

A virtual conference with social interactions?

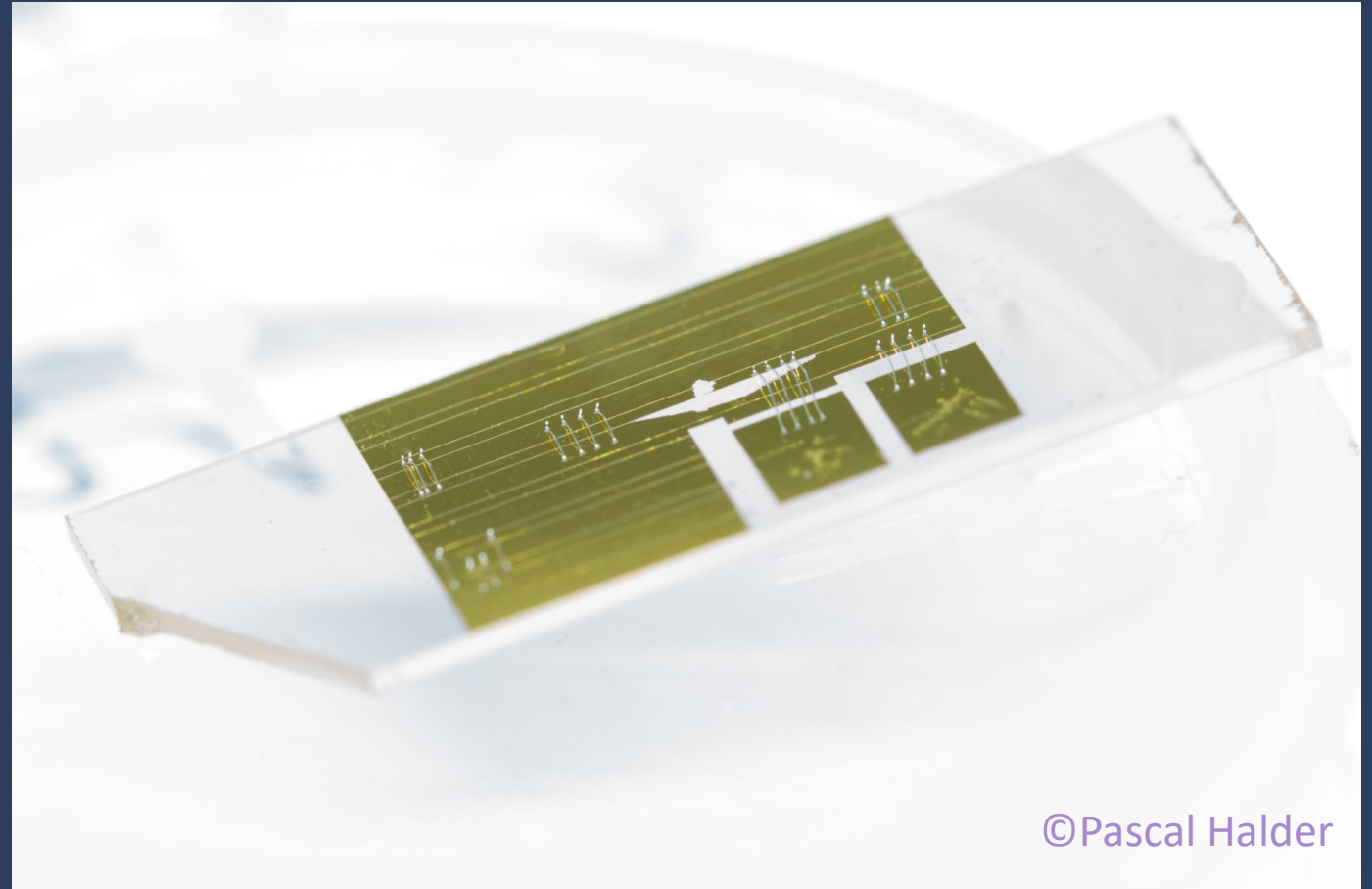
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©Pascal Halder

Pohl, D. et al. An Integrated Broadband Spectrometer on Thin-Film Lithium Niobate. *Nature Photonics* **2020**, *14* (1).

