

【Grant-in-Aid for Transformative Research Areas (A)】

Copresence study: Building a framework to understand and practice ways of 'being together'.

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	Project Information	Project Number : 26A102 Project Period (FY) : 2026-2030 Keywords : copresence, sociality, communication, information and communication technology, robotics

Purpose and Background of the Research

●Outline of the research

With the rapid development in ICT (Information and Communication Technology), robotics, and AI (Artificial Intelligence), as well as the rapid changes in society, the reality of being together—copresence—is changing dramatically. We create a new research field, the "Copresence Study" to address this rapidly changing social world. This field will focus on the relationship between self and others, and between self and society. The concept of "copresence" first appeared in the textbook of sociologist Goffman (1963), referring to a state in which "(self and others) are accessible, available, and subject to each other.

The Copresence Study Area aims to create a new knowledge about "copresence", the concept which is becoming increasingly important in contemporary society, through the integration of multiple academic areas such as sociology, anthropology, regional studies, ethics, philosophy, social psychology, developmental psychology, social neuroscience, ICT technologies, and robotics/AI technology. The goal is to establish a new academic area that will lead to a new understanding and reinterpreting humanity and society.

To achieve this objective, this research area has the following structure (Figure 1), targeting (1) the social and developmental foundations of copresence (A: Copresence Basis), (2) the extending and diversifying forms of copresence in contemporary society (B: Copresence Extension) and (3) the theories and the concepts of "copresence" (C: Copresence Theory).

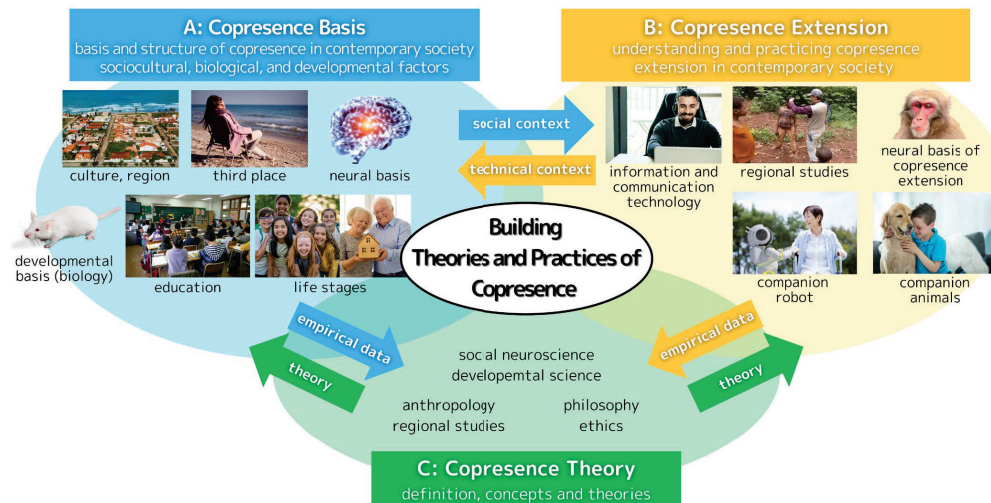


Figure 1 Overview of our research area

●Research Strategy

A: (Copresence Basis) consists of two teams: empirical research on (1) the nature of copresence in contemporary society (**Copresence in Society, A01**) and (2) the developmental contexts (**Copresence during Development, A02**).

B: (Copresence Extension) focuses on two examples epitomizing the rapid transformation of copresence in contemporary society: the spatiotemporal extension of copresence through ICT technology (**Copresence across Space and Time, B01**) and the extension to actors beyond humans (**Coexistence beyond Human Actors, B02**). Each team will reference cultural, regional, historical examples, to better understand copresence extension.

C: (**Copresence Theory**) will work closely with A and B to understand, organize, and theorize the concept of copresence, and to construct a theoretical framework for copresence study as an academic discipline.

Expected Research Achievements

●Goals of this research area

This research area aims to construct an academic framework for understanding and practicing copresence in contemporary society, including the social, cultural, technological, and biological factors that consists copresence, and the relationship between copresence and higher-level social interactions.

●Expected Achievements (R8-10)

- Understanding of the basis and the structures of copresence.
- Understanding, and developing practical applications for, copresence extension.
- Building a platform for diverse academic disciplines to study copresence theoretically, empirically and practically.

●Expected Achievements (R11-12)

Launching "Copresence Studies", which provide basis for:

- A new framework for understanding and practicing copresence
- An academic basis to understand and practice new forms of copresence in ICT, AI, and robotics.
- A new view of humanity and society that can address to the rapid transformation and diversification of our society.



Figure 2: Diverse forms of copresence

Website(s)

Webpage: <https://copresence.jp>

Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/@copresence_studies/videos

X: https://x.com/copresence_jp