

COME CLOSER (or not)

The prosthetics for greeting and passing

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Come Closer (or not) is a set of flexi-social prosthetics that help users express their openness to social engagement in public spaces. The first prosthetic features a graphic T-shirt with axes encapsulating ranges of emotion related to social-readiness. It comes with a pin that the wearers can move around on the axes to show their mood of the day and whether they want to socialize at all. The second prosthetic is a ridiculously long scarf with expressive hands that can be sculpted to gesture various social attitudes on behalf of its wearers.

The project takes inspiration from the frameworks of critical disability studies and participatory art to rethink how the social etiquette of greeting can promote or pressure human interaction in public spaces. The project adopts a critique vs. repair lens to explore how design can provoke conversation and humor us to think about alternative solutions.

Which one do you think is the *repair* and which one do you think is the *critique*?

