

# Project Cybernetic being — Bridging Divides with Cybernetic Avatars









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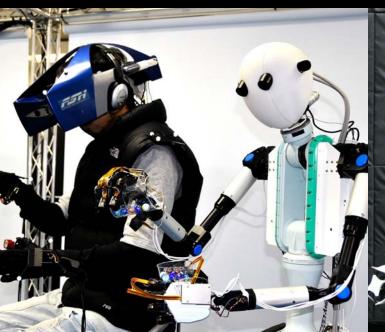


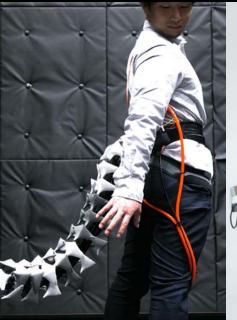
**Empower / Enchant / Empathize human experiences** 



EMBODIED MEDIA













**Haptics** 

HAPTIC DESIGN: 触覚デザインの社会実装



Synesthesia Wear: ウェアラブル全身触覚



#### **Spatial Interactions**

### **EMBODIED MEDIA**





**Human Augmentation** 







audience and performer creates an emotional and performative feedback loop.



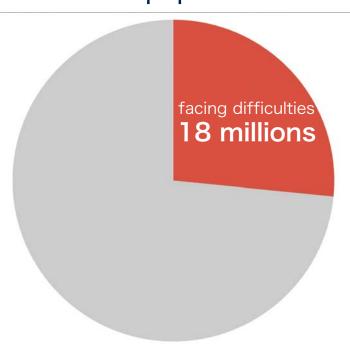
TELEXISTENCE inc.

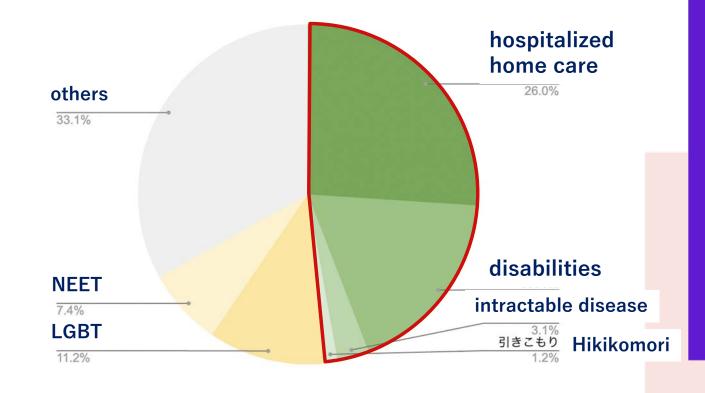
# A quarter of the work population in Japan is facing difficulties



#### But half of them have possibility to be resolved with remote work

Work population







We are living in a highly evolved modern society However, there are still many "difficulties" to live with, and every person has the possibility of having disabilities for various reasons.

As eyeglasses have freed many people from "bad eyesight, Cybernetic avatars can be a new option to overcome various obstacles that hinder people's "Well-being"





Promote empowerment of all people with CA regardless of age or disability



Toward a society where anyone can work freely and be active through CA



Supporting lifelong growth of people through education and skills transfer by sharing experiences through CA







内閣府/科学技術振興機構・ムーンショット型研究開発事業・目標1 **身体的共創を生み出すサイバネティック・アバター技術と社会基盤の開発** 

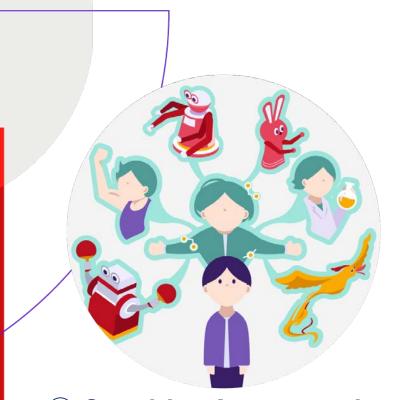
Cybernetic Avatar Technology and Social System Design for Harmonious Co-experience and Collective Ability

https://cybernetic-being.org





Create a future society where people have Cybernetic Avatars as "another bodies" and share our skills and experiences to freely engage in social activities regardless of our disabilities or limitations of our bodies





A body that can freely draw out your potential according to the situation and environment



