

## Dr. Ruud Hortensius

Department of Social, Health & Organisational Psychology  
Utrecht University, The Netherlands

r.hortensius@uu.nl  
www.ruudhortensius.nl / human-plus.gitlab.io

### Academic appointments

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- 2020 – present    **Assistant Professor, Utrecht University, The Netherlands**  
Department of Social, Health & Organisational Psychology
- 2017 – 2020    **Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Glasgow, United Kingdom**  
Institute of Neuroscience and Psychology. From January 2017 – April 2018: School of Psychology, Bangor University, United Kingdom. Advisor: Prof. Emily S. Cross
- 2015 – 2016    **Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Cape Town, South Africa**  
Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health (UCT) and Department of Cognitive Neuroscience, Maastricht University, The Netherlands. Advisor/host: Prof. Beatrice de Gelder, Prof. Dan J. Stein

### Education

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- 2016    **PhD *Cum Laude*, Tilburg University, The Netherlands**  
*Sympathy for the Devil - On the Neural Mechanisms of Threat and Distress Reactivity*  
Advisor: Prof. Beatrice de Gelder. Thesis available [here](#)
- 2011    **MSc, Utrecht University, The Netherlands**  
Neuroscience and Cognition. Projects with Dr Dennis Schutter (UU) and Prof. Eddie Harmon-Jones (Texas A&M)
- 2008    **BSc *Cum Laude*, Utrecht University, The Netherlands**  
Psychology, Major: Cognitive Neuroscience
- 2005    **BSc, University of Applied Sciences Utrecht, The Netherlands**  
Social Work, focus on child psychiatry

### Honours and grants

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- 2022    Human-AI Student Research Project Fund, Human-AI Alliance (NL)
- 2019 – 2021    Scientific Research Grant (PI), Bial Foundation (Portugal)
- 2021    Human-centered AI Small Grant, Utrecht University (NL)
- 2021    Human-AI Student Research Project Fund, Human-AI Alliance (NL)
- 2020    Public Engagement Seed Fund, Utrecht University (NL)
- 2020    Nominated for Research Culture Award, University of Glasgow
- 2019    Fellow, Kavli Summer Institute in Cognitive Neuroscience, USA
- 2019    John Robertson Bequest Fund (PI), University of Glasgow
- 2019    Flexible Talent Mobility Award, BBSRC (UK)
- 2017    Creative Practitioner-in-Residence (co-applicant), ESRC (UK)
- 2017    EPS Research Workshop Grant (co-applicant), Experimental Psychology Society (UK)
- 2016    Professors' Fund (PI), Maastricht University (NL)
- 2015    Van der Gaag Grant (PI), Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (NL)
- 2015    Erasmus+ grant, European Commission, Education & Training (EU)

- 2014 Best presentation, International Summer School in Social Cognitive Neuroscience, Italy
- 2010 Travel grant, K.F. Hein Society (NL)
- 2006 – 2008 Honours student, University wide Honours Minor, Utrecht University

### Selected Publications (\* shared authorship, 34 peer-reviewed articles, full list)

- Hogenhuis, A. & **Hortensius R.** (*in press*). Domain-specific and domain-general neural network engagement during human-robot interactions. *European Journal of Neuroscience*
- Hortensius R.** & Wiese, E. (*in press*). A neurocognitive view on the depiction of social robots. Commentary on target article by Clark and Fischer. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*
- Diana, F., Kawahara, M., Saccardi, I., **Hortensius, R.**, Tanaka, A., & Kret, M. (*in press*). Implicit and explicit attitudes towards artificial agents: a cross-cultural comparison. *International Journal of Social Robotics*
- Croijmans, I., van Erp, L., Bakker, A., Cramer, L., Heezen, S., van Mourik, D., Weaver, S., **Hortensius, R.** (*in press*). No effect of the smell of hexanal on trust in human-robot interaction. *International Journal of Social Robotics*
- Hortensius, R.\***, Kent, M.\* , Darda, K. M., Jastrzab, L. E., Koldewyn, K., Ramsey, R., & Cross, E. S. (2021). Exploring the relationship between anthropomorphism and Theory-of-Mind in brain and behaviour. *Human Brain Mapping*, 42: 4224-4241
- de Jong D., **Hortensius R.**, Hsieh T., & Cross E. S. (2021). Empathy and schadenfreude in human-robot teams. *Journal of Cognition*, 4: 35
- Timmerman, R., Hsieh, T., Henschel, A., **Hortensius, R.\***, & Cross, E. S.\* (2021). Individuals expend more effort to compete against robots than humans after observing competitive human-robot interactions. The 2021 International Conference on Social Robotics, 044
- Henschel A., **Hortensius R.\*** & Cross E.S. (2020). Social Cognition in the Age of Human-Robot Interaction. *Trends in Neurosciences*, 43: 373-384
- Cross E.S.\* , **Hortensius R.\*** & Wykowska A.\* (2019). From social brains to social robots: Applying neurocognitive insights to human-robot interaction. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 374:20180024
- Cross E.S., Riddoch A.R., Pratts J., Titone S., Chaudhury B. & **Hortensius R.** (2019). A neurocognitive investigation of the impact of socialising with a robot on empathy for pain. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 374:20180034
- Hortensius R.**, Hekele, F. & Cross E.S. (2018). The perception of emotion in artificial agents. *IEEE Transactions on Cognitive and Developmental Systems*, 10:852-864
- Hortensius R.\*** & Cross E.S.\* (2018). From automata to animate beings: The scope and limits of attributing socialness to robots. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 426:93-110
- Hortensius R.** & de Gelder B. (2018). From empathy to apathy: The bystander effect revisited. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 27:249-256

