



Italian
School of
East Asian
Studies

Presence and Simulation

Law, Emotion and Social Bonding in the Age of Cybernetic Reproduction

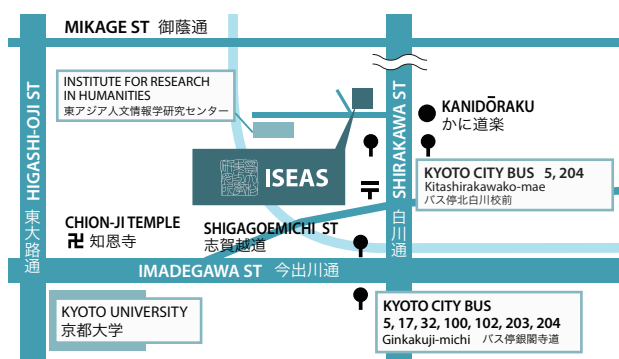
June 2nd, 2019

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The concept of authentic presence may be approached from a variety of perspectives: phenomenological, semiotic, religious, aesthetic, political, or technological. Each view may lead to different social and psychological (including emotional) configurations. This workshop will consider what it means to speak of a 'present subject' as an entity composed of a mind and a body—or of hardware and software—in a network of human and/or cybernetic relationships and environments.

A first domain of inquiry will cover the field of social robotics, with the challenge of understanding the nature and extent of a living relationship between the entity that simulates the human (the robot) and the human subject. Next, the visual relationship with juridical and political power will be addressed. These queries will lead to a third domain: the complex philosophical challenge posed by thinking about the possibility of sharing a common conception of human being in the face of different cultural perspectives.

However, working through these fundamental issues lies beyond the scope of this workshop. The speakers will simply explore their scope and begin the task of framing the analysis, moving from aesthetic-philosophical approaches to the challenge of supplementing or perhaps overcoming the humanistic technique of perspective with the creation of a 'non-human look' evident in recent practices using computer vision and techniques of total immersion.



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