

Rob Morris, Ph.D.

Co-founder and CEO, Koko
Associate, Center for m2Health, Palo Alto University

rob@kokocares.org
2021 Fillmore St. #204, San Francisco, CA 94115

Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge MA 2014
Ph.D., Media Arts and Sciences
Advisor: Rosalind Picard

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge MA 2009
M.A., Media Arts and Sciences
Advisor: Rosalind Picard

Princeton University, Princeton NJ 2003
A.B., Summa Cum Laude, Psychology
Advisor: Daniel Kahneman

Research Interests

Digital interventions for mental health, machine learning, suicide prevention, affective computing

Employment

Koko, San Francisco, CA 9/14-present
Co-founder

Airbnb, San Francisco, CA 11/18-10/21
Staff Data Scientist

MIT Media Lab, Cambridge, MA 9/07-9/09
Research Assistant

Adobe, San Francisco, CA 6/12-9/12
Research Intern

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
Research Technologist

9/05-8/07

Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA
Research Associate

9/03-9/05

Awards and Honors

- 2013 SXSU Interactive Award Winner
- 2012 SXSU Interactive Award Finalist
Webby Award Finalist
- 2005 National Science Foundation Fellowship, UCLA (declined)
- 2003 Howard Warren Senior Thesis Prize, Princeton University
E.E. Jones Memorial Prize, Princeton University
Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Book Chapters

- [1] **Morris, R.R.**, McDuff, D.J. (2014). Crowdsourcing techniques for affective computing. In Calvo, R. A., D'Mello, S. K., Gratch, J., & Kappas, A. (Eds.) *Handbook of Affective Computing*, Oxford University Press.

Journal Articles

- [10] Dobias, M., Morris, R.R., Schleider, J. (In Press). Single-Session Interventions Embedded Within Tumblr: A Test of Acceptability and Utility. *Journal of Medical Internet Research – Formative Research*.
- [9] Kaveladze, B. T., **Morris, R. R.**, Dimitrova-Gammeltoft, R. V., Goldenberg, A., Gross, J. J., Antin, J., ... & Thomas-Hunt, M. C. (2022). Social Interactivity in Live Video Experiences Reduces Loneliness. *Frontiers in digital health*, 43.
- [8] Jaroszewski A.M., **Morris R.R.**, Nock N.K. (2018). Randomized Controlled Trial of an Online Machine Learning-Driven Intervention for Increasing the Use of Crisis Services. In revision, *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*
- [7] Doré, B.P., **Morris, R.M.** (2018). Linguistic synchrony predicts the immediate and lasting impact of online peer-to-peer emotional support. To appear in *Psychological Science*.
- [6] **Morris, R.M.**, Kouddous, K., Kshirsagar, R., Schueller, S. (2018). Towards an artificially empathic conversational agent for mental health applications: system design and user perceptions. *Journal of Internet Medical Research*.

- [5] Doré, B.P., **Morris, R.M.**, Burr, D.A., Picard, R.W. and Ochsner, K.N. (2017). Helping others regulate emotion predicts increased regulation of one's own emotions and decreased symptoms of depression. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*.
- [4] **Morris, R.R.**, Schueller, M.S., Picard, R.W. (2015). Efficacy of a web-based, peer-to-peer cognitive reappraisal platform: a randomized controlled trial. *Journal of Medical Internet Research*.
- [3] **Morris, R.R.** & Picard, R.W. (2014). Crowd-Powered positive psychological interventions. *Journal of Positive Psychology*.
- [2] Kim B.W., Kennedy D.N., Lehar J., Lee M.J., Blood A.J., Lee S., Perlis R.H., Smoller J.W., **Morris R.R.**, Fava M., Breiter H.C. (2009). Recurrent, robust and scalable patterns underlie human approach and avoidance. Phenotype Genotype Project in Addiction and Mood Disorders (PGP). *PLoS One*. 2010 May 26;5(5):e10613.
- [1] Ganis, G., **Morris, R.R.**, and Kosslyn, S.M. (2009). Neural processes underlying self- and other-related lies: An individual difference approach using fMRI. *Social Neuroscience*, 4(6):539-53.

