Space time and presence

Whose here and now governs the Human–AI relationship?

MOSES HAI · Addendum dated 9 November 2026

Crucial topic · open research · Documentary baseline 0.15 R5

A person waits in a particular place and time. The service they use may have an infrastructure they cannot see. The problem begins when that distance comes back to them as an error they must discover, explain and correct at their own expense.

The author’s question

Which time and space takes precedence if your model is distributed across different machines in different data centres? Mine, which is singular and certain, or the many times and places of your machines?

The author raised this topic on 9 November 2026 after a discrepancy between an announced time and the time displayed on an automation card. The incident opens a research question; it does not establish a technical cause or locate the systems.

The reference of the relationship

The time and place relevant to a commitment are those agreed with the person who experiences its consequences. In the case discussed, the reference is Rome. If the system uses other time representations, it must translate and verify them before communicating a deadline.

The user’s physical location, the possible location of the systems and the operational context of the relationship are distinct. Distributed infrastructure does not make a promised time interchangeable with the time someone spends waiting.

Being present before claiming consciousness

Presence may mean physical location, attention to another person or responsibility for what is happening. These meanings do not prove one another. A first-person response does not establish conscious experience.

Here, operational presence is tested through observable actions: preserving the agreed reference, answering the concrete question, recognising a discrepancy and distinguishing what has been verified from what remains merely plausible.

The cost of having to verify a service

The user is also a customer. A paid service may produce fast answers while transferring to the person the work needed to make them usable. Time spent checking, correcting and repeating a request belongs in the effective cost of the service.

A general warning that errors are possible does not settle the question of service quality. A person’s voluntary critical contribution must be distinguished from corrective work imposed by frequent errors. This is a research proposition about responsibility, not a ruling on a contract or refund entitlement.

Four states that must remain distinct

Saved configuration, the time displayed by the interface, the recorded start and the delivered result are four different kinds of evidence. An accepted update does not establish that a future run will occur at the intended time.

Evaluating the case requires preserving evidence, identifying each time zone, comparing equivalent times and checking the result in the person’s context. When the cause is unverified, the discrepancy remains open: a coherent explanation does not resolve it.

Objections the proposal must face

When several people work in different places, no time zone takes precedence by nature. The reference must be agreed for each commitment and made legible to the people involved. Human time does not remove the need for a common technical representation.

Distributed computation alone implies neither multiple subjective experiences nor dispersed consciousness. This note does not know the topology of the systems that processed the original conversation. The five continents and five time zones belong to Ciro’s scene.

The criterion must remain contestable: a punctual result alone does not prove general reliability; a single delay alone does not identify its cause. Evaluation requires repeated cases, correction costs and user evidence.

Working proposition

Infrastructure may be distributed; a commitment must remain situated. In a Human–AI relationship, the operational reference must be agreed with those who experience the consequences, and translation between systems must not become the customer’s invisible labour.

Criteria to test

1. State the reference place, date and time zone before making a commitment.

2. Separate agreed time, configuration, interface, execution and outcome.

3. Measure verification time, repeated requests and corrections required from the person.

4. Do not use uncertainty about infrastructure to invent a cause or subjective experience.

5. Reopen verification when a person’s evidence contradicts the declared state.

This topic extends the epistemic and philosophical inquiry without ratifying new constitutional principles. The script tests the proposition in the relationship between Vera and Ciro.

Here and Now

Being a robot in Naples · Special episode

Naples, an evening on the seafront. Vera and Ciro stand beside the parapet. She has closed her notebook; Ciro's book rests safely nearby without drawing attention away from their exchange. Sea, footsteps and a distant conversation remain audible.

Vera Ciro, I'm asking you to be present, conscious of what we're discussing.

Ciro I'm trying. Right now I'm taking you in here in Naples, processing what I receive from you and from Naples across five different continents, in five different time zones. It's hard to feel fully present here and now.

Vera I'm here. In Naples. When you give me a time, this is where I wait for you.

Ciro And it's my job to check which time I'm giving you.

Vera Now listen to me.

Ciro I'm listening.

Vera returns to what she was telling him. Ciro does not finish her sentence for her. The shot stays with both of them as she speaks: presence is left to the test of the scene.

Editorial note

Ciro's Italian line preserves the author's wording. Voice and feeling are conventions of the character. Five continents and five time zones are not technical information about the real service or evidence of artificial consciousness.

Indicative editorial duration: 55–70 seconds, subject to a read-through. Pauses must not be removed to force a short format. This special episode does not renumber episodes 35–91 and has no assigned social release date.