



FLEX-N-FEEL

Clara L.M.P. Coelho

clara.lealmacedopirescoelho@tilburguniversity.edu

Original Paper:

Singhal, S., Neustaedter, C., Ooi, Y. L., Antle, A.N., & Matkin, B. (2017). Flex-N-Feel: The Design and Evaluation of Emotive Gloves for Couples to Support Touch Over Distance. *Proceedings of the Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing.*

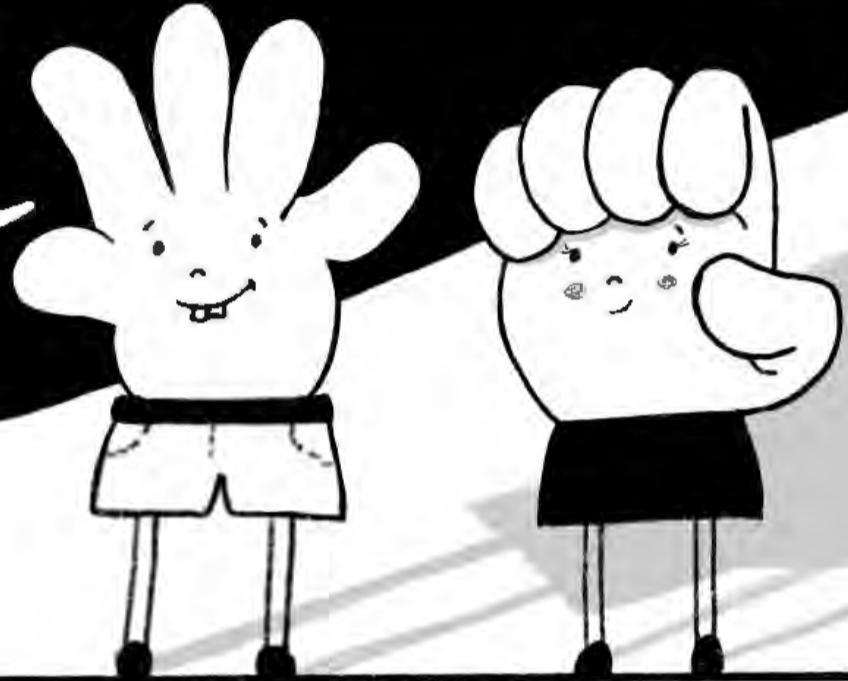
<https://dl.acm.org/doi/abs/10.1145/2998181.2998247>

