

Mobile Devices, Virtual Presence, and Surveillance: Questions Concerning Epistemology and Some New Challenges for Privacy and Data Protection

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Abstract: Mobile devices help people to stay connected across huge distances and to socially interact while in spatially separated environments. However, compared to face-to-face-interaction, communication and interaction via mobile phones currently are still restricted. Therefore, an idea of Mann, Fung, and Lo concerning cyborglogging with camera phones shall be taken a step further. A scenario is described in which a modified version of their design is used to support social interaction across the borders of spatially separated environments in a new manner. It shall be argued that this might create a new understanding of being present at a certain place while at the same time it raises questions concerning privacy, surveillance and authenticity of experience.

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