

With Hands and Feet – Speaking Through Gestures



Body language often says more than a thousand words. When we speak with our mouth, we move our bodies instinctively.

But is this language of gestures understood the same way by everyone? And how does it link up with our spoken language? The Berlin linguistics expert Cornelia Mueller is making it her job to find out. She's teamed up with psychologists, neurologists and anthropologist to find out the origins of body language. The answers are not only interesting for linguists, but also for creators of artificial intelligence like the Freiburg research group under Sven Behnke. He's hoping to create a series of robots that can be used as museum guides - they need to be programmed not only with friendly greetings but also with friendly body language too.

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