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Associate Prof. Mag.phil. Dr. Phil. Astrid Weiss

Institute of Visual Computing and
Human-Centered Technology, TU Vienna



“CO-SHAPING THE SOCIAL HUMAN-ROBOT RELATION” YES PLEASE, BUT HOW?

ABSTRACT

Digitalization and robotization reshape not only technologies but also the social contexts in which they are embedded. This talk explores Human-Robot Interaction as a dynamic socio-technical arrangement involving people, robots, data, and technology. The concept of co-shaping highlights how human-robot relations emerge through mutual influence. Drawing on examples from industrial collaboration, social robots, and robotic care, the talk emphasizes the role of diverse stakeholders in shaping these relationships.

SHORT BIO

Astrid Weiss (*1982) is since May 2025 Associate Professor at the TU Wien. With a background in Sociology and Human-Computer Interaction, she studies how humans interact with new technology. Her general research interests are user-centered design and evaluation studies for Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) and Human-Robot Interaction (HRI) with a focus on in-the-wild studies and controlled experiments. She is especially interested in the impact technology has on our everyday life and what makes people accept or reject technology.

She holds a master's degree in sociology, a PhD in social sciences and Human-Computer Interaction, and a *venia docendi* in Human-Computer Interaction from the University of Salzburg. During her studies she specialized on methodologies of empirical social research and applied statistics. In her PhD thesis, she developed an evaluation framework that supports user-centered assessment of HRI scenarios. In her habilitation she argues for more epistemological diversity in HRI research, going beyond the dominant positivist approaches stemming from experimental psychology and robotics.

Weiss is one of Austria's key figures in the transdisciplinary research area of HRI, as evidenced by numerous articles, lectures and conference organisations.