For centuries, deception has attracted the interest of poets, scholars and scientists alike to unravel all its intricacies and determine how best to detect it. In this talk I will define what is meant by deception, what motives drive it, what are reliable (and unreliable) verbal and nonverbal indicators, and how new technologies can be harnessed to detect it. I will introduce AVATAR, our Automated Virtual Agent for Truth Assessment in Real-time and discuss how its multiple sensors are superior to human judgment in detecting deception.

Judee K. Burgoon is Professor of Communication, Family Studies and Human Development at the University of Arizona, USA, where she is Director of Research for the Center for the Management of Information. Previously she has served on the faculties of Michigan State University, University of Oklahoma, and University of Florida and was appointed as a Distinguished Scholar at Harvard University. Professor Burgoon has authored or edited 14 books and monographs and over 300 articles, chapters and reviews related to deception, nonverbal and relational communication, interpersonal relationships, communication technologies, and research methods. Her research, which currently centers on deception, trust, interpersonal interaction, and automated detection systems, has garnered over $16 million in extramural funding from the National Science Foundation, Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity, National Center for Credibility Assessment, and Gannett Foundation, among others. Her latest research award from the Department of Defense will develop Socio-Cultural Attitudinal Networks. Among her awards and honors, she has been elected as a Distinguished Scholar by the National Communication Association, Fellow of the International Communication Association, and member of the Society of Experimental Social Psychology. Her research has earned her the NCA Mark L. Knapp Award in Interpersonal Communication, the Steven B. Chaffee Career Achievement Award, and Charles Woolbert Award for Research with Lasting Impact. She has been identified as the most prolific female scholar in the field of communication in the twentieth century.