

Connecting Scientists in a more Remote World

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Collaboration in Science & HEP

Collaboration: [noun] the action of **working with someone** to produce something

Working together requires exchanging knowledge, and uses all available media: verbal, written, visual, etc.

But are they all as effective ?

Are there other aspects to collaboration, such as, e.g., **how well the collaborators know each other** ?

The Power of Networking

Networking is a process of **building relationships**, and the strongest relationships are built over time. Having a **good network will help identify interesting and relevant opportunities**.

This is why there are plenty of career-development events focusing on networking.

But can we network as effectively online as in-person ? **What about the “human” aspects** (e.g., social cues) **of our interactions ?**

It's often said that the greatest ideas are born over a drink: **can they also be born over ZOOM ?**

Getting to Know Each Other (as Humans)

In online meetings and workshops, more senior or well-known members of a community often (though luckily not always) take a large fraction of speech time, with younger or newer members remaining quieter.

Would this be any different if people knew each other more? Does it help when newcomers or younger members of our community get to talk informally, rather than in “official” (and often recorded) meetings ?

Are/were there enough online socialising opportunities during the pandemic ?

How can socialising happen online ? Do we allocate enough time for it ?

Various solutions exist: ATLAS ECSB “Meet & Eat”, ad-hoc departmental setups

But are they enough, and can we do more ?

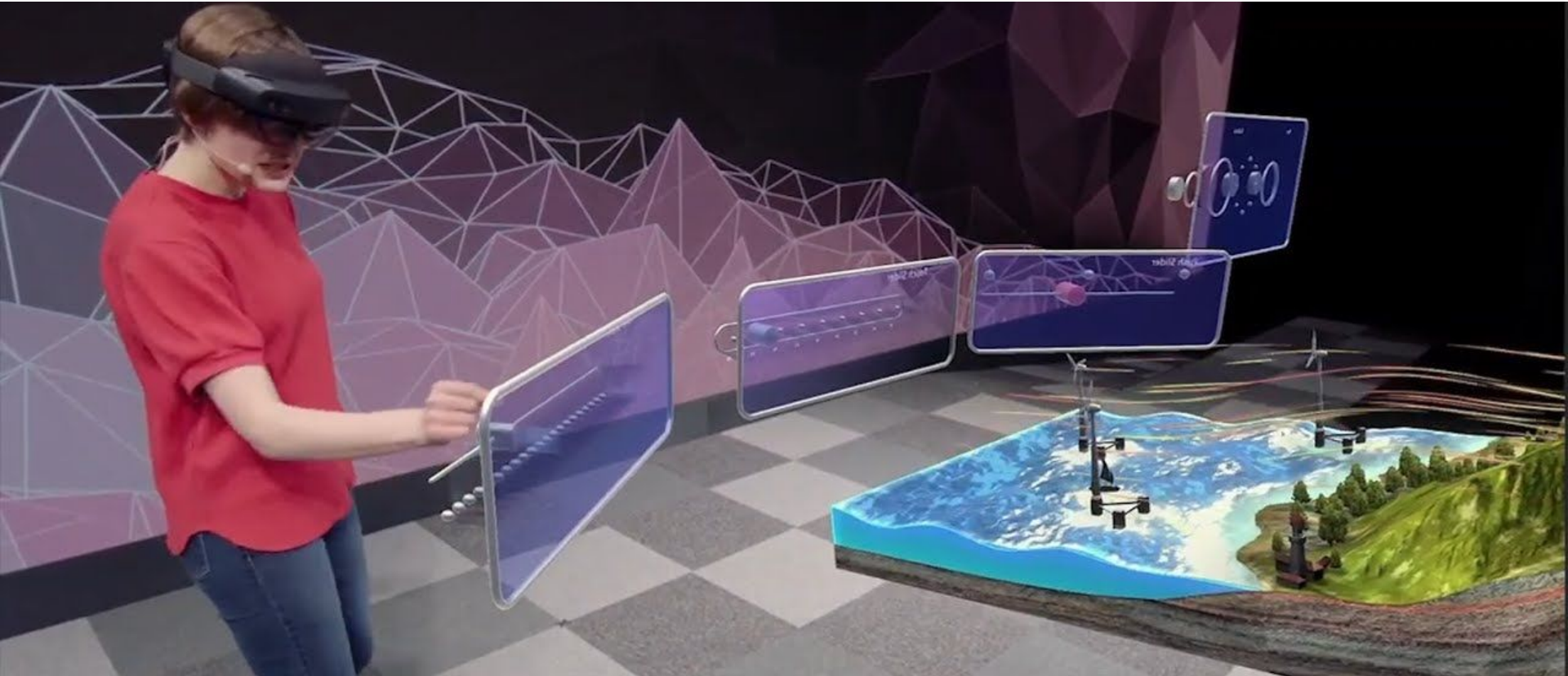
Getting to Know Each Other Virtually

Is this the future ?



Getting to Know Each Other Virtually

Is VR the solution ? (Or even: is it around the corner?)



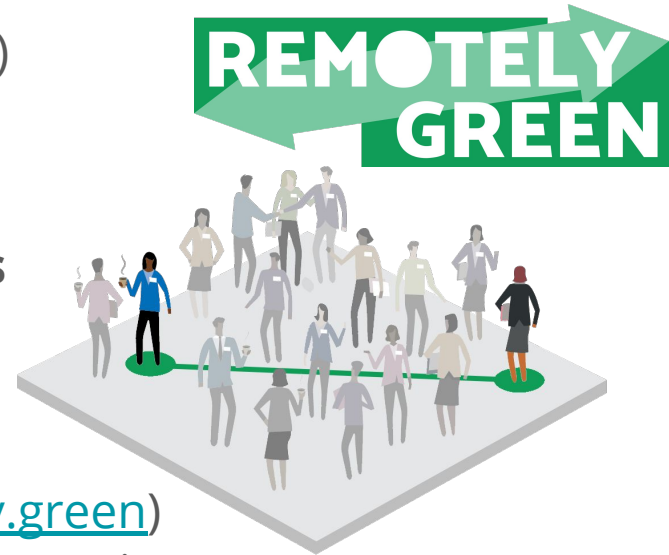
Getting to Know Each Other Virtually

What is available know ?

Traditional video-conferencing systems (e.g. ZOOM) allow for a limited form of social interaction.

But often, the room sizes or the need to pre-assign people to rooms makes it awkward: **spontaneity is missing!**

Platforms such as RemotelyGreen (<https://remotely.green>) or Gather (<https://gather.town/>) can give some spontaneity to encounters (though they still need to be scheduled).



Gather

Summary and Outlook

Making HEP (and other fields) sustainable will require reducing travel and thus (non-local) in-person meetings. **Thus, (live) networking will happen online.**

How can we mitigate this ? How to remain connected as a community ?

Exciting technological breakthroughs are ahead of us, but we already have today some options to use, and we should use these more to build bridges within and across (sub-)files, and **not wait the next in-person meeting!**

Remote work is here to stay, let's make the best use of it!

Abstract

Whether because of the COVID-19 pandemic or because of the desire to reduce our carbon footprint, HEP has had even more remote meetings than we previously had.

Students and younger members of our collaborations, who haven't yet built a strong network within the field because this is typically done locally or through in-person meetings, are overwhelmingly feeling isolated and unable to build up a network and grow.

We discuss ways to alleviate this and ensure that our community offers enough opportunities to network and build up collaborations.