2 Parallel Agency& Experience Sharing

Multiple bodies that can perceive and act in different spaces at the same time

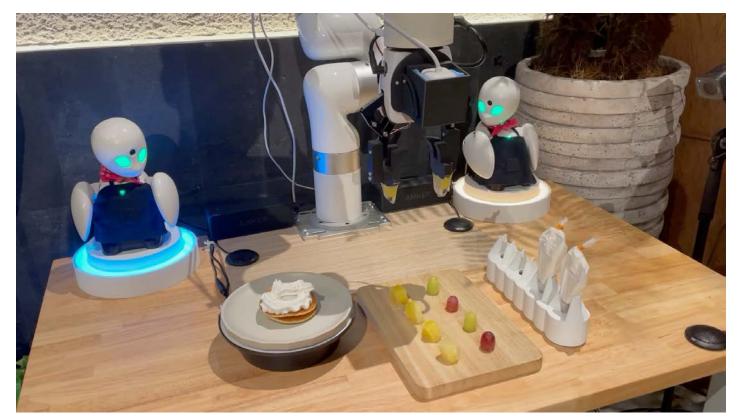


**3 Collective Abilities** 

A body that can combine multiple peoples' skills to go beyond individual capabilities

How will human lifestyle and workstyle change in the era of "Cybernetic beings", where bodies and technology merge through Cybernetic Avatars?

## Ability integration: Two disabled CA operators collaborating remotely



Nov. 2022, 「Collaborative Avatar Experiment in AVATAR ROBOT Café」























# Results Parallel avatar / Collaborative avatar experiments in the Café











#### **[CA Pilots]**

- Sense of self-efficacy from doing everything by oneself, from start the end
- The feeling of being able to move around freely inside the store
- Becoming a pâtissier from the bed
- Wanting to try out more things

#### **(Visitors)**

- Hospitality where one is attended to by the same person from start to the end
- A sense of hospitality similar to that of a Japanese traditional hotel
- The feeling of creating together

# In the three years since June 2021, a total of 80 people with mobility difficulties have been employed as 'OriHime Pilots'.















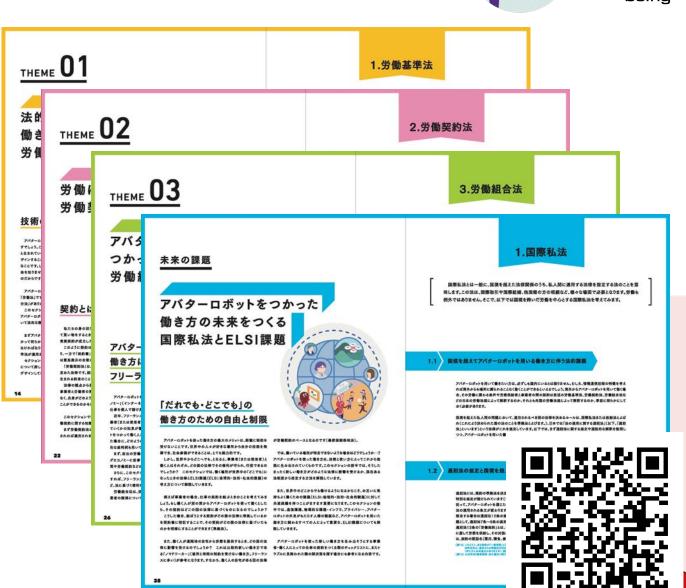
and some of them are already starting to work outside of the Avatar Robot Café

## Legal Guidelines for working with robotic avatars











# Record and Replay the haptic experiences









**Haptic sensing** 

**Haptic displays** 



# Collaboration with traditional artisan (potter in Okinawa)















# Skill sharing experiment from artisan (Okinawa) though robotic CA



# **Brain Body Jockey Project**

Development and deployment of BMI-operated CA targeting individuals with physical disabilities caused by ALS