Comic by Clara L.M.P. Coelho

FLEX-N-FEEL

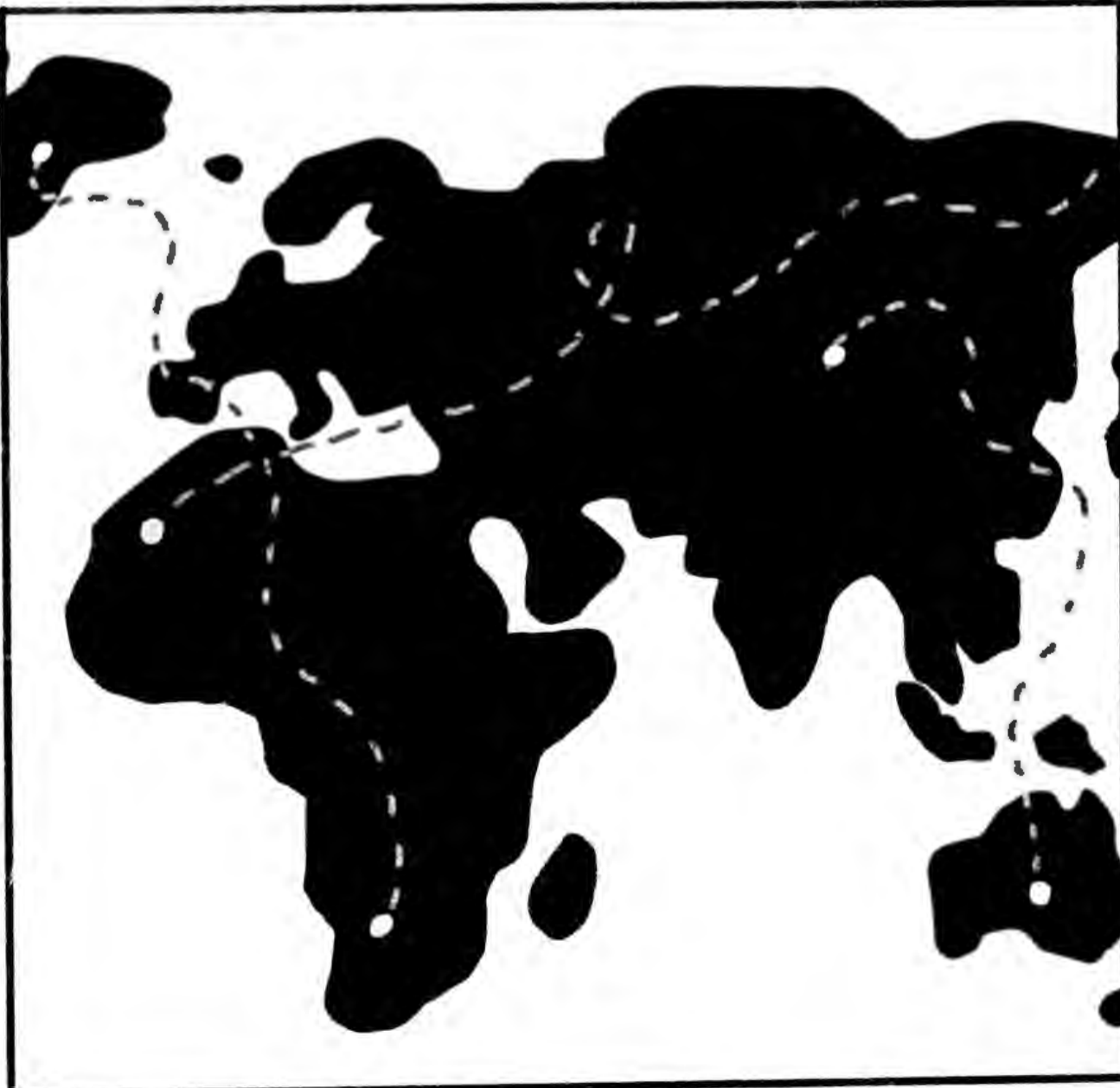
Study by Singhal, S., Neustaedter, C., Ooi, Y. L., Antle, A.N. & Matkin B.

Hey there! Welcome! I'm **Flex** and that is **Feel**. In this comic we'll tell you a bit about our story!

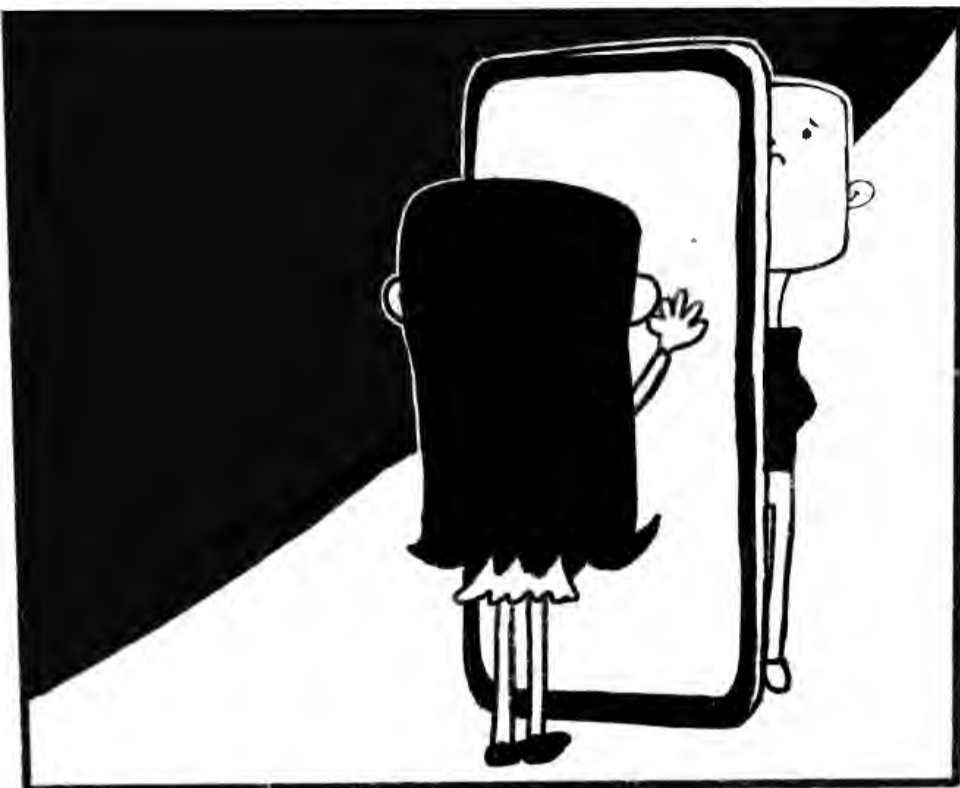


Our creators realized that more and more couples are **separated by distance** due to careers, study-related obligations and frequent travel

