

RECONNECT 2020

Remote Conference on New Concepts in Particle Theory

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IPPP Durham

Remote Conference on Novel Concepts in Particle Theory

RECONNECT

25.5.2020 - 29.5.2020

Motivation

- IPPP is UK's national centre for particle phenomenology



To support and stimulate the particle physics community through an active programme of workshops, schools and conferences

- New conference, designed and implemented during pandemic



~ 6 weeks from intend to deed

- Conference specifically focused on theory community

Aims

- Exploit benefit of remote workshops over in-person workshop
 - Reconnect the theory community at end of pandemic ;-)) through the latest and hottest ideas
 - be as inclusive as possible amongst target group (time table, access to conference, advertisement)
 - Invite speakers who might be difficult to get else
 - Since remote conferences are going to stay, learn dos and donts to prepare IPPP

Access to conference

- Zoom webinar (3k participants) – thanks to Durham University
- All talks video recorded and publicly provided for 3 weeks
thanks to all speakers

Advertising

please follow for future events

- Through social media:

Twitter



@IPPP_Durham

Facebook



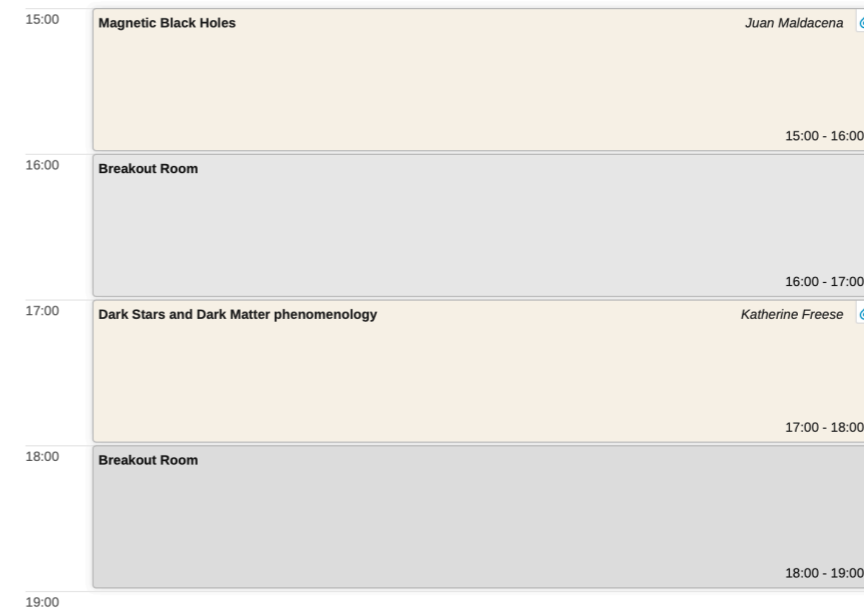
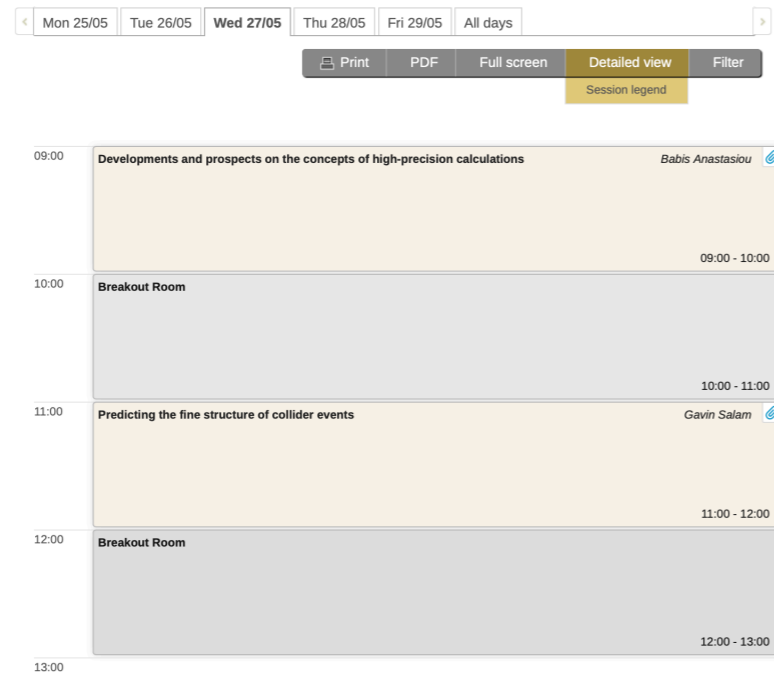
IPPP Alumni
individual staff accounts

- Through CERN-TH-World and LPCC
- Through targeted emails to colleagues

thanks to friends and
colleagues at CERN-TH

Timetable

- Only 2 talks in the morning and afternoon (UK time), to make it accessible for eastern and western timezones



