



**PRESENCE 2008**  
**11th Annual International Workshop on Presence**  
**Padova, Italy**  
**October 16-18, 2008**

**Second Call for Papers**

**Submission deadline (extended): May 23, 2008**

## **OVERVIEW**

Academics and practitioners with an interest in the concept of (tele)presence are invited to submit their work for presentation at the 11th Annual International Workshop on Presence, to be held in Padova, Italy, on October 16-18, 2008.

Often described as a sense of “being there” in a mediated environment, telepresence is broadly defined as a psychological state or subjective perception in which a person fails to accurately and completely acknowledge the role of technology in an experience. It is a rich, fascinating subject of scientific investigation, artistic exploration and diverse application, with increasingly important implications for the ways in which people interact and technologies are developed. Designing technologies and imagining practices to modify, prolong and reconfigure the possibilities of being present has been a continuous endeavor of the human species, from early attempts at constructing communication and transportation devices, to the many current technologies we continue to develop to reach other places and people. Originally focused on bringing “presence” from the real world to a simulated one, the phenomenon is today analyzed and investigated in the context of diverse environments and involves questioning simple distinctions between “real” and “artificial”. This opening to a wide range of mediated environments is accompanied by a growing involvement of different research fields that are continuously updating and modifying the contours of presence scholarship. The phenomenon of presence is challenging from a scientific point of view as much as it is viable in everyday life, where people participate in simultaneous mediated experiences, feeling present or co-present in digital locations without any need for explicit instructions and orchestrating technical and cognitive resources to control and enhance presence. What it means to be present in mediated environments is then an extremely relevant and enticing question, bearing all sorts of implications for the design and application of diverse technologies.

## **TOPICS**

Continuing with the series of annual workshops, PRESENCE 2008 will provide an open discussion forum to share ideas regarding concepts, measurement techniques, technologies, and applications related to presence. Issues of prominent interest include (but are not limited to):

- Presence in shared virtual environments and online communities
- Presence in social interactions with virtual agents and digital counterparts
- Real bodies, avatars and cyborgs
- Presence and ubiquity with mobile and geo-location technologies
- Presence as a socio-cultural achievement; practices, preferences and material resources to manifest presence
- Realistic action in virtual environments
- Parasocial interaction and relationships
- Cognitive processes and the sense of presence
- Linguistic and non-verbal strategies to create, negotiate and challenge presence in mediated environments
- Neuropsychology of presence
- Presence affordances in digital technologies
- 3D sound, acoustic environments and presence
- Advanced broadcast and cinematic displays (stereoscopic TV, HDTV, IMAX)

- Haptic and tactile displays
- Holography
- Affective and socio-affective interfaces
- Presence analysis, evaluation, and measurement techniques
- Causes and consequences (effects) of presence
- Presence augmentation through social, physical, and contextual cues
- Presence, involvement and digital addiction
- Presence applications (education and training; medicine; e-health and cybertherapy; entertainment; communication and collaboration; teleoperation; usability and design; art and performance, etc.)
- Presence theory; historical investigation of presence concepts; fictions, constructions and realism; transportation, flow, absorption, awareness; philosophical perspectives on presence
- Ethical and societal implications of presence technologies
- The future of presence experiences

Original, high quality papers are sought which make substantial contributions to the field. All accepted papers will be collected in the printed volume (with ISBN) of the official conference Proceedings, and will also be permanently available for download on the ISPR conference archive (<http://ispr.info>). Authors may also be invited to revise their paper for publication in a special issue of *PsychNology Journal* (ISSN: 1720-7525), or a special issue of *Virtual Reality* (ISSN: 1359-4338/1434-9957)

For submission guidelines please check the conference website (URLs are reported below).

### **IMPORTANT DATES (CHANGED)**

- May 23, 2008 - Submissions due (via ISPR online submission and review system)
- May 15, 2008 - Early registration opens
- July 7, 2008 - Acceptance/Rejection notifications
- September 1, 2008 - Finished, camera-ready papers due (via ISPR online submission and review system)
- September 5, 2008 - Early registration closes
- October 1, 2008 - Late registration closes (onsite registration only)

### **PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS**

The conference will be preceded by two half-day events:

- *Ethics with presence and social presence technologies* (organized by the PASION and HTLab)
- *E-Mental Health. Second European Workshop on Cybertherapy, rehabilitation and e-mental health* (organized by HTLab and Interactive Media Institute-Europe)

### **VENUE**

The conference will take place in Padua (Italy), offering a chance to visit its 8 centuries old university and middle-age city center, as well as the close city of Venice.

### **ORGANIZATION**

PRESENCE 2008 is co-organized by the International Society for Presence Research (ISPR) and the Human Technology Lab (HTLab) at the University of Padua.

#### **Conference Co-Chairs**

*Luciano Gamberini, Anna Spagnoli* (HTLab, University of Padova, Italy)

#### **Program Committee**

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*Francesco Martino*, University of Padova, Italy  
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*Caroline Neveyan*, Performing Arts Labs, UK  
*Miriam Reiner*, Technion: Israel Institute of Technology, Israel  
*Giuseppe Riva*, Università Cattolica di Milano, Italy  
*Albert Skip Rizzo*, University of Southern California, USA  
*Daniela Romano*, University of Sheffield, UK  
*Maria Victoria Sanchez-Vives*, ICREA Research Professor, IDIBA, Spain  
*Fabiola Scarpetta*, University of Padova, Italy  
*Ralph Schroeder*, Oxford Internet Institute, UK  
*Melissa E. Selverian*, Temple University, USA  
*Mel Slater*, University College London, UK  
*Michael Smyth*, Napier University, UK  
*Anna Spagnolli*, University of Padua, Italy  
*Phil Turner*, Napier University, UK  
*Susan Turner*, Napier University, UK  
*Aleksander Väljamäe*, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden  
*Paul F.M.J. Verschure*, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain  
*Vinoba Vinayagamoorthy*, BBC Research & Innovation, UK  
*John Waterworth*, Umeå University, Sweden

## CONTACTS

For information on the conference: **info.presence08 ( at ) gmail.com**

For information on ISPR: **help ( at ) ispr.info**

For information on the 'Ethics with presence technologies' pre-conference event: **ethicspresence ( at ) gmail.com**

For information on 'e-Mental Health' pre-conference event: **emh08.info ( at ) gmail.com**

Conference website: [www.presence2008.org](http://www.presence2008.org) (also visible from <http://ispr.info/conference>)

ISPR association website: <http://ispr.info/>