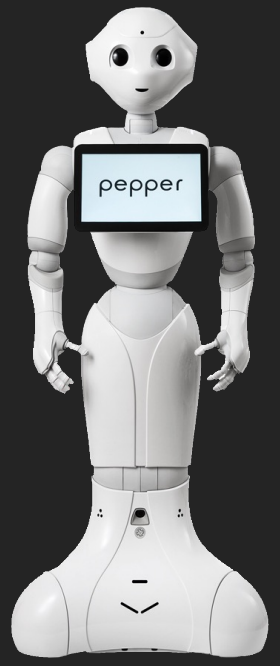
Robot: That is true

Contextual

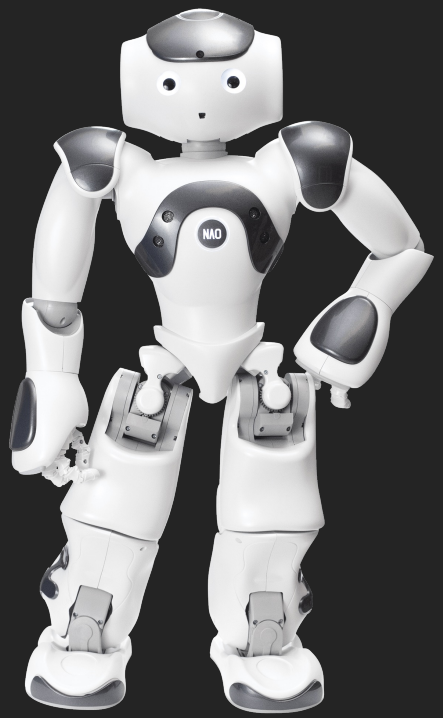
- Where are we, and what kind of conversation is appropriate?
- How long should the interaction could go on?
- How much noise is interfering and competing with the interaction?
- What kind of idiom is adequate in this situation?
- How much social, functional or theatrical posture can you give the robot in the situation?

Empathy

- By exposing something
- By common ground
- By specifics/quirks
- By circumstantial conversation
- You lose it easily

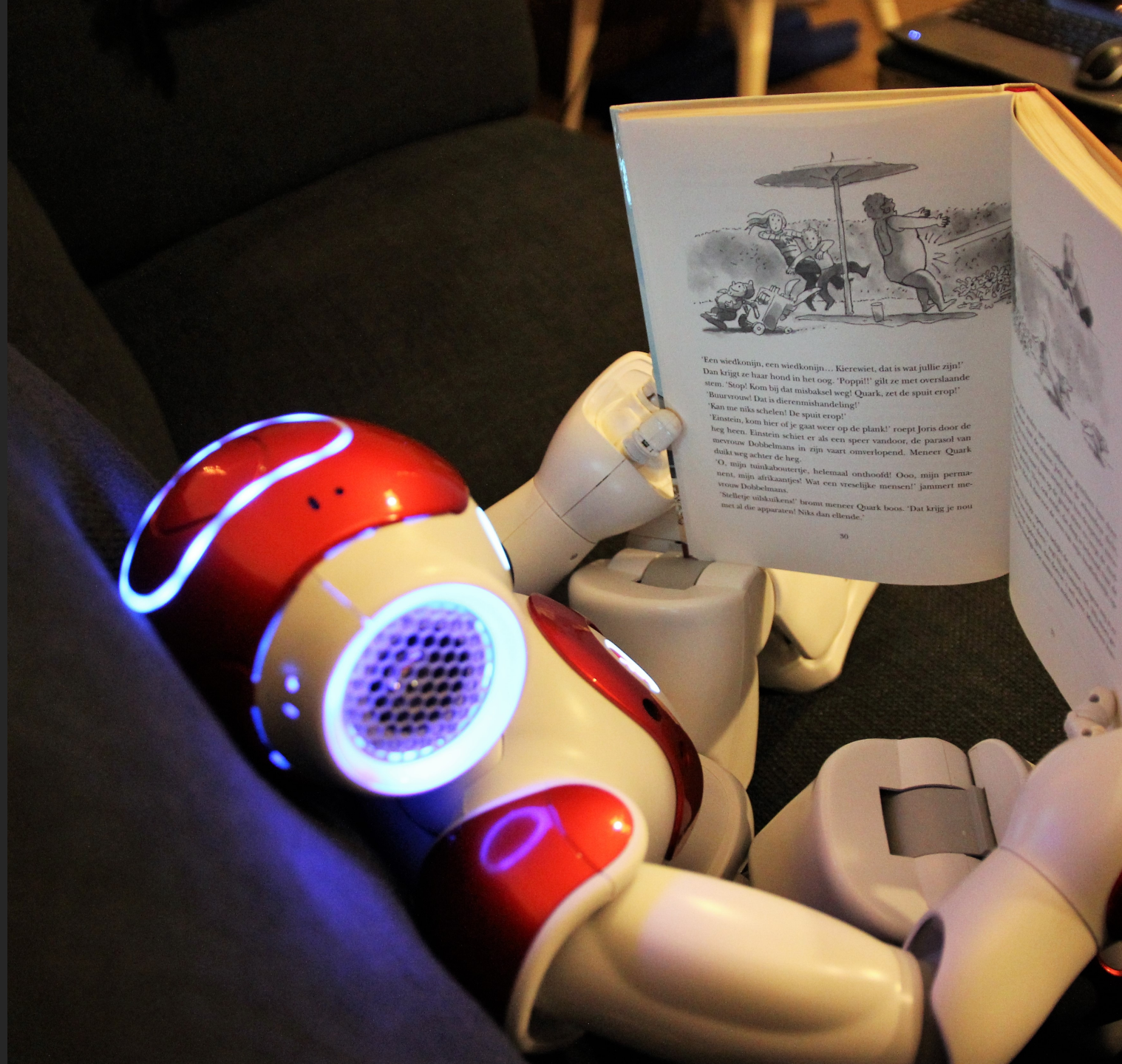


Gender



Innerworld

- Suggestion
- Reference to something not present
- (self)commenting
- Loose ends
- You don’t have to explain everything
- Not functional!



