Welcome, Organizational Matters (S. Zoepf)
Introduction, CARS Announcements

Ethics of Autonomous Driving: Common Objections and Replies

Abstract: No one likes to be told what to do, especially smart people (such as technology innovators) and on "squishy" issues such as ethics and social impact where solutions may be unclear and complex. It's therefore no surprise that ethics in autonomous driving has been met with resistance. But, as this talk explains, ethics is critical to protecting the emerging industry, not some pesky barrier to innovation. NHSTA's recently announced guidelines for self-driving vehicles recognizes this vital role for ethics. I will discuss and respond to some of the major objections raised against ethics here—such as that benefits of self-driving cars outweigh any harms or weird crash dilemmas, or that simply braking will handle most emergency scenarios. As this is a conversation still in progress with the common goal of advancing the technology and industry, I plan to leave more time than usual for Q&As and perspectives from the audience.

Bio: Patrick Lin, Ph.D., is the director of the Ethics + Emerging Sciences Group at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, where he is an associate philosophy professor. He is also affiliated with Stanford Law School’s Center for Internet and Society, University of Notre Dame’s Emerging Technologies of National Security and Intelligence Initiative, and the World Economic Forum’s Global Future Council on Robotics and Artificial Intelligence. Previously, he held academic appointments at Stanford’s School of Engineering, U.S. Naval Academy, and Dartmouth College.

Dr. Lin is well published in the ethics of emerging technologies— including robotics, cybersecurity, AI, human enhancements, nanotechnology, and more. He is the lead editor of Robot Ethics (MIT Press, 2012) and Robot Ethics 2.0 (Cambridge Univ. Press, forthcoming in 2017), among other books and articles. He has provided briefings, testimony, and counsel to the U.S. Dept. of Defense, CIA, United Nations, UNIDIR, National Research Council, Google, Apple, and many other organizations. He earned his B.A. from UC Berkeley and Ph.D. from UC Santa Barbara.

End of Meeting