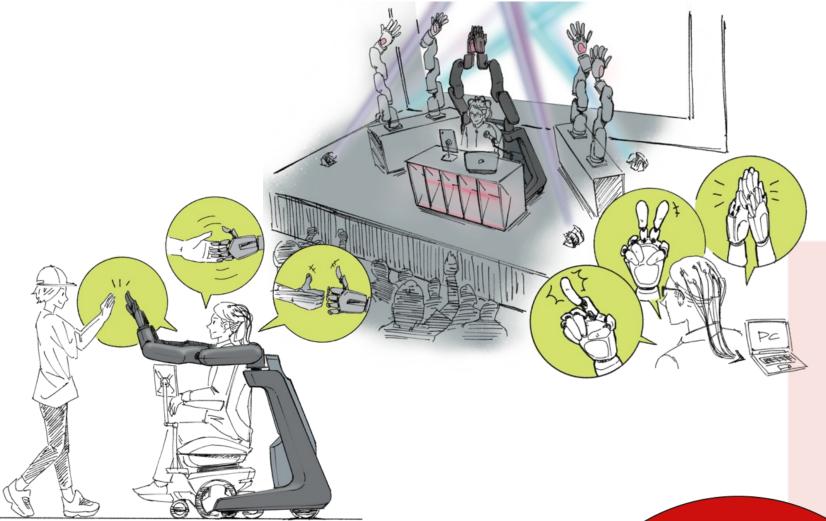


#### **Masatsune MUTO**

ALS patient since 2013

**WITH ALS** 

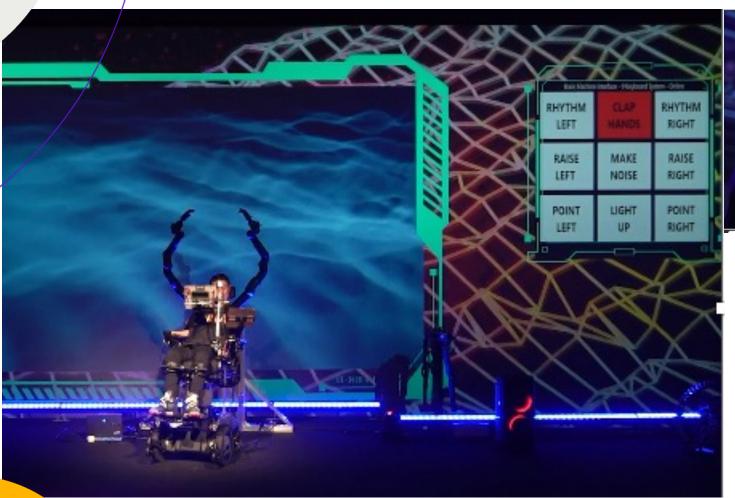
NO LIMIT, YOUR LIFE.





# **Social interactions**

How people react to his augmented body behavior and how he can feel it?







## **Brain Body Jockey Project**

Development and deployment of BMI-operated CA targeting individuals with physical disabilities caused by ALS





selecting one from three options in 10 seconds with 90% success ratio with BMI







# Design process for daily-use human augmentation CA











trial



sketch & prototyping



## **Project Cybernetic being - 2050 Moonshot Goal**



by developing "Experience Enhancing/Sharing CA" that shares and extends human physical experiences and skills



- 1. Realize **Inclusive work/life environment**, where disabled people can engage in social activities
- 2. Realize a digital platform for **Skill & Experience sharing**, where diverse skills and experiences can be stored and people can get the necessary skills at their own will
  - = Digital transformation of human bodies

### Research Groups (as of 2024)

# Cybernetic being



#### Cognitive Augmentation WG





Takuji NARUMI Narrative VR



Meiji Univ.

**Sotaro SHIMADA** Cognitive **Brain Science** 



Meiji Univ.

Ryuma NIIYAMA Robotics



Keio Univ., KMD

Kouta MINAMIZAWA **Embodied Media** 



avatarin Inc.

Akira FUKABORI Avatar startup



Tokai Univ.

Masaaki SATO Internet tech.

#### **Parallel Agency WG**





Sony CSL Shun. KASAHARA

Hyper perception



RIKEN CBS

Kazuhisa SHIBATA **Brain Science** 



Keio Univ.

Kai Kunze Physiological Sensing

#### **(5) Social Co-creation WG**



Wen WEN Psychology



OrvLab Inc.

**Ory YOSHIFUJI** Social startup

#### **3 Collective Ability WG**





Nitech

Univ. Maryland Yoshi, TANAKA Jun NISHIDA **Haptics** Body sharing



Nagoya Univ.

Hitoshi HIRATA Neurosurgery



**6 Social System WG** 

Osaka Univ.

Ryota AKASAKA Low of Robots



Univ. Tokyo Arisa EMA

STS



Keio Univ Hirotaka OSAWA





http://embodiedmedia.org

http://cybernetic-being.org