



## Ruth Aylett

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### What is your research about?

As a late-career woman I have researched various things over the years, and being able to move on to new topics is an important aspect of doing research in my view. Currently I am focusing on Social Robotics - how to successfully embed robots into normal human social environments. This involves Affective Computing - the ability to model and display emotion.

### What do you think was crucial in making your career successful?

Never sacrificing my research time to meetings and too much admin - being able to say 'No!' if necessary. Having a supportive partner. Having a supportive HoD when I started my first academic job at what was then Sheffield Poly and had twins 9 months later. Being able occasionally to go away to a conference where all kinds of new ideas and people could fill in what I was lacking in my Uni environment.

### What aspects of your career have you found challenging?

Balancing work and family life - four children. The key is to understand that parental guilt however unjustified is unavoidable and that doing the best you can is all you can ask of yourself.

*Me with our Sarah  
robot when we did  
Sarah the Poetic Robot  
as dissemination for  
the LIREC project*

**Currently**

Professor in the Computer Sciences Department at the School of Mathematical and Computer Sciences

2016

**EU Project**

First EU Project success and began work with colleagues in other EU countries

2001

**Promotion**

Chair at the Centre for Virtual Environments at Salford

1998

**First Grant**

With colleagues in Engineering at the University of Salford

1990

