



Plenary Talk 3



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Mark Billinghamurst is Director of the Australian Research Centre for Interactive and Virtual Environments at the University of South Australia, and Director of the Empathic Computing Laboratory at the University of South Australia, and also the University of Auckland. He earned a PhD in 2002 from the University of Washington and conducts research on how virtual and real worlds can be merged, publishing over 850 papers on Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality, remote collaboration, Empathic Computing, and related topics. In 2013 he was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand, and in 2023 elected as a Fellow of the IEEE.

Reach Out and Touch Someone: Haptics and Empathic Computing

One of the basic human needs is being able to touch one another. Over the last decade it has become easier than ever to connect globally with innovations in video conferencing, mobile phones and shared virtual environments. However, the sense of touch is absent from most teleconferencing experiences. This presentation describes the emerging field of Empathic Computing and how haptics can be used to add a sense of touch to Empathic experiences. Drawing on research from the Empathic Computing Laboratory, and other research group, current research in using haptics to enhance remote collaboration will be discussed, as well as opportunities for future work.