

How to write about an event, I haven't been at? Or have I? I have, I guess, I hear my body was there, apparently „performing“. I wouldn't use that word. My body was there executing the task it knew it had to execute. So my body was there. But is that enough for me to be able to say: I was present?

At a conference which revolved around the subject of trans- and posthumanity, with a focus on digital technics as a way to overcome the fact that, regarding the relations of time and space, we are one physical being holding some kind of soul or brain; at that conference I was with the task, to just be there in someone else's place. As a spaceholder or as a representative. The task was to follow the performances, talks and discussions and play, whenever it would fit, a previously recorded contribution from the one that couldn't be at the conference herself that day. Through or with her voice I had the possibility to do small talk but also make some qualified comments on the subject of posthumanistic topics. Together we were a „joined intelligence“.

So how can I write a text about an event, „I“ have only been at as a spaceholder, an executing body, a humane robot, an avatar? How can I communicate an experience „I“ didn't fully make myself? The only option to „be“ at the conference was, to play one of the recordings. My only way to communicate my being physically present was through becoming the executive body, thus letting the other one say something which I might not have said in that certain situation in the given way. But „I“ didn't play a role any more.

People forgot that the „joined intelligence“ was there, that it was in the room with them, was theoretically present as a whole person. It just wasn't a real whole person, since the two parts, the voice or intelligence and the executing body were not connected naturally-physically, but during the conference by the intelligence of the executing body, and that intelligence didn't quite always know what kind of situation it was in and how it should respond. So most of the people didn't interact with it at all, like it wasn't human or wasn't sane. So maybe people weren't forgetting that the „joined intelligence“ was in the room, but they were tired of the impossibility of a normal interaction. The executing body saw all the people, but they were separated from it, since they were all fully intact humans following the usual social codes and having their pace and patterns of interaction. One guy though tried over and over again to talk to the „joined intelligence“, calling it by the name of the one that was absent or calling it „avatar“. Through being patient with the executing body, he gave the intelligence, and through that the body, some possibility to „be“ in the room at the conference with him and the others.

So how can I write a text about something, „I“ have not really been at, but neither has the one the executing body was there for? Instead of becoming a doubled presence, we became none. Both of us were partially there, but none of us fully. The intelligence didn't know what the executing body would do with its words and thoughts. As not being one real human reacting and talking, it was irritating when the executing body played the voice, as it saw on the faces of the people. The executing body didn't want to disturb. All it wanted was to be an equal part of the conference, but that it could not achieve. It could have disturbed the discussions a lot, it did have some real well elaborated contributions on posthumanism, but it didn't want to be the unhappy child, that annoys its parents when the world doesn't function as it imagines it to be.