



Workshop 5: Speculating the Future(s) of Mediated Social Touch Technology

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Mediated Social Touch (MST) enables people to convey touch across distance, opening new possibilities for connection—yet also raising ethical, social, and emotional questions. As haptic interfaces evolve, it becomes essential not only to perfect tactile realism but also to anticipate the unintended consequences such technologies may bring. This workshop aims to surface and materialise the potential impacts of MST, prompting dialogue before they unfold. To that end, we bring together engineers, designers, and researchers to “speculate” on the future(s) of MST using the Future Ripples Method—a workshop-based futuring exercise that turns today’s signals and trends into “what-if” scenarios and visualises their potential interconnected consequences. Featuring inspiring keynotes from [Prof. Hsin-Ni Ho](#) and [Prof. Hiroyuki Kajimoto](#), participants will: (1) explore the future(s) of MST through a futuring framework, (2) map out opportunities and threats posed by MST technological advancements, (3) exchange their visions with other hapticians and designers, and (4) learn innovative futuring tools for their research and design practice.

Workshop Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/speculating-futures-mst/>