

humaine

Ethics of affect in tomorrow's HCI

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Ethics support thread in HUMAINE

- ◆ If “2010 applications” are to (be allowed to) come true, it is necessary for us to understand the context of (not just: within) them
- ◆ Important goal from the outset of HUMAINE: establishing a relevant, practical, and sustainable ethical framework
- ◆ Evident existing need, also at the level of the European Commission

Ethics support thread in HUMAINE: Scope and Aims

- ◆ Identify and raise awareness of stakeholders
 - ➔ Importance of social scaffolding
- ◆ What is *different* about the affective systems domain?
 - ➔ Particular needs in ethical coverage
- Practical and sustainable procedures and guidelines
- ◆ Approach:
 - ➔ Experience within HUMAINE
 - ➔ Reach out to external experts
 - ➔ Summer School,
University of Manchester, August 29-30, 2007

Ethics support thread in HUMAINE

- ◆ Deliverable “Science and Society: Ethics”
 - ➔ Outline of ethical framework of HUMAINE
- ◆ The HUMAINE Ethics Committee
 - ➔ Implementation of the ethical framework
- ◆ Beyond HUMAINE
 - ➔ White Paper: “Ethics of affect in tomorrow’s HCI”

Ethics in HUMAINE: Main contributing institutions

- ◆ *University of Manchester*
- ◆ *Haifa University*
- ◆ *Queen's University Belfast*
- ◆ *Università di Bari*
- ◆ *ISTC-CNR (Roma)*
- ◆ *FBK-irst (Trento)*
- ◆ *OFAI (Wien)*
- ◆ *Univ. Paris 8*

“Science and Society: Ethics” (D0o)

Result of first ethical audit within HUMAINE

- ◆ Substantial amount of research related to human subjects
- ◆ Many institutions lacking access to an ethics committee

“Science and Society: Ethics”

◆ Ethical theory: Principlism

- ➔ No universally applicable ethical principle
→ the issue of perception (framing a situation)
- ➔ Four principles as lowest common denominator of morality:
non-maleficence, autonomy, beneficence, justice
...grounded in experience
- ➔ Background conditions to be considered in
case of apparent conflict between principles
→ requires integration of domain expertise
“Applied Ethics Applied”

“Science and Society: Ethics”

◆ Ethics committee

- ➔ Code of conduct: Principlism + rules of professional bodies
- ➔ Addresses cases based on embodiment of principles
- ➔ Discusses aspects outside of scope of the rule set

◆ Extent and coverage of ethical problems

- ➔ Overall: well covered with infrastructure developed
- ➔ “Science fiction”
- ➔ “In the wrong hands”: focus on research on possible misuse
 - Issue: how to identify and anticipate...
 - ... possible misuse?
 - ... possible inadvertent dependency?
 - ...

The HUMAINE Ethics Committee

◆ Goals of the Ethics Committee

- An accessible resource for ethical concerns
- Coverage of wide range of disciplines
- Answer questions on research ethics
- Advise on procedures and best practice
- Review all HUMAINE research involving humans not already scrutinised by an ethics committee

◆ Means

- Active outreach to whole HUMAINE constituency
- Clear guidelines
 - working meeting tomorrow

The HUMAINE Ethics Committee

◆ Members

Ian Sneddon (QUB, chair),
Sabine A. Döring, Peter Goldie (Univ. Manchester),
Roddy Cowie (QUB), Paolo Petta (OFAI),
Fiorella de Rosis (DI-BARI),
Oliviero Stock, Marco Guerini (ITC-irst),
Shay Tzafrir, Shlomo Hareli (Univ. Haifa)

◆ Practical findings

- ➔ No insurmountable obstacles in applications
- ➔ Frequent minor issues
- ➔ Education and awareness raising on ethical/good practice dimensions
- ➔ Researcher should not be the sole judge of ethical appraisal

Ethics White Paper

- ◆ Recommendations about appropriate forms and levels of ethical scrutiny for research engaged in developing systems interacting in rich ways with humans
- ◆ Precursors
 - Fact-finding within HUMAINE and related activities
 - Work of Ethics Committee
 - “An Ethical Framework for Emotion-Related Computing” (D10c)
 - Ethics Networking at IST2006 conference (Bernd Carsten Stahl)
- ◆ Steps ahead
 - Feedback from discussion this afternoon
 - Working session tomorrow
 - Consolidation at HUMAINE Summer School (end of August)

Research topics in Ethics and Good Practice

- ◆ Ethical issues of persuasive agents (Guerini, Stock, Goldie)
 - ➔ Towards ethical guidelines for developers of persuasive systems with strong decisional autonomy
 - ➔ Relevance of scenario of deployment
 - ➔ Questionnaire as aid to raise awareness
 - Ethicality of the communication
 - Ethicality of the induced action
- ◆ User autonomy (Baumann&Döring)
 - ➔ Development of a procedural account of user autonomy
 - ➔ First analysis of ethicality of persuasive strategies

Research topics in Ethics and Good Practice

- ◆ Abuses in building and using ECA systems (Pelachaud)
 - ➔ Complementary perspective
 - ➔ Special issue of Interaction Studies on “Misuse And Abuse Of Interactive Technologies”
- ◆ Ethics in design and evaluation (Höök, Petta, Goldie)
 - ➔ Clarifying criteria: comparability and evaluation
 - ➔ User-centred design vs. ethical scaffolding in society
- ◆ Ethics in computer mediated communication (UH)
 - ➔ Research network social responsibility (Tzafrir)
 - ➔ Relations to existing legal infrastructure (Hareli)
- ◆ Modelling emotional conflict (de Rosis&Goldie)
- ◆ Emotions and perception (Döring &Goldie)

Thank You!