History & Mission of the Photonics Online Meetup POM

September 2019 : chat on Twitter, Slack created, 7 founders/organizers



In addition to exchanging state-of-the-art information to the photonics community, POM has a larger overarching mission:

- improve accessibility of conference attendance
- reduce carbon footprint of conference travel
- reduce burden on family of conference travel
- reduce the cost of conference participation
- reduce physical interactions in case of a pandemic
- propose a different online experience : real and virtual reality hubs

The Format of POM

Conference in LIVE (single session)

- 5.30 hours conference online in a single session
- 3 sessions of 1.30 hours: 1 invited talks (25+5), 3-4 contributed talks (15+3)
- 15 minutes break between the sessions



3 editions: #POM20ja, #POM20ju, #POM21ja

- 1000 possible attendees and the registrations were close by!
- We had 100 / 250 submissions for 15 slots ;-(

The extended Format of POM

The Twitter/ Wechat poster session

- go for a poster session
- How ?
 - on Twitter, 3 days before the conference
 - special format : 4 images
 - started at 9am local time : 1 tweet every 5 minutes at high traffic!
 - @photonicsmeetup retweeted or emailed to us and tweeted directly

Matteo Gardella @gardella_matteo

We demonstrate an effective route for ultra-broadband photon harvesting in large area 2D-MoS₂ by conformal growth on periodic nanostructured substrates
 @UniGenova @fisipolimi @IMM_Agrate @PhotonicsMeetup #POM21ja #POM21meta #PhDlife #AcademicTwitter

11:35 AM · Jan 11, 2021 · Twitter Web App

3 Retweets 22 Likes

POM Tweet your reply Reply

CioPujol @jose_op · Jan 12
 Replying to @gardella_matteo @UniGenova and 3 others
 Nice work!
 Small question: it seems to me like the extinction of A is lower than B. Being used to PL studies on ML, this came as a surprise to me. Is it because you are in the few-layer regime? In that case, wouldn't the dichroism scale down with thickness?

Matteo Gardella @gardella_matteo · Jan 12
 Thanks!
 A extinction indeed is lower, compatibly with CVD-grown MoS₂. Absorption and emission are different processes, I guess that relaxation mechanisms may occur enhancing lower energy A exciton emission.

Virtual reality poster Hub of POM²

- A virtual hub room prepared in advance
- People can log in and 'walk in' the room
- The sound changes when you come close to avatars



Photonics Online Meetup
@PhotonicsMeetup

Announcing the first-ever photonic poster session in a virtual-reality environment! In addition to the Twitter poster session, we will also have smaller breakout poster sessions in @MozillaHubs. Join the poster session organised by @mickeykats @sejeong85 and @nanouschi! #pom2



5:35 PM · May 5, 2020 · Twitter Web App

|| View Tweet activity

23 Retweets 90 Likes



Mikhail Kats @mickeykats · May 5

Replying to @PhotonicsMeetup @MozillaHubs and 2 others

For details and instructions on how to test out the platform in advance, please see: photoniconlinemeetup.org/poster-session/



Virtual reality poster Hub of POM²



Gather.town



Photonics Online Meetup
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What is a POM hub?

It is a place where students and researchers interested in optics can gather to watch POM as a group, creating local communities. POM-hubs have been very successful, to become the soul of the first POM.

How to?

1. Reserve a conference room or similar room that can seat a medium size group
2. **Register** for the event on behalf of the group/hub.
3. Act as the point of contact for people interested in joining your hub
4. Stream the event from a computer (e.g. your laptop, a computer in the room)

Some hubs are being hosted by student chapters (e.g. OSA, SPIE, IEEE, APS/EPS) and providing food/drinks for attendees. This is entirely optional.


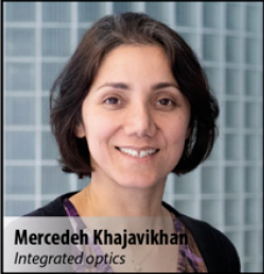

The POM Hub at ETH Zurich

ETH **POM** Photonics Online Meetup **OSA** The Optical Society

ETH Optics Chapter & Optical Nanomaterial Group (ONG) present:
The first all-online Photonics conference

When: Monday, January 13th @ 20:00 - 01.00
Where: <https://sites.usc.edu/pom/> -- Totally Free


Invited Speakers

 Mete Atatüre Nanoscale quantum optics	 Mercedeh Khajavikhan Integrated optics	 Nader Engheta Optical materials
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and many more...

Want to share the experience with colleagues?? Join us!!

