

Last update: 28 Aug 2026

UK-Japan Symposium on *Smart Robots in the AI Era*

Date and Time: Friday, 25 September 2026 (UOS Welcome week), 08.30 - 18:00 BST
(16:30-02:00 JST)

Venue: Mappin Hall (E-floor), Sir Frederick Mappin Building, University of Sheffield [[map](#)]

Format: In person, open to UOS/NUT/OMU members (hybrid broadcasting with Microsoft Teams will be available to participating institute members)

Participating Institutes:

- [Nagaoka University of Technology \(NUT\)](#), Japan [[map](#)][[introduction](#)]
- [Osaka Metropolitan University \(OMU\)](#), Japan [[map](#)][[introduction](#)]
- [University of Sheffield \(UOS\)](#), UK [[map](#)][[introduction](#)]

Sponsored by: JSPS | **Registration:** Free

On-site contact: Shuhei Miyashita (UOS), [shuhei.miyashita\[at\]sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:shuhei.miyashita[at]sheffield.ac.uk)



8.30 - 9:00 [Registration and coffee break ☕] Catered refreshment provided

9:00 (10 min) [Opening remarks, safety announcement] (TBC) (JSPS London), Dr Shuhei Miyashita (UOS, TBC)

9:10 - 09:25 (15 min) [Introduction to the symposium: background, aims and objectives]

- Prof Tadachika Nakayama (NUT) [[Website](#)]

9:30 - 10:00 (30 min) [Keynote research presentations] (15 min per presentation including Q&A)

- Prof Chihiro Nakagawa (OMU) (dynamics and Control, personal mobility vehicles, human-vehicle interaction, autonomous driving/control) [[Website](#)]
- Dr Asuka Takai (OMU) (robotics and human-assistive engineering, human-robot collaboration) [[Website](#)]

10:00 - 10:30 (30 min) [Coffee break ☕] Catered refreshment provided

10:30 - 12:00 (90 min) [Research presentations] (15 min per presentation including Q&A)

- Dr Amir M Ghalamzan Esfahani (UOS/EEE) (world models and predictive controller) [[Website](#)]
- Dr Kan Shoji (NUT) (biohybrid robots and molecular robots) [[Website](#)]
- Dr Dana Damian (UOS/EEE), (biomedical robotics, robotic implant, soft and resilient robots) [[Website](#)]
- (tentative) - Assoc Prof Masaaki Baba (NUT) (thermal engineering / energy management materials) [[Website](#)] (online)
- Dr Chaona Chen (UOS/COM) (human-robot teaming, human-centric AI) [[Website](#)]
- Prof George Panoutsos (UOS/EEE) Head of School of EEE – Closing remarks for the morning session

12:00 - 13:30 (90min) [Lunch and networking ☕] Catered lunch provided

13:30 - 14:00 (30 min) [JSPS London presentation]

- Prof Masahiko Hara, Director, JSPS London
- Mr Taiki Satow, Deputy Director, JSPS London
- Mr Yuya Yamashita, International Programme Associate, JSPS London

14:00 - 15:30 (90 min) [Research presentations] (15 min per presentation including Q&A)

- Prof Lyudmila S Mihaylova (UOS/EEE) (autonomous systems, sensor data fusion, machine learning and AI, robotics, computer vision, swarm intelligence) [[Website](#)]
- Dr Keita Kambayashi (NUT) (computational design, topology optimisation and morphing structures) [[Webpage](#)] (online)
- Prof Sanja Dogramadzi (UOS/EEE) (assistive robotics for physical HRI) [[Website](#)]
- Mr Praveen Ekanayake (graduate student from NUT) (autonomous agricultural robots, robotic weed removal) [[Website](#)]
- (tentative) - Dr Sean Anderson (UOS/EEE) (robotics and biomechanics, system identification and control) [[Website](#)]

15:30 - 16:00 (30min) [Coffee break ☕] Catered refreshment provided

16:00 - 17:00 (60 min) [Research presentations] (15 min per presentation including Q&A)

- Dr Lin Cao (UOS/EEE), (biomedical robotics, colonoscopic robots) [[Website](#)]
- Dr Kazuya Yokota (NUT) (physics-informed AI) [[Website](#)] (online)
- Dr Shuhei Miyashita (UOS/EEE), (micro-bio robotics, self-assembly, origin of life) [[Website](#)]
- Mr Haruto Chiba (graduate student from NUT) (expertise/research field) [[Website](#)]

17:00 [Closing remarks] Prof Tachika Nakayama (vice president, NUT)

17:00 - 18:00 [Networking 🍷] Catered food provided