

# Workshop Ecotic 2018



Wednesday January 24th 2018 @ French Embassy in Tokyo

- Will machines reactivate the war of the sexes or render it obsolete? And will they make the working class disappear or reinforce its presence?
- Might we think that robots are going to be friends who will allow us to (finally) get rid of all these (too-) human friends who still encumber us?
- Can religions survive robots, or will the latter make them definitively obsolete?
- Will robots profoundly transform the parent/child bond and eliminate this form of politico-economic-affective organisation that we call the family?

We are pleased to invite you to the workshop Ecotic, a unique workshop on philosophy and technology where we will discuss about the ecotic challenge of political, religious and ecological stakes of autonomous robotics with panel of experts, to try to answer some thought provoking questions.

## Speakers



**Yuko HARAYAMA** is an Executive Member of the Council for Science, Technology and Innovation, Cabinet Office of Japan.



**Eleanor SANDRY** is a British researcher on developing an ethical and pragmatic recognition of, and respect for, otherness and difference in communication.



**Sputniko!** is a British/Japanese pop artist.



**Agnes GIARD** is a French journalist, writer and anthropologist.



**Stelarc** is an Australian performance artist who has visually probed and acoustically amplified his body.



**Maurice BENAYOUN** is a French transmedia artist.



**Jean-Paul LAUMOND** is a French roboticist.



**Anne SAUVAGNARGUES** is a French philosopher specialized in the philosophy of Gilles Deleuze.



**Takanori SHIBATA** is Japanese roboticist.

## What's ecotic?

Autonomous robotics is part of a rather restricted class of "total phenomena" that are capable of transforming in depth all the dimensions of an epoch. The "Ecotic Challenge" is the eco-political challenge that autonomous robotics gives rise to today.

Firstly, it recognises that the environment has become a major political issue and that technologies like robotics have an enormous ecological effect, though few people yet realise it. Servers/Data centres, for example, already consume 15% of total energy and this proportion is growing. But there is also the evolutionary competition between biological organisms and artificial agents to divide the resources of a planet that will be felt more and more to be too small for all. The Ecotic challenge is then the challenge of a politics that is confronted with agents of a new kind, who have human abilities (or even more than human abilities without being human. What becomes of politics when a society is also composed of nonhumans locally performing better than humans themselves? The Ecotic challenge, finally, is the challenge posed by the new robots to our ways of life. What, for example, will become of a phenomenon like that of friendship if everyone can surround themselves with artificial "friends" who are "perfect"? What will become of the family if its customary version is replaced by arrangements in which father, mother and children (and the dog) cohabit with artificial agents in permanent competition with the humans? The objective of this Franco-Japanese-Australian symposium is to propose some original lines of reflection on the phenomenon of contemporary autonomous robotics. Rather than ask each participant to offer a personal communication, we will propose 12 questions to which the participants will have to respond in the most creative way possible by mobilising their own resources.

## Organizers



**Dominique LESTEL**  
a French philosopher



**Gentiane VENTURE**  
a French Roboticist in Japan



**Matthew CHRULEW**  
a speculative fiction writer  
and Australian philosopher

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with the support  
of the French  
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