Questions on Arras, Sheridan (social chapter) and Gershenfeld (business chapter)

1. From Arras, pick for me two results you find most surprising or unbelievable and explain why you are either surprised or do not believe/agree with these two results.

2. At the Media lab, there is a model in which companies provide money, and get royalty-free rights to whatever the lab generates, rather than negotiating specific licenses. Gershenfeld argues for this model, as well as for a model of research that is neither super-specific nor totally blue-sky. Near the end of this reading selection he notes that this strategy does not work for all problems—some problems need significant money and energy devoted to a specific inquiry. My question is, do you think human-robot interaction – we we were creating a human-robot interaction institute at CMU, should be run like the Media Lab of Gershenfeld’s model, or should it be rather more traditional. Justify your answer with respect to the state of technology and art in human-robot interaction based on what we have learned this semester.

3. Sheridan has striking headings under which he holds brief discussions about various aspects of the social issues of humans & automation. Pick the two headings that you think are most relevant to robotics and explain how they apply to humans & embodied mobile robots in the human environment.