How come that people sometimes interact with robots as if they were little children or old friends, in any case other human beings? Different theories why this is so are on the market, and Kerstin Fischer is going to present experimental results that show clearly what's going on. Lars Christian Jensen will then show what happens when you put robots in classrooms, and Nathalie Schümchen will report on first results in a project we just started, in which we investigate speech melodies and other elusive language phenomena using human-robot interaction. Speech melody will also be the topic of Oliver Niebuhr’s talk. Together with his Master student Jana Falk, he investigated how "personality traits" attributed to robots (e.g., friendly, eager, clever, and robust) vary as a function of the robot's physical appearance and voice characteristics. Results clearly show that there can be no standard voice that can simply be used for all kinds of robots alike. Possibly there will also be a talk by Morgan Aarestrup on her Master thesis project in which she develops an Instagram strategy for the Borgen shopping mall.

Contact info: Oliver Niebuhr olni@sdu.dk , Kerstin Fischer kerstin@sdu.dk

ORION MICROSCOPE

The research group of Orion NanoFab He ion microscope has achieved full functionality of the instrument and its auxiliary facilities. The trials of high resolution imaging and nano-patterning have been performed on Gold and Titanium Nitride (TiN) thin films, demonstrating very good results. TiN films have recently achieved very high attention from a number of industries, due to their unique properties in applications such as sensors for harsh environment and thermo-photovoltaics. The first high resolution imaging and cross-sectioning of bacteria without deposition of conductive coatings have been performed. Further work will include development and implementation of the failure analysis procedures for sensors and power electronic components.

Contact info: Serguei Chiriaev schi@mci.sdu.dk

SCEEM

SCEEM is one of IRCA’s interdisciplinary research-projects. The project is about the emergence of entrepreneurial milieus and social capital within industry clusters. In the center this research initiative is to get an understanding of how innovative milieus actually can be developed and supported. Currently two field projects are in progress: 1) The emergence of entrepreneurial milieus and social capital: The case of the German mechanical engineering industry and 2) How to support the emergence of entrepreneurial milieus in rural border regions? (continue on the other side)
The first papers had been presented recently on the the seventh international conference on ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT OF NETWORKS which was held in cooperation with the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences (EMS), University of the Western Cape (http://www.uwc.ac.za/faculties/ems) from December 3 – 5, 2015, in Cape Town, South Africa. A meeting with participating colleagues from Curtin University in Australia is scheduled for April 2016 and further research contributions will be submitted to international conferences and journals in the course of this year.

Contact info: Susanne Gretzinger sug@sam.sdu.dk

VISITS AND CONFERENCES AT IRCA

Jaap Ham will visit the Innovation Research Cluster Alsion 22-29 March 2016

Dr. Jaap Ham is one of the leading scientists studying Persuasive Technology, a novel research field which targets the use of technology to achieve behavior change. He is head of the research group on Persuasive Technology at the Human-Technology Interaction sub-department of Eindhoven University of Technology. In his research, Jaap Ham defined the concept of Ambient Persuasive Technology and opened up new research areas with intriguing application potential, such as the new area of Persuasive Robotics. In IRCA, Jaap Ham will be working on the interface between communication design and persuasive technologies, sensor development, ambient persuasive technology and on the theoretical framing of the field.

International Conference on Borders Between Hamburg and Sønderborg on May 17-20 2016

The Department of Political Science and Public Management at the University of Southern Denmark is happy to announce that the 15th Border Regions in Transition (BRIT) Conference, one of the leading international scientific conferences on borders and borderlands, will take place between Hamburg and Sønderborg on May 17-20, 2016. The objective of the conference organized by the University of Southern Denmark, the University of Hamburg and the HafenCity University Hamburg is to rethink the complicated relationships that bind cities and state borders. The conference will offer a unique opportunity to explore the collaborative or competitive strategies of this odd couple under the current circumstances of globalization. Particular attention will be paid to the conceptual and empirical contributions that explore, from the global to the local, the globalized cross-border metropolis and its flows, the reunited city and its scars, the divided city and its walls, the securitized city and its border controls, the small city and its relative indifference to borders, or the border markets and its overflowing activity. The conference will make a significant contribution to the academic and policy debates related to the opening and securitization of borders in Denmark, the European Union, and the world. More information about the conference can be found on www.sdu.dk/brit2016.