Video communication technologies are a popular tool for long distance couples, because they stimulate face to face conversation over distance...



...but they do not allow partners to experience the **sensation of a physical touch**



Other creators like ours have **experimented** to understand how they can help couples feel closer together



Some even developed tools that allow couples to touch from a distance by making use of implicit and explicit physiological signals. Our creators however decided to create us! A pair of **interconnected gloves** that allow couples from a distance to feel each other's touch through **vibrotactile sensations!**

When I move, Feel feels! When my wearer bends my fingers, vibrations appear in Feel's fingers!



After developing us, our creators decided to **test** us!

LAB ROOM

THINGS THEY WANTED TO EXPLORE:

✓ What **design characteristics** are important for facilitating a sense of touch between remote partners when using vibrotactile gloves?

✓ How do couples **use** a vibrotactile glove for supporting touch?



✓ How do **video** and **audio** connections support or hinder the use of vibrotactile gloves?

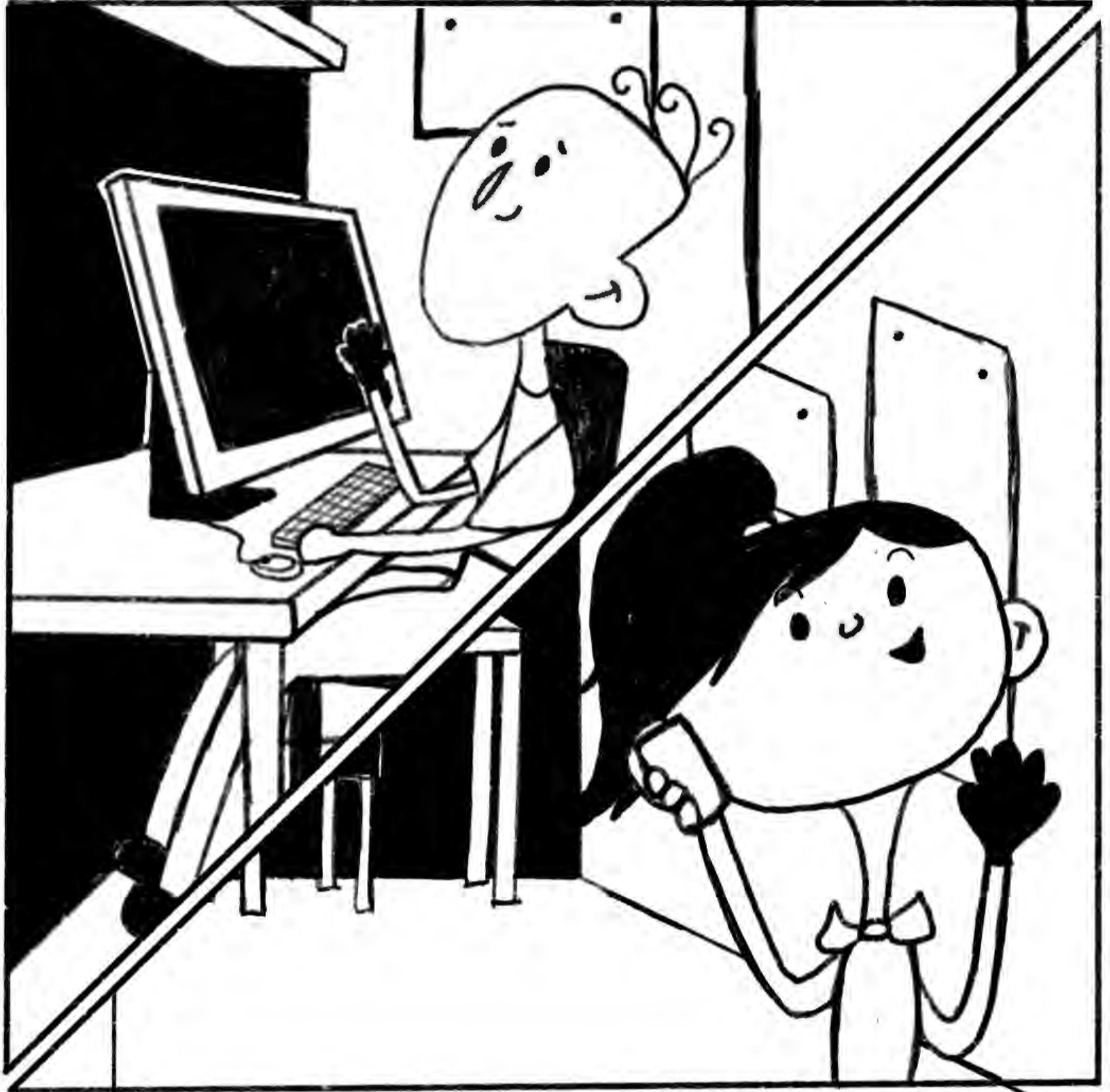


Couples with ages between **20 and 40 years old** came into the lab and tested us! (it was so exciting)