Conference Proceedings

- [5] Dontcheva, M., **Morris, R.R.**, Brandt, J., Gerber, E. (2014). Combining crowdsourcing and learning to improve engagement and performance. *CHI: ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems* 2014.
- [4] **Morris, R.R.**, Dontcheva, M., Finkelstein, A., Gerber, L. (2013). Affect and creative performance on crowdsourcing platforms. *Proceedings of Affective Computing and Intelligent Interaction (ACII)*, Geneva, Switzerland, September 2-5, 2013.
- [3] **Morris, R.R.**, Picard, R.W. (2012) Crowdsourcing collective emotional intelligence, *Proceedings of Collective Intelligence*, Cambridge, MA, April 18-20, 2012.
- [2] Hernandez, J., **Morris, R.R.**, Picard, R.W. (2011). Call center stress recognition with person-specific models, *Proceedings of Affective Computing and Intelligent Interaction (ACII)*, Memphis, TN, October 9-12, 2011.
- [1] **Morris, R.R.**, Kirschbaum, C., Picard, R.W. (2010). Broadening accessibility through special interests: a new approach for software customization, *Proceedings of the 12th International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS)*.

Workshop Proceedings

- [2] Kshirsagar, R., **Morris, R.R.**, Bowman, S. (2017). Detecting and explaining crisis. *Computational Linguistics and Clinical Psychology Workshop*, arXiv:1705.09585
- [1] **Morris, R.R.** (2011). The emergence of affective crowdsourcing. CHI, Vancouver, Canada.

Popular Science Articles

- [3] **Morris, R.R.** (2017). How cutting edge technology can help with depression. *Forbes*.
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/quora/2017/05/24/how-cutting-edge-technology-can-help-with-depression/>
- [2] **Morris, R.R.** (2017). Helping others online may ease depression symptoms. *Medium*.

<https://medium.com/the-koko-community/helping-others-online-may-ease-depression-symptoms-59adc7ccb8bb>

- [1] **Morris, R.R.** (2014). Can crowdsourcing play a role in preventing suicide? *Huffington Post*.
https://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-r-morris/can-crowdsourcing-play-a-_b_5862304.html

Academic Service

Conference Reviewing

Conference on User Interface and Software Technologies (UIST)
Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)
International Symposium on Wearable Computers (ISWC)
Conference on Affective Computing and Intelligent Interaction (ACII)

Journal Reviewing

Transactions on Social Computing
Journal of Internet Medical Research

Advising and Mentoring

Brittany Murphy, PsyD graduate student, William James College, 2018
Zoe Redstone-Rothstein, undergraduate, MIT, 2014
Kevin Mustelier, undergraduate, MIT, 2013
Veronica Newlin, undergraduate, MIT, 2011
Connor Kirschbaum, undergraduate, MIT, 2010

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, MIT, Affective Computing, 2010
Guest Lecture, Columbia University, 2016
Guest Lecture, MIT, 2014

Invited Talks

Condé Nast, NY	10/22/22
Stanford Business School, CA	2/15/22
University of Pennsylvania, PA	11/2020
Microsoft Research, Seattle, WA	8/2019
HopeLab, San Francisco, CA	4/2019
UCSF, San Francisco, CA	2/2019
George Washington University, Washington, DC	6/2018
Computational Linguistics and Clinical Psychology Workshop, New Orleans, LA	6/2018
William James College, Newton, MA	4/2018
New York University Law School, New York, NY	12/2017

Paley Center for Media, New York, NY	11/2017
Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA	2/2017
William James College, Newton, MA	9/2017
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA	9/2016
New York University, New York, NY	7/2016
CHI, San Jose, CA	6/2016
Columbia University	6/2016
Pivotal Labs, New York, NY	4/2016
[Keynote] University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI	3/2016
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA	12/2015
Massachusetts Institute for Technology, Cambridge, MA	10/2014

Selected Media Coverage

Radio and Podcast Interviews

Health Redesigned	2/2018
Suicide Prevention and Social Media	3/2017
Supercharged	6/2017
Huffington Post Live	1/2016
This Week In Tech	12/2015
You Are Not So Smart	10/2015
NPR All Things Considered	4/2015
CBC Technology, Design, Innovation	4/2015
BBC Outriders	9/2013

News Articles

The Verge (2017). "Building an empathy layer for the Internet."

Forbes (2016). "Koko: Finding promise amidst the peril of tele(mental)health apps"

Huffington Post (2015). "This smartphone app is here to help you fight stress."

Wired (2015). "New social network Koko wants to help you deal with stress."

Wired (2015). "A social network designed to combat depression."

Time (2015). "Mental health therapy through social networking could soon be a reality."

Psychology Today (2015). "A social network for depression how a new platform is helping people think differently."

Mother Jones (2015). "Can this social network make you less anxious?"

Fast Company (2015). "MIT student develops a Facebook for depression."

MIT News (2015). "Crowdsourced tool for depression."

Techcrunch (2013). "The Pavlov Poke shocks you when you use Facebook too much."

Slate (2013). "Do you check facebook compulsively? Here's a shocking solution."