



# hitchBOT

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## CANADA'S HITCHHIKING ROBOT COMPLETES ITS GERMAN ADVENTURE

*hitchBOT takes a round trip tour of Germany*

**TORONTO, ON**, March 4, 2015 – Canada's first hitchhiking robot, hitchBOT, successfully completed its German adventure. From February 13<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>, hitchBOT learned about the German people, culture, and language. By participating in various activities, hitchBOT learned that Germans are just as friendly to robots as Canadians.

In 10 days, hitchBOT travelled through cities like Munich, Cologne, Berlin and Hamburg, in collaboration with the German edutainment show Galileo. Along the way, hitchBOT visited places such as the Neuschwanstein Castle, Brandenburg Gate, and Cologne Cathedral. Relying on the help of the people of Germany, hitchBOT hitched a ride in a sport car, on a bicycle, and a bus. Similar to its Canadian adventure, hitchBOT attended a wedding near Frankfurt where it received a special kiss from the bride. Unique to its German adventure, hitchBOT participated in the carnival Rose Monday Parade in Cologne.

Over 117,000 people from around the world followed hitchBOT via social media during its German adventure. This included over 68,000 Facebook fans, 35,000 Twitter followers, and 14,000 followers on Instagram. In addition, hitchBOT received a lot of media attention. With its co-creators, Dr. David Harris Smith (McMaster University) and Dr. Frauke Zeller (Ryerson University), hitchBOT appeared on a late-night talk show called TV Total and a breakfast television show on TV channel SAT.1.

As a collaborative art project, hitchBOT was developed to see whether robots could trust humans. First conceived in 2013, hitchBOT was created by Dr. David Harris Smith, Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication Studies and Multimedia at McMaster University (Hamilton), and Dr. Frauke Zeller, Assistant Professor in the School of Professional Communication at Ryerson University (Toronto). Today, the hitchBOT family consists of an interdisciplinary team of scholars from the fields of visual arts, engineering, computer science, and communication.

Though the hitchBOT German adventure is coming to an end, everyone is encouraged to stay connected on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#). Stay tuned for its next big adventure on [hitchBOT.me](#).

For media requests, please contact Johanna VanderMaas (details below).

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