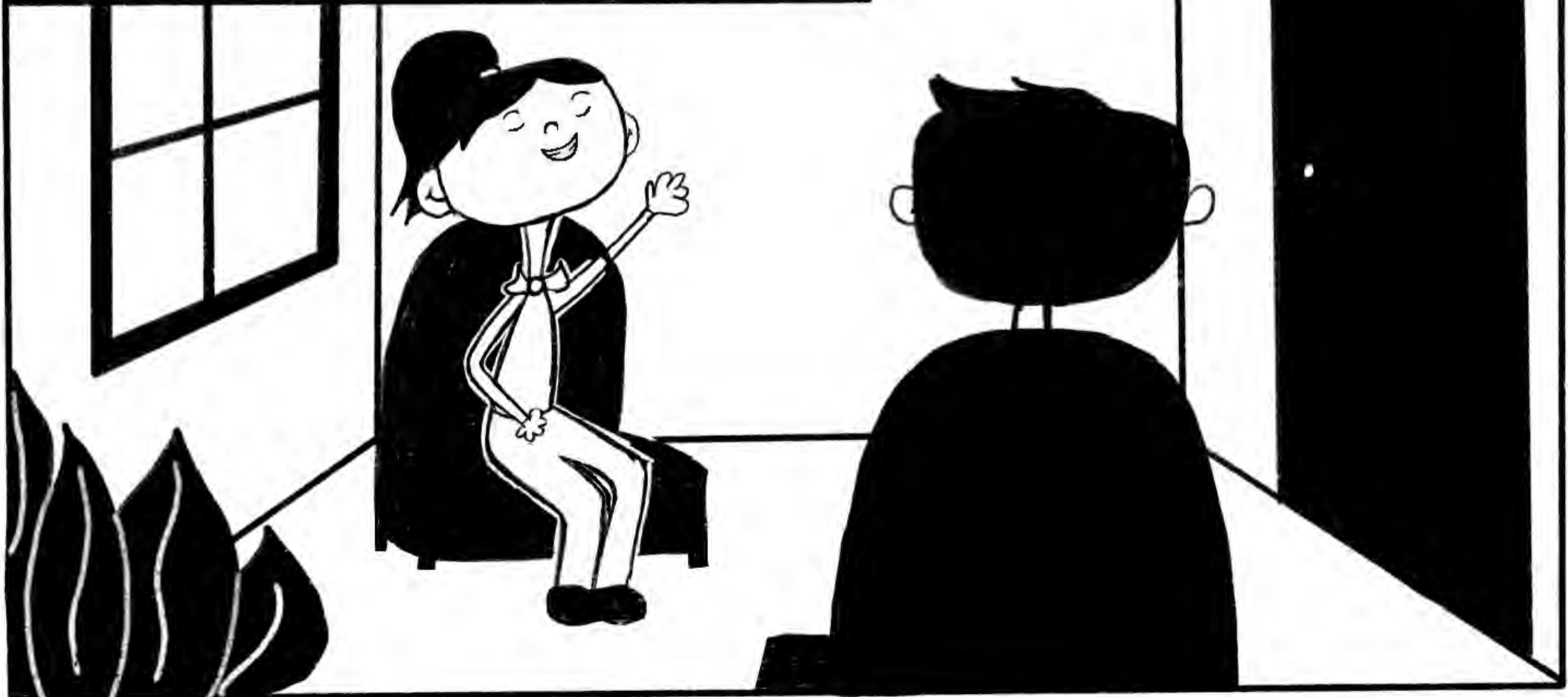


EXPERIMENT
ONGOING
DO NOT
COME IN
EXPERIMENT
ONGOING
DO NOT
COME IN
EXPERIMENT
ONGOING
DO NOT
COME IN
EXPERIMENT
ONGOING
DO NOT
COME IN
EXPERIMENT
ONGOING
DO NOT

Couples used us during 10 minutes with a video call and 10 minutes with a phone call



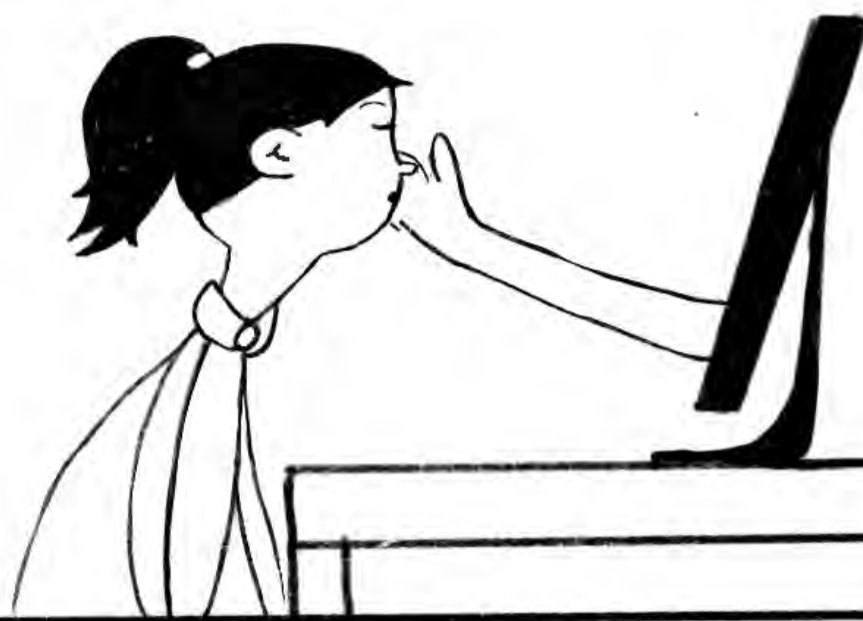
After the couples played with us, our creators had an interview with them separately



Overall, the couples enjoyed us! They **preferred** to play with us with a **video call** rather than a phone call