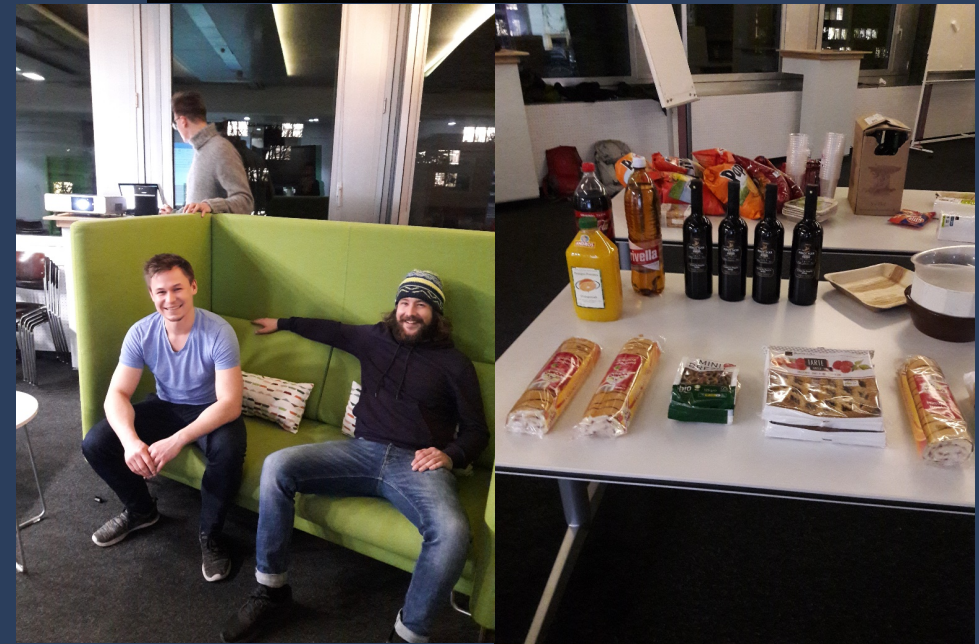
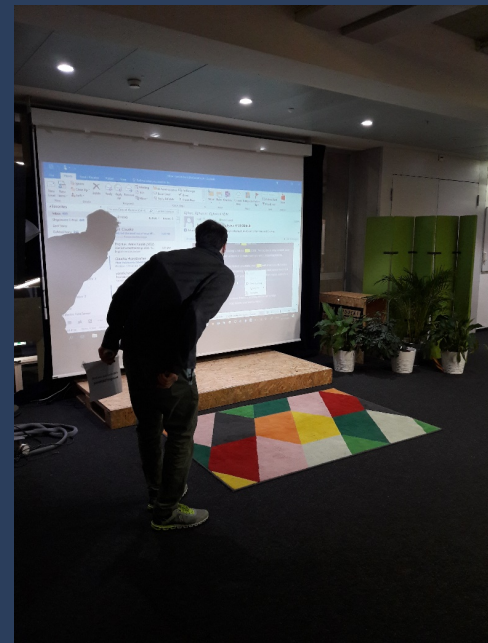

