

# PROJECT / VERE: Virtual Embodiment and Re- Embodiment

## VERE

### Main Objective:

This project aims at dissolving the boundary between the human body and surrogate representations in immersive virtual reality and physical reality. Dissolving the boundary means that people have the illusion that their surrogate representation is their own body, and act and have thoughts that correspond to this. The work in VERE may be thought of as applied presence research and applied cognitive neuroscience, and it would also significantly add to scientific knowledge in these areas .

Imagine that you could transfer your self to an artificial body – a virtual body as represented in virtual reality or a physical robotic body. Recent advances in cognitive neuroscience show that internalising a body beyond ourselves (external, remote, alien) is possible, that our body representation is highly malleable and may be altered by appropriate changes to the normal stimulus contingencies that we are used to in every day life.

The purpose of this research is to make such body transference possible with two different modes (virtual and physical). On top of this technical achievement, that would be underpinned through ongoing neuroscience research on body representation, would be a number of practical applications that will be constructed and investigated during the project.

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