### Preprints

- Liefooghe, B., Oliveira, M. J. B., Leisten, L. M., Hoogers, E., Aarts, H., & **Hortensius, R.** (2022, June 10). Faces Merely Labelled as Artificial are Trusted Less. <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/te2ju>
- Hortensius R.\***, Chaudhury B.\*, Hoffmann M. & Cross E.S. (2020, July 31). Tracking Human Interactions with a Commercially-available Robot over Multiple Days: A Tutorial. <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/fd3h2>

## Supervision

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<i>Postdoc</i>	Manuel Barbosa de Oliveira (2022 – present)
<i>PhD student</i>	Fabiola Diana (2021 – present, Leiden University), co-supervisor, main supervisor Prof. Mariska Kret Anna Henschel, social motivation and human-robot interaction (2019-2020, main supervisor Prof. Emily Cross). <i>She is currently a project manager at Wissenschaft im Dialog</i>
<i>Student assistant</i>	Luca Leisten, research assistant on AI and psychology projects (2021) Geertje Hendriks, public engagement research project and Embodied AI initiative (2021 – present).
<i>Research Technician</i>	Michaela Kent, anthropomorphism and dehumanisation (2019-2020). <i>She is currently a PhD student at Western University</i>

## Teaching (selection)

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<i>Utrecht University</i>	<i>Lecturer and Instructor</i> , Research Seminars and Projects in Social Neuroscience (BSc, organiser), Psychology and Economic Behaviour (BSc, organiser), Methods in AI Research (MSc), and Advances in research in Behavioral Regulation I: Social Behavior (MSc) <i>Supervision</i> of thesis and research projects for Artificial Intelligence (MSc), University College Utrecht (BSc), Social and Health Psychology (MSc), Kunstmatige intelligentie (BSc)
<i>University of Glasgow</i>	<i>Developer/Organiser/Lecturer</i> , Socially Intelligent Artificial Technologies in Society year 4/PGT (BSc/MSc) module <i>Lecturer</i> , Social Robotics year 4/PGT (BSc/MSc) module <i>Supervision</i> of BSc and MSc research thesis students and interns, RiSE DAAD and ERASMUS+ interns

## Professional service (selection)

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<i>Editor</i>	<i>Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B</i> theme issue <i>From social brains to social robots: Applying neurocognitive insights to human-robot interaction</i> with E. Cross and A. Wykowska (publication date: Spring 2019) <i>International Journal of Social Robotics</i> (associate editor)
<i>Member</i>	Autonomous Intelligent Systems Special Interest Group board member, Human-centered Artificial Intelligence, Utrecht University Athena Swan Culture Development Group, Institute of Neuroscience and Psychology, University of Glasgow (2019 – 2020)
<i>Chair</i>	Design competition, 13th International Conference on Social Robotics, Singapore (2021) Tutorials, Affective Computing and Intelligent Interaction conference, Japan (2022)

## Organized workshop and symposia (selection)

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2021 – present	<i>Embodied AI</i> . Panel and seminar series co-organized with M. de Graaf and Z. Yumak, Utrecht University
2018	<i>Cognitive and Social Neuroscience Methods for HRI</i> . Workshop co-organized with E. Cross, A. Wykowska, G. Metta, and C. Becchio at the 13th ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human Robot Interaction, Chicago, USA
2017	<i>The Emerging Social Neuroscience of Social Robotics</i> . Workshop co-organized with E. Cross at Bangor University

2017 *Real worlds for virtual humans – Changing Perspectives*. Symposium co-organized with S. Seinfeld (University of Barcelona) at the International Convention of Psychological Science, Austria

### **Public engagement (selection)**

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2021 *InScience Festival*. During this festival we explored decision-making during human-robot interaction  
*Grandpa, grandma, robot and I*. Funded by an Utrecht University public engagement seed fund this project starts the conversation on the integration of robots in the social milieu of children and their grandparents

2019 *Public talk* at the Pint of Science Festival “How to Train Your Robot?” event, Glasgow  
*Panelist and speaker* at the post-show discussion of “Interference”, a trilogy of near future plays by the National Theatre of Scotland, Glasgow

2017 - 2018 *A popularity contest in the robotic petting zoo*. As part of an ESRC-IAA funded artist-in-residency of designer Merel Bekking, I co-developed this interactive art performance. Presented as a stand-alone event at Pontio Bangor University’s Art and Innovation Centre, and as part of the 2018 Glasgow Science Festival and the 2018 British Science Festival. More info at the [Petting Zoo’s website](#)

2016 – present *Interview* for *BBC Radio Wales*, in Dutch newspapers *de Volkskrant*, *Het Parool*, *RTL Nieuws* website, *Radio 1*, *Radio 5*, *Radio 1 Belgium*, and *Psychologie Magazine*. Items are available [here](#).

### **Invited conference talks and departmental seminars (selection)**

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2022 INTERACT! Workshop, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany  
European Society for Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience 2022, Vienna, Austria

2021 Macquarie Methods and Metascience meeting, Macquarie University, Australia  
Behavioural Science Institute, Radboud University, The Netherlands  
socialBRIDGES e-conference, The near-future of AI  
Department of Psychology Seminar Series, University of Dundee, UK

2020 Cognition Research Group in Stirling, University of Stirling, UK

2019 3rd Human Brain Project Curriculum Workshop Series - Cognitive systems for non-specialists, UK  
21st Meeting of the European Society for Cognitive Psychology, Spain  
“Bystander Roles in Peace and Conflict”, Lorentz Center Workshop, The Netherlands

2018 4th Workshop on Virtual Social Interaction, UK  
3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the European Social and Affective Neuroscience Society, The Netherlands  
13th ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human Robot Interaction, USA

2016 International Convention of Psychological Science, Austria  
Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health, University of Cape Town, South Africa  
Studies in Historical Trauma and Transformation, Stellenbosch University, South Africa