Conference Viewing Hub

 **Student Project House**

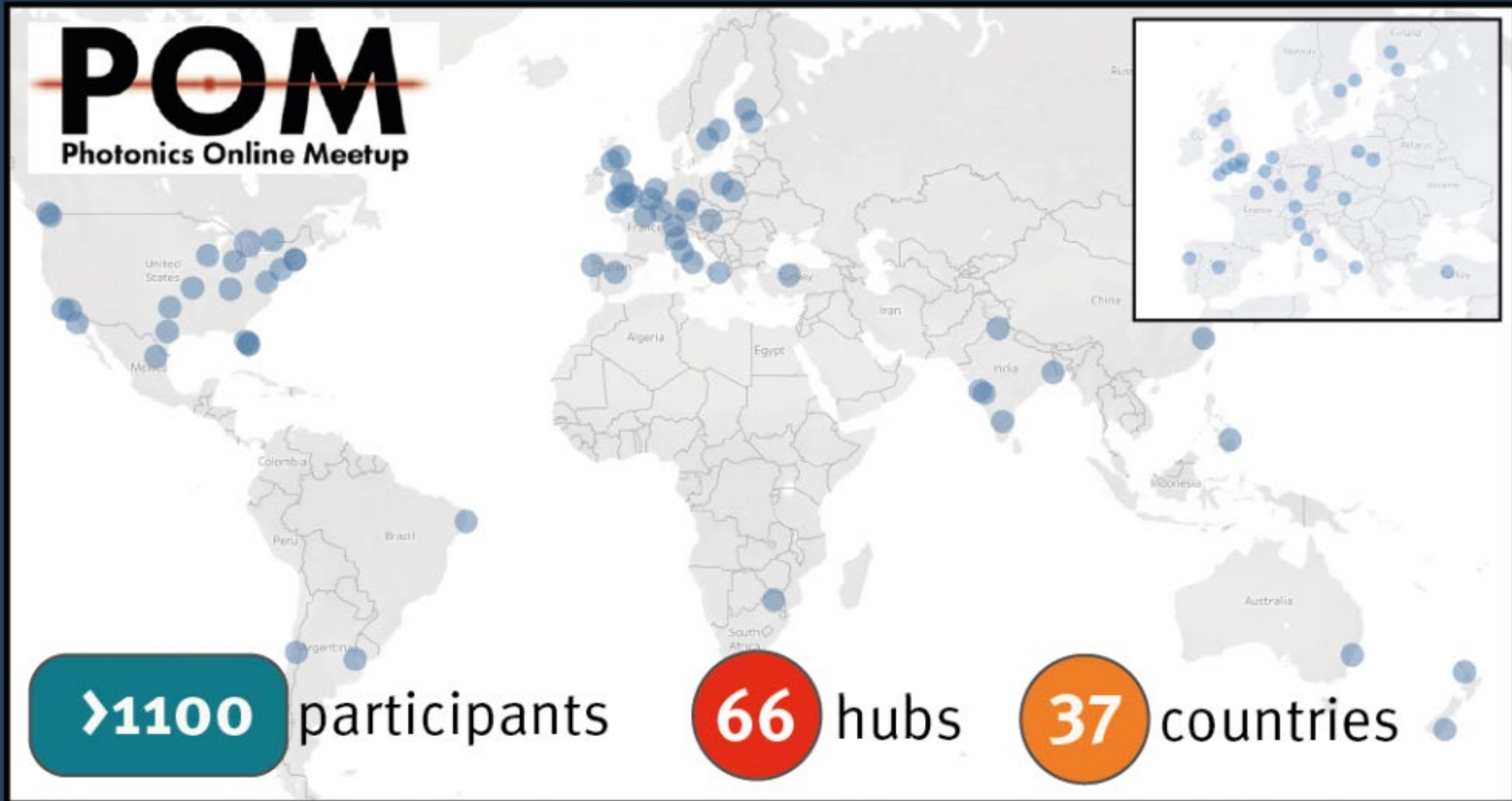
Where: HPZ F-Floor,
John-von-Neumann-Weg 9
ETH Hönggerberg

FREE drinks & snacks!!!

For more information: <https://sites.usc.edu/pom/> and
Twitter: @PhotonicsMeetup





>1100 attendees with >600 at Hubs



The hubs : local meeting rooms with 5-80 people



Conferences affiliated with POM

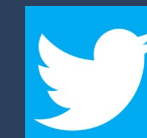
Conference	Dates	Focus	Contact
	Sept 10-11, 2020	Belgian photonics community	Website
	Dec 4, 2020	Canadian photonics community	Website
	Mar 1-5, 2021	Machine learning for quantum physics	Website
	May 16-18, 2021	Advanced micro- and nanofabrication of photonic devices	Website Twitter LinkedIn

How to organize an online conference

Orad Reshef¹, Igor Aharonovich², Andrea M. Armani³, Sylvain Gigan⁴, Rachel Grange⁵, Mikhail A. Kats⁶ and Riccardo Sapienza⁷

The first online-only meeting in photonics, held on 13 January 2020, was a resounding success, with 1100 researchers participating remotely to discuss the latest advances in photonics. Here, the organizers share their tips and advice on how to organize an online conference.

Nature Review Materials 5, 253 (2020) and on the Arxiv



@PhotonicsMeetup

2 weeks ago in Corsica
Metasurfaces Workshop



Harry Collins is a science sociologist at the University of Cardiff, **Bill Barnes** is a physicist at Exeter Univeristy and **Riccardo Sapienza** is a physicist at Imperial College London e-mail

‘We need to travel less, and of course, take advantage of what online has to offer and seek to improve it. But the new enthusiasm for virtual meetings must not turn the current short-term successes into a long-term disaster. For areas that are well established there is perhaps less danger for a shift to an online world, but for those that involve **much disagreement and passion**, face-to-face will be the only way to propel the science forward.’



Helena Weigand, Best Poster Award

Some Technicalities and Feedbacks

- IT support is KEY
- Sounds is VERY important: wear an headset
- Backup for the chairs in case of failure
- Time zones: 3 POM per year (Americas, Europe-Asia, Asia-Ocenaia)

Why people liked POM ?

- It was live and concentrates
- The hubs fostered local communities
- It was free
- It was high quality talks (similar as international conference in our field)

What was improved at POM2 ?

- We added applause to talks
- We put some slides with music at the breaks

Still to be improved

- A way to ask questions from the audience and not just type them and be asked by the chair
- How to announce the time left to the speaker without interrupting