

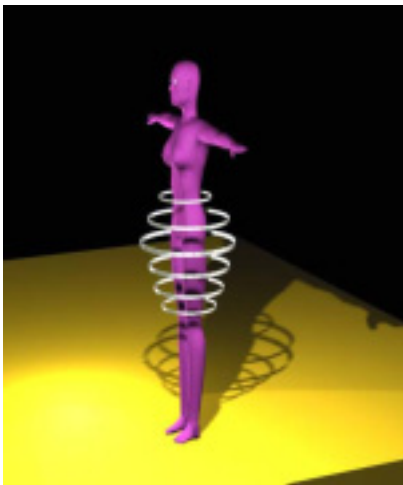
## DONATI Luisa (Brazil)

### *Vestis: affective bodies - paper*



Why should our bodies end at the skin, or include at the best other beings encapsulated by skin? (Haraway, 1991)

This work is concerned with the comprehension of human beings personal space, and in particular their perception and use of it. The body is constantly used as an interface during any communication; it creates "bodily zones" through subtle and specific behaviours, which can determine contours and limits for interactions, manners to access and be accessed by others. In other words, a "body space". According to Peter Anders (2001) "the body is the bridge between ourselves and the world" that is to say from our bodily experience we construct the limits of the space, the conditions of our behaviours, "our measure of the things".



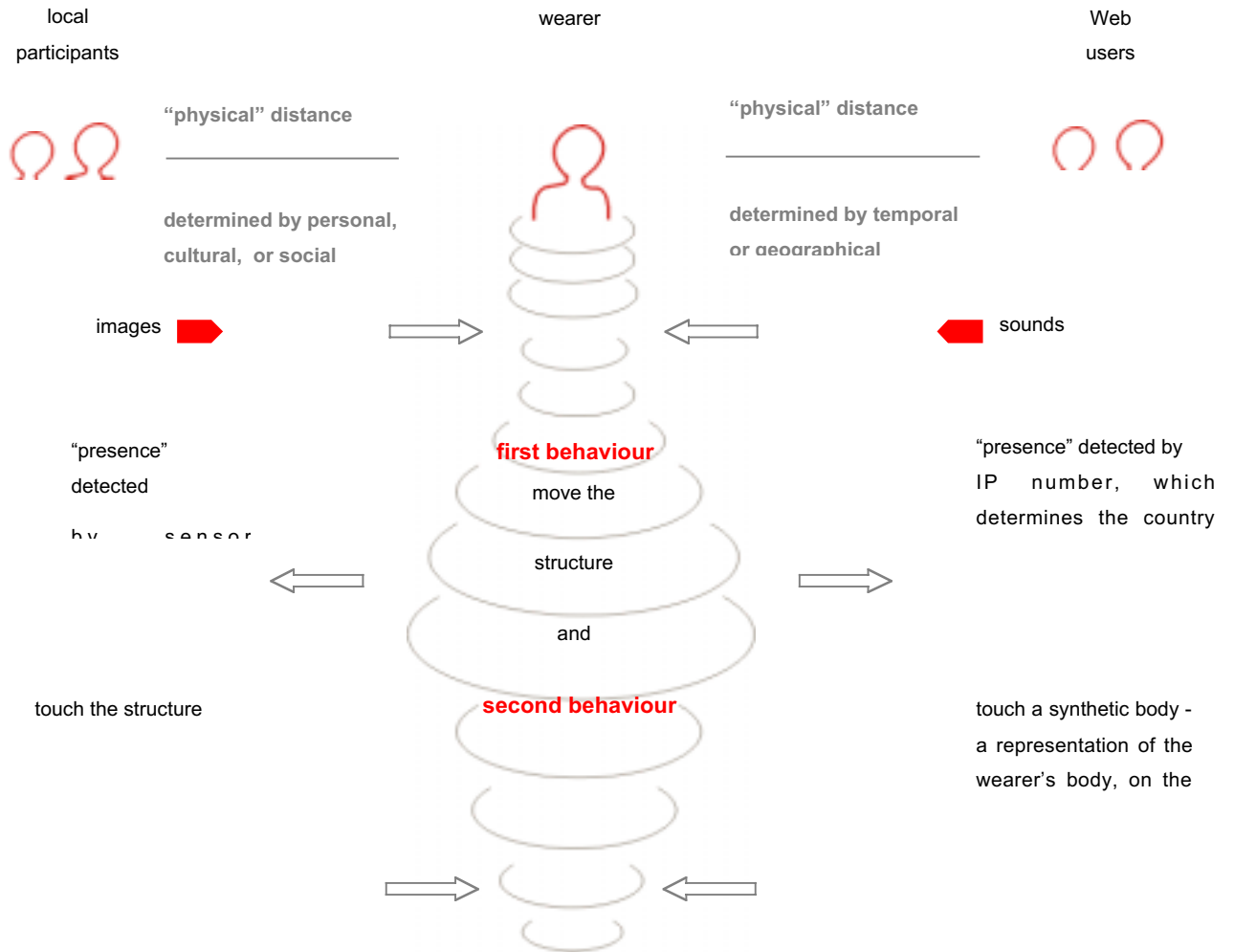
People usually establish these boundaries, creating an "interpersonal space", a "comfortable" distance for having personal and nonverbal interactions. It is as if they walk around in an "invisible bubble". This space differs greatly from person to person and depends on different contexts they are involved in; therefore people are constantly redefining and recreating their personal distance according to each environment and other people around them. These spatial relationships and territorial boundaries directly

influence their daily encounters, procedures, behaviours, rituals, and the manner they perceive themselves and world.

This "physical distance" is considered from two different perspectives: -geographical or temporal distances - people are placed in different physical spaces and interact via Web - personal, social or cultural differences - people are at same remote space and interact via "body spaces".

The wearer, using Vestis will mediate dialogue between Web users and people at remote space. Vestis will have features that give visibility to this communication, using sensors to detect remote participants' presence, and through files sent by Web users. In the process,

participants through their interactions will (re)design Vestis, changing its form dynamically: the rings will expand and shrink.



**Figure 1: General Scheme of Vestis**

Luisa, currently enrolled in the Brazilian Ph.D. programme in the Institute of Arts, State University of Campinas, has researched and developed artworks, that deal with issues of "having mediated presence" on the Web.

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