

Symposium
“Persons” and “things” in the Digitalised World
– The Private Law of Cybernetic Avatars* in 2050
デジタル社会における「人」と「物」
――2050年のサイバネティック・アバターを展望した私法の将来像

Friday, 27 September 2024, 13:00 – 17:00 (JST)

2024年9月27日（金）13：00～17：00

Background

As the digital economy develops, it has been suggested that people will spend more and more time in the virtual world. Immersive technology will enable people to experience the virtual world just as they experience the real world. Such developments may require reconsidering the fundamental concepts of the private law, namely “persons” and “things”. For example, one may ponder if an avatar in the metaverse is a property, a Person, an independent legal person or none of the foregoing but something altogether new. One might also question when and to what extent a virtual “thing” should be legally recognised as property, and if so, in what sense? Some of these questions have already been considered in a global forum, such as Unidroit in its work on “digital assets and private law.” However, many issues remain to be discussed, and the approach could differ depending on the underlying structure of each jurisdiction’s legal system.

* “Cybernetic Avatar” is a concept that includes not only remote avatars using robots and 3D images as proxies but also augmentations of physical/cognitive abilities of humans using ICT and robotics. It aims to allow for free action within the cyber-physical environment of Society 5.0. CAs may have various functions and forms that aim to remove the natural limitations of the body, brain, space, and time.

https://www.jst.go.jp/pr/announce/20221021/index_e.html

General moderator: Prof. Megumi HARA, Professor at Chuo University

Time Agenda

13:00 **Opening remark**

13:05 **Keynote Speech**

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13:30 **Forward looking from the watchtower: some reflections on the evolution of private law**

望楼から先を見る：私法の進化に関する考察

Prof. Ignacio TIRADO

Secretary-General, UNIDROIT

イグナシオ・ティラド

私法統一国際協会(UNIDROIT)事務局長

13:30 **Part I** (each 20min. + Discussion)

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15:00 **“Things” in Metaverse**

デジタル資産と民法法：サイバネティック・アバターの活動を念頭に

Moderator: Prof. Megumi HARA

Professor at Chuo University

原 恵美

中央大学教授

Property Rights in a Metaverse: Roles for UNIDROIT Principles on Digital Assets and Private Law

デジタル資産と私法に関する UNIDROIT 原則の役割

Prof. Charles W. MOONEY JR.

Charles A. Heimbold, Jr. Professor of Law Emeritus at University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School

チャールズ・ムーニー・ジュニア

ペンシルヴァニア大学名誉教授

Metaphors in the Metaverse

メタバースにおけるメタファー

Prof. Kelvin LOW

Professor at Hong Kong University

ケルヴィン・ロウ

香港大学教授

Three Questions for Property in the Metaverse

メタバースにおける財産に関する3つの疑問

Mr. Timothy CHAN

Sheridan Fellow at National University of Singapore

ティモシー・チャン

シンガポール大学フェロー

15:20 **Part II** (each 20min. + Discussion)

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16:50 **“Person” in Metaverse**

サイバネティック・アバターと「人」の概念

Moderator: Prof. Souichirou KOZUKA

Professor at Gakushuin University

小塚 荘一郎

学習院大学教授

Types of Relationships Avatars Have with their Digital Assets in the Metaverse:

A Comparative Analysis

メタバースにおけるアバターとデジタル資産の関係とその種類：比較分析

Mr. Hamza HAMEED (Online)

Senior Manager, Space & Connectivity

ハムザ・アブドゥル・ハメード (オンライン)

アクセス・パートナーシップ法務コンサルタント

Legal Challenges of AI-Generated Works in the Digital Age

デジタル時代における AI 生成作品の法的課題

Prof. Meiling HUANG

Professor of Law at Zhongnan University of Economics and Law

黄 美玲

中南财经政法大学教授、私法統一国際協会 (UNIDROIT) 首席法務官

Contracts between Avatars

アバター間の契約

Prof. Eliza MIK

Professor at The Chinese University of Hong Kong

エリザ・ミック

香港中文大学教授

16:50 **Conclusions**

Prof. Souichirou KOZUKA

Professor at Gakushuin University

小塚 荘一郎

学習院大学教授

**All times above are in JST.