The here and now

- Where are we, what does that mean for the conversation?
- The other senses, what do they tell you?
- What is happening, do you have to respond on that?
- Needs the human could have in these kind of situations?

Non-verbale communication

- Living or dead, keep the robot alive(!) And in contact
- Posture
- Gestures
- Position
- Expression
- Interpretation

Write some lines… #2

Can you rewrite the lines of Waiting for Godot you've taken over

Spice it up a bit,

Adding some empathy

Some character

Some here and now

Some flavor…

For example:

Robot: For me, the sun will set forever, but for you there will be one last one

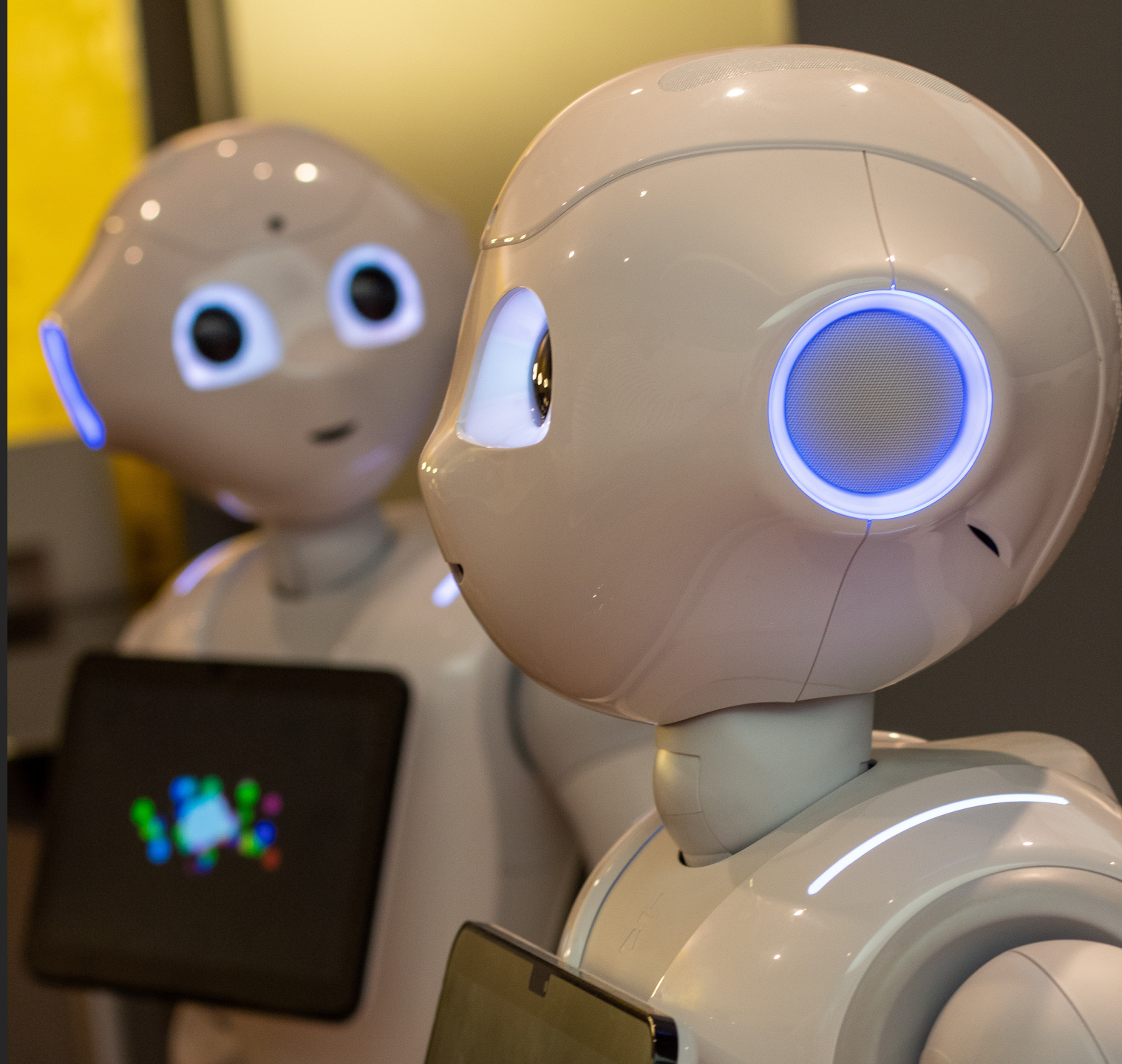
Robot: What can we do in the meantime?

Human: We are waiting for Godot

Robot: Maybe, I am to

‘Philosophical’ aspects

- The robot is a robot is a robot…
- The robot can say things, we as humans can not
- The robot can’t say things, we as humans can



Write some lines… #3

How will you conversation continue?

Branching?

Does it matter what the human is answering? Or is the robot asking pseudo questions?

What is it that you want to achief with this HRI?

But stay away from to much functional conversation!

Robot: I really like to fish! You know… the big ones! Fishing in the wild. In Alaska!

Robot: Have you ever tried to take a big salmon of the hook?

Human: I'm afraid of live fish…

Robot: Oh… well… maybe, I am to…

Tip’s

- Keep your lines short
- Keep the flow by turning often
- In the reply is your robot identity
- Don’t write to functional!