

During my stay as A.S.Cent. Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Palermo, I had the privilege of getting to know the research environment of the Robotics Lab from March to May. This fellowship offered me a unique opportunity to engage with the academic community and contribute to the intellectual life of the university.

During my stay, I attended a graduate seminar on conscious robots, too. This course deepened my knowledge of the research area of the Robotics Lab and connected me with other Italian PhD students. In addition, I gained practical insights into the PhD program of the University of Palermo, as such PhD courses and active participation are mandatory for students. Further discussions with professors and PhD students enriched my knowledge about the PhD program at the University of Palermo. This resulted in ongoing discussions to invite PhD students from Palermo to our institute for their 6-month mandatory international stay.

Next, I had the opportunity to meet several professors during my stay. One highlight was meeting Prof. Soo Young Lee from KAIST. All meetings and discussion fostered my international research experiences.

Furthermore, these interactions allowed me to exchange ideas with fellow researchers and students, fostering a collaborative atmosphere. This was helpful for the development of the interdisciplinary study on the acceptance of robots with "Inner Speech". This project not only allowed me to share my expertise, but also provided valuable feedback from peers to improve the ongoing research. During my stay, we achieved the goal I stated in my application, which was to prepare the study. This included defining the research scenario, analyzing the target group, developing and pre-testing the questionnaire. Finally, I documented the findings and procedures for publication.

Beyond the academic benefits, the scholarship provided an invaluable cultural experience. Living in Palermo for two and a half months allowed me to immerse myself in the rich culture and stunning nature of Sicily. Exploring historical sites, enjoying the local cuisine, and experiencing the vibrant lifestyle of Palermo added a unique dimension to my stay.

The A.S.Cent. Visiting Research Fellowship was an immensely rewarding experience, both academically and personally. It provided a platform to interact with leading researchers, collaborate on studies, and immerse myself in a new cultural environment. This fellowship has enriched my research and expanded my international network, and I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this program.

