Paulo da Silva Quadros

"Contemporary Paradigmatologies and Paradoxologies of Virtuality: The Opacity, complexity and hybridization between the idea of presence and distance in the digital age"

This work aims at understanding the contemporary landscape of mixed, complex, opaque, liquid and unpredictable notions of presence and distance to the detriment of virtual technology potency for endless transmutations and conceptual morphogenesis. In this context, the traditional sense common, scientific and intellectual meanings of presence and distance – once handled in a very restricted and in an opposite manner - has been recently challenged from a crystallized aspect, by incorporating more plastic and open comprehensive understandings of the continuous dialogic-dialectic notion changes of the complex phenomenon. For instance, the idea of presence has been virtualized by the improvement of high-technologies of information and communication systems, which established a series of emergent interfaces of mediated and remediated cultural contacts and human relationships, in a redefinition of what presence and distance are supposed to be in a new kind of intrapychic-interpychic sensibility. Likewise, the distance has been transformed through the instance of technological resizing of compressed space-time references. By following this line of reasoning, technological virtualization process is continuously changing the human experience related to presence and distance notions, by the constant contact with mediated world references. Thus, experience extension of presence has been potentiated by the growing functions of interaction possibilities of medial realities. In this sense, the presence usually associated to the natural perception of non-mediation illusion experience, involving basically action with the use of body, has undergone changes by the experienced interaction with digital others (avatars, robots, intelligent agents) and immersive environments (games, active worlds). The spirit of this work will be supported by the following theoretical frameworks: the Existential Concept of Presence and Presentness (Martin Heidegger); the Act of Presence as Mystery and Transformation as well as the Sign of Relationship (Cremilda Medina); the Sign of Event (Maria Tereza Cruz); Virtual as Potency, the Actual and the Virtual (Gilles Deleuze); Virtual as Event (Pierre Lévy); Presence and Absence (Jacques Derrida); Immersion, Presence and Interaction as well as Virtual as Representation or (Post-Physical) Existence (Thommy Eriksson); Telepresence and Digital Virtual Presence (Elaine Schlemmer & Luciana Backes); Distance and Proximity in Virtual Environments (Otto Peters); Distance and Relation (Martin Buber) with implications in the Context of Virtualization Culture; Virtuality and Human Spirit (André Nusselder); The Paradox of Virtuality (Michael R. Heim); Virtuality and Humanity (David Kreps). The goal of these reflective support frameworks is, in some sense, to make a discussion about the complex connectedness that redefines the contemporary notion of presence and

distance rather than disconnecting them entirely, by the event of progressive virtualization, with the consequence of their perceptual shuffling.