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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lynbrook High School student publishes study in scientific journal on our ability to trust humanoid robots

Robert Bing, a student at Lynbrook High school in Lynbrook, NY, recently published a scientific manuscript titled, "Overcoming the Uncanny Valley Through Shared Stressful Experience with a Humanoid Robot" in the *Journal of Emerging Investigators*.

Bing's article, published on June 12, 2018, examines the "Uncanny Valley" effect, or the tendency for humans to feel uncomfortable in the presence of non-living humanoid objects. Through his research, Bing found that humans are more comfortable and more likely to develop rapport with humanoid robots after sharing a stressful experience with the robot. Furthermore, Bing found that humans were more likely to choose the same robot with which they had shared the stressful experience to work with in future tasks. As our society moves to integrate robots into more of our daily lives, Bing's research provides valuable feedback into the design of robots that humans are comfortable with and that meet our needs effectively.

Bing was supported by Dr. John Michael of the University of Warwick and Central European University. Dr. Michael received a starting grant from the European Research Council and was able to assist Bing in his research financially and via the Central European University's SOMBY lab.

The *Journal of Emerging Investigators* (JEI) is a non-profit scientific journal operated by graduate students at Harvard University. JEI is dedicated to mentoring young scientists in middle and high school and publishing their research through the online journal. Articles submitted to JEI pass through a rigorous editorial and scientific review process by several PhD-level scientists before they are accepted and published.

Link to Bing's article: <https://www.emerginginvestigators.org/articles/overcoming-the-uncanny-valley-through-shared-stressful-experience-with-a-humanoid-robot>

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