

technology, policy & ethics

LECTURE SERIES AT CAL POLY, SLO

Who: **DR. JOHN P. SULLINS**

When: **FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2011 @ 2-3:30 PM**

Where: **FISHER SCIENCE HALL (Bldg 33, Rm 286)**

ROBOTS + SEX

Should We Build a Love Machine?



When your robotic lover says that it loves you, should you believe it? David Levy, author of *Love + Sex With Robots*, argues that human love and sex can be engineered into a suitably designed robot. Not only would these machines be psychologically pleasing, but their users might even prefer them to human suitors, says Levy. In this talk we will see how roboticists are exploiting our psychological tendency to anthropomorphize objects, using ingenious ways to manipulate human emotions so that people might buy a love machine if it were created. I will argue that the emerging area of roboethics should explore the moral limits of manipulating this human psychological tendency and whether or not there is something more to love than simply satisfying physical desire.

*This talk is **free and open**
to the public!*

For more info, contact:

Dr. Patrick Lin,
palin@calpoly.edu

Supported by the
College of Liberal Arts'
Lottery Speakers Fund
and the Philosophy Dept.

***John P. Sullins** is an associate professor at Sonoma State University where he has taught for six years. He received his PhD in 2002 from the Philosophy, Computers, and Cognitive Science program at Binghamton University in New York. His current research and publications involve the study of computer ethics, malware ethics, and the ethical impacts of personal robotics technology on our lives.*

<http://ethics.calpoly.edu>