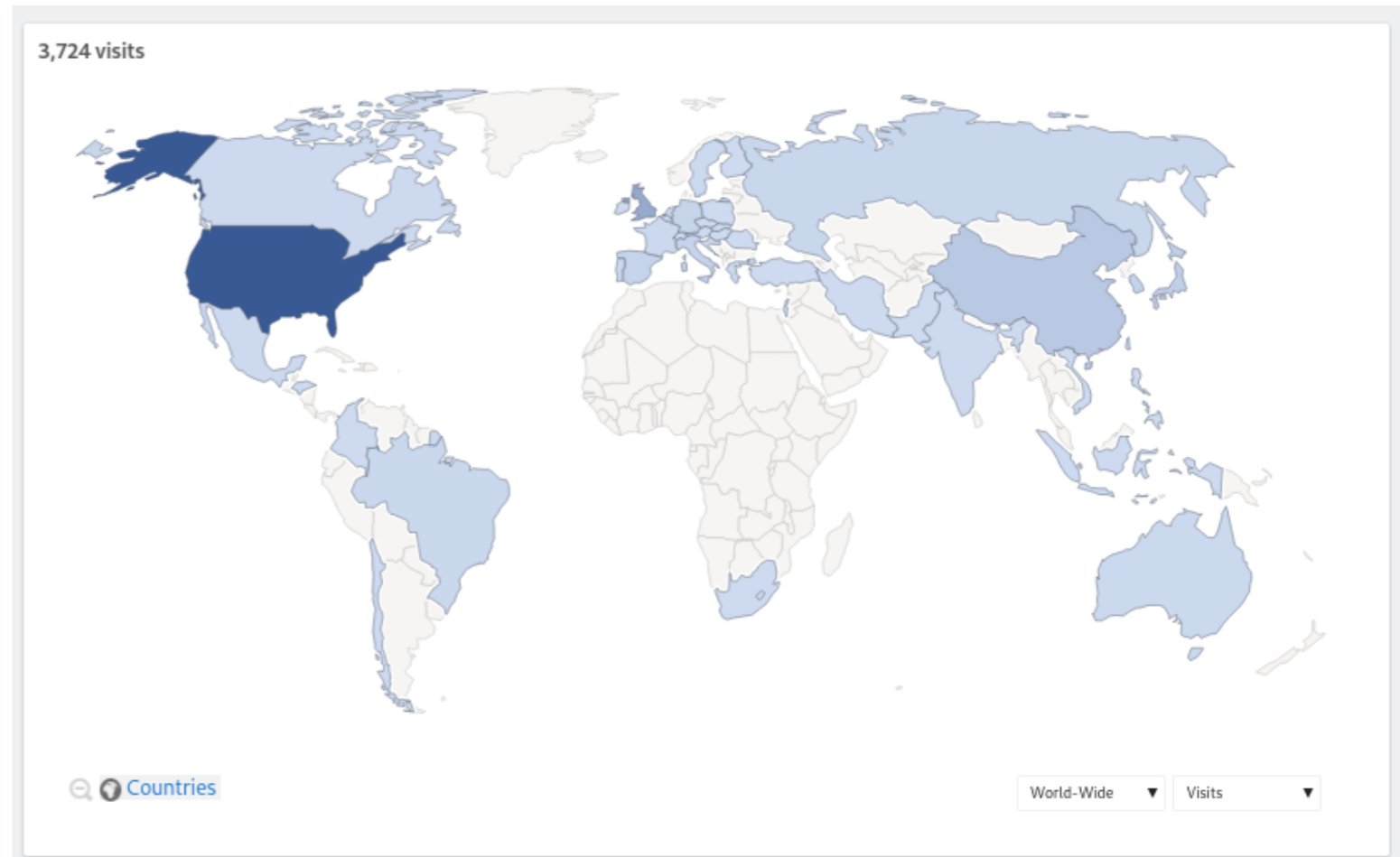
- Steep learning curve during meeting



Upon request from participants we introduced breakout rooms that were monitored and maintained. Speakers were kind to join!

RECONNECT was a global event:

Country	Individual IPs
United States	1,924
United Kingdom	684
China	253
Japan	154
South Korea	98
Italy	93
Spain	81
Germany	78
Russia	50
Unknown	50
Brazil	32
France	26
Australia	22
Taiwan	21
Canada	18
India	17
Croatia	13
Portugal	12
Mexico	10
Netherlands	10



> 3k individual IPs, > 15k connections

We are grateful to all the speakers who have made this an unique event:

Babis Anastasiou (ETH), Nima Arkani-Hamed (IAS), Christine Davies (Glasgow), Andre de Gouvea (Northwestern), John Ellis (KCL), Katherine Freese (Texas), Yuval Grossman (Cornell), Lavinia Heisenberg (ETH), Rocky Kolb (Chicago), Juan Maldacena (IAS), John March-Russell (Oxford), Hitoshi Murayama (IPMU), Gilad Perez (Weizmann), Serguey Petcov (SISSA), Maxim Pospelov (Minnesota), Lisa Randall (Harvard), Gavin Salam (Oxford), Gerard 't Hooft (Utrecht)

Opportunities and Challenges of Remote Conferences/Meetings

- Pros:
- ❖ More accessible and inclusive for participants and speakers
 - ❖ More eco friendly
 - ❖ Less expensive
 - ❖ Faster and easier to organise

- Cons:
- Attendance high, but attention low (“zoomed out”)
 - Collaborative science is fundamentally a social endeavour that requires in-person interactions
(less important for established/formalised collaborations, but crucial for developing collaborations)
 - Personal impression will affect hiring decisions and source collaborations.
 - Travelling can be perceived as inherent benefit of our field

Currently I do not see a format that allows to rid the - while keeping the +