

Sparrow: March of the Robot Dogs
Mumm and Mutlu: Human-Robot Proxemics

Sparrow's text is rather dense; I do not expect you to do a close reading unless you are enjoying it. I do have one question:

1. Experience Machine time (from Sparrow). Your view: is this ethical or unethical, and why- to use this to create false but fulfilling experiences for an elderly person?

2. Mutlu's work is generally well-defined and well-executed. This paper demonstrates well how HRI research moves forward today, tying together ideas from psychology and robotics together with well-defined research experiments to measure actual human reactions as compared to prior theories. Now, let's squash together the two papers. Mutlu reports that pet owners showed statistically significantly greater distancing than non-pet owners (less than 1% chance!). That is an impressive result. Given what you're studied in Sparrow, and your own background experience or thoughts, can you suggest your own reasons as to why this is the case in Mutlu's experiment?