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Invited Lecture - Casa Paganini, 28 January 2014, 3pm

Abstract:

Human behavior is complex, but not random. With advances in pattern recognition and multimedia computing, it became possible to analyze human behavior at different time-scales and at different levels of interpretation. This ability opens up enormous possibilities for multimedia and multimodal interaction, with a potential of endowing the computers with a capacity to attribute meaning to users' attitudes, preferences, personality, social relationships, etc., as well as to understand what people are doing, the activities they have been engaged in, their routines and lifestyles. Re-defining the relationship between the computer and the interacting human, moving the computer from a passive observer role to a socially active participant role and enabling it to drive different kinds of interaction has implications across multiple domains. This talk will delineate human behavior understanding as a research field, and summarize the research of our group in this field. In particular, applications in automatic analysis of facial dynamics and human-robot interaction will be discussed.

Bio:

Albert Ali Salah received the Ph.D. degree from the Computer Engineering Department of Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey. Between 2007–2011 he worked at the CWI Institute, Amsterdam and the Informatics Institute of the University of Amsterdam. He is currently an Assistant Professor at Bogazici University Computer Engineering Department and the chair of the Cognitive Science program. His research interests include biologically inspired models of learning and vision, with applications to pattern recognition, biometrics, and human behavior understanding. He has more than 100 publications in related areas, including an edited book on computer analysis of human behavior. For his work on facial feature localization, he received the inaugural EBF European Biometrics Research Award in 2006. In 2010 he co-chaired the eNTERFACE Workshop on Multimodal Interfaces. He initiated the International Workshop on Human Behavior Understanding (HBU) in 2010 and acted as a co-chair in between 2010-2013. He served as a Guest Editor for special issues in IEEE Trans. Affective Computing, IEEE Trans. Autonomous Mental Development, Journal of Ambient Intelligence and Smart Environments, Journal on Multimodal Interfaces, IEEE Pervasive Computing, and ACM Trans. Intelligent Interactive Systems. He is a member of the ACM, IEEE, the IEEE AMD Technical Committee, the eNTERFACE Steering Committee, and the RoboCup National Committee.