

Dear Colleagues,

What does it mean to be together when we're not physically together? How to sustain authentic connections when artificial agents participate in daily work? As practitioners and researchers increasingly navigate hybrid and AI-mediated organizational settings, the issue of **co-presence, i.e. "being with one another"**, becomes more urgent and more complex. To explore and also experience different forms of co-presence in a digitally mediated environment, we invite you to contribute to the EGOS 2026 (July 9 – 11) Sub-theme 61, entitled ["The New Frontiers of Co-presence: Navigating Human Connection in Hybrid and AI-enhanced Organizational Settings"](#).

Contributions Welcome!

We are OPEN to contributions from diverse research communities, including (but not limited to):

- **Collaboration, community and social bonds:** Not just collaboration but also co-worker relationships, organizational communities, and social coming together
- **(Work)spaces, place, materiality and spatial relations:** Work environments, organizational place, and space-time perspectives on co-presence
- **Human-AI co-presence:** Being together with (post)humans, and artificial agents (LLMs, avatars, bots)
- **Embodiment and affect:** Sensorial experiences, atmospheres, and emotional dimensions of presence
- **Temporal dynamics:** Temporal presence and absence experiences and patterns in technology-mediated work settings
- **Creative and knowledge work:** Co-presence in innovation, creative collaboration, and knowledge-intensive settings

We welcome submissions of empirical, conceptual, and methodological nature.

We invite **diverse theoretical perspectives** (e.g., micro-sociology, ANT, new materialisms, phenomenology, practice theories, and affect-based approaches) to understand how co-presence has evolved from traditional face-to-face interaction to encompass technologically-mediated forms of connection. For example, recent research reveals new vulnerabilities in hybrid work (e.g., social isolation, invisibility, 'present-but-online' behaviors). Yet we're still looking for appropriate frameworks to study and manage these emerging organizational realities.

The Format

The EGOS Colloquium will take place on July 9–11, 2026, in an online format with local hubs, offering us a fitting opportunity to turn our sub-theme itself into a **living laboratory** for self-reflective exploration of co-presence in a hybrid environment. Practicing what we study, we aim to experiment with different ways of establishing co-presence throughout our sub-theme:

Beyond screen presentations: We're open to your initiative. Invite us into your (research) spaces, show us your environment, help us co-create a sense of being with one another.

Playing with senses: Exploring diverse tools and practices for fostering mutual awareness. How can we establish a sensory-rich experience? What if we take each other for a walk? What other modalities can we try?

Experimenting with timing and connection: Synchronous and asynchronous interaction, alternating moments of convergence (focused interaction) and divergence (idle lingering)

Unbounding the 3-day conference: Creating ties among participants before, during, and after the Colloquium for a sustained co-presence

Following the [EGOS guidelines](#), we kindly invite you to submit short papers (max. 3,000 words) via the EGOS website by **January 7, 2026**, 12:00 noon CET.

Please don't hesitate to contact Leo or Benjamin with any questions. We look forward to exploring new frontiers of co-presence together!

With best wishes,

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