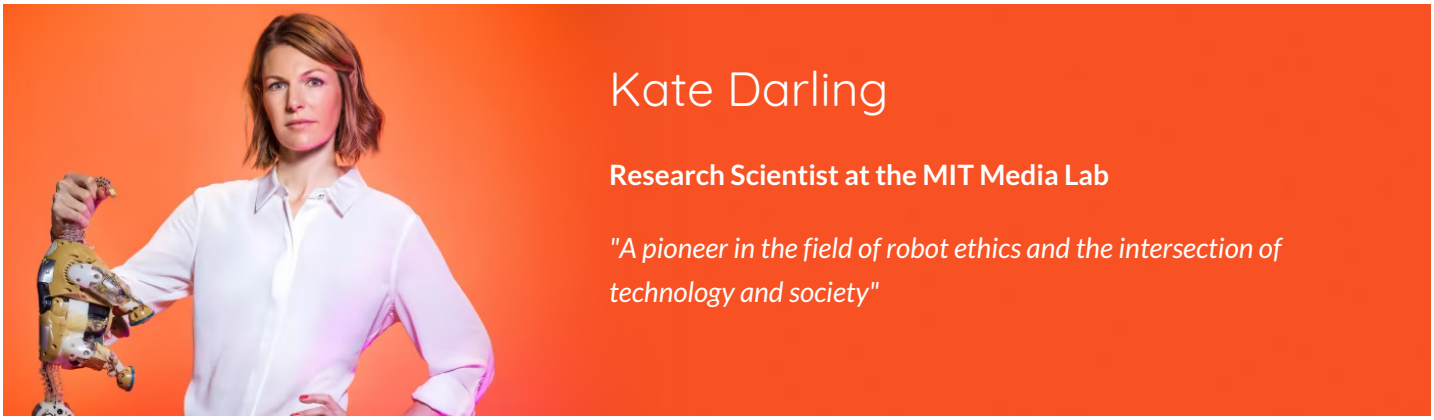

Kate Darling

Research Scientist at the MIT Media Lab

"A pioneer in the field of robot ethics and the intersection of technology and society"

Kate is a technology policy expert and researcher specialising in robot ethics, social robotics and human-robot interaction. Working at the intersection of law, economics and emerging technology, Kate explores how increasingly human-like machines are reshaping society, relationships and regulation, helping audiences understand the ethical, legal and social questions that will influence the future of robotics and artificial intelligence.

TOPICS:

- Robot Ethics & Responsible Technology
- Human-Robot Interaction & Social Robotics
- Artificial Intelligence, Society & Human Behaviour
- Technology Policy, Law & Regulation
- Intellectual Property & Technological Innovation
- Trust, Emotional Attachment & the Future of Human-Machine Relationships

LANGUAGES:

She presents in English.

PUBLICATIONS:

2021 The New Breed: What Our History with Animals Reveals about Our Future with Robots

2017 Creativity without Law: Challenging the Assumptions of Intellectual Property

The New Breed: How to Think About Robots

IN DETAIL:

With an academic background in law, economics and intellectual property, Kate has developed an interdisciplinary perspective on the relationship between technological innovation and society. Her earlier research examined the economic incentives underpinning copyright and patent systems, alongside the legal and policy frameworks governing innovation. Kate has held intellectual property advisory and research roles across academic and private institutions, including serving as an intellectual property policy adviser to the Director of the MIT Media Lab. Her interest in the social consequences of emerging technologies subsequently led her towards robotics and the complex questions surrounding human relationships with intelligent machines. After co-teaching a robot ethics course at Harvard Law School, Kate expanded her work into the legal, ethical and social dimensions of robotics. She has also been a Fellow at Harvard's Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society and Yale's Information Society Project, contributing to interdisciplinary discussions about technology, policy and the future of human interaction.

WHAT SHE OFFERS YOU:

Kate offers audiences an interdisciplinary perspective on robot ethics, human-robot interaction and responsible technology development. Drawing on research in law, economics, intellectual property and social robotics, this Speaker examines how intelligent machines influence trust, emotional responses and social behaviour. Her presentations help organisations anticipate emerging ethical challenges and consider the legal, social and policy implications of increasingly human-centred technology.

HOW SHE PRESENTS:

Thoughtful, analytical and engaging, Kate connects academic research with real-world questions about emerging technology. Kate encourages audiences to look beyond technical capabilities, challenging them to consider the human, ethical and legal consequences of robotics and artificial intelligence.