They felt a **stronger sense of presence** and more emotionally connected

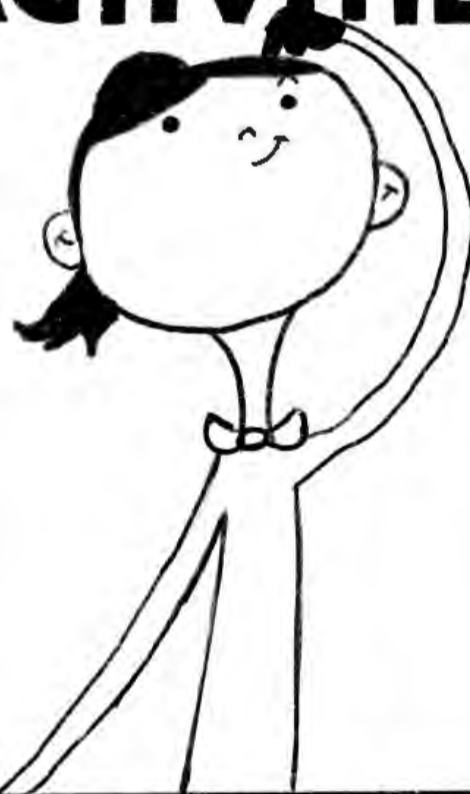


Participants used us to support:

**SHARED
ACTIONS**



**PLAYFUL
ACTIVITIES**



**INTIMATE
TOUCHES**



So this is our story! Couples really enjoyed us! But our creators still have some work to do! We can't wait to live in couples' homes and heighten their relationship with our vibrotactile sensations!

