

Newsletter: Corona Edition

Since a few months, the world lives at the rhythm of the Covid-19 outbreak. This situation induces a large number of changes in the academic agenda. Conferences and events are cancelled or postponed in order to protect the attendees from being contaminated. In the light of the recent evolution of the situation, it is very likely that most of the meetings will be moved after the summer.

This situation brings a number of new challenges to face in both industry and academia. How to contact customers and students? How to organise a home-working routine? How to keep up with colleagues and tasks? This newsletter will be a little different. Instead of the usual agenda and publications, read about the delayed and cancelled events, learn more about tools to make working remote easier and get info about the academic studies on Covid-19 and SARS-CoV-2.

Finally, read about a couple of ways to spend your Coronavirus outbreak isolation period with a Corona Extra Cocktail!

We hope to meet you all in conferences soon enough!

Board's Highlights

WORKING

While a lot of people working from home at the moment, we prepared some remote working tools for you to try!

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FUN

Get to know some online games you could play with friends to stay connected and also try the Corona Cocktails.

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News



International Year of Sound Coronavirus Update

15th March 2020

In view of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the IYS 2020 Steering Committee has made the following decisions:

1. Extend the celebration of the IYS 2020 into the year 2021. This means that events originally scheduled for the 2020 can be rescheduled for the 2021 and still be part of the IYS 2020 celebration. This will also give the flexibility for the organizers of events yet to schedule to plan the event for 2021.

2. Ask the organizers of the events proposed to celebrate the IYS 2020 to respect the measures and restrictions issued by the WHO and the Health Authorities in their own countries and where necessary reschedule the already planned events and conferences.

3. Postpone the deadlines for the submission of the proposals for the students competition to the end of the year 2020. The evaluation of the proposals will be done in the beginning of the 2021 and the announcement of the winners will be in 2021 in association with a major international acoustics meeting in 2021.

4. Cancel the plans for the ICA summary/overview event of the IYS 2020 which was to be scheduled during the 2020 ASA November meeting in Cancun and reschedule for a suitable international meeting in 2021.

sound2020.org/news/coronavirus/



Sound Level Data Collection During COVID-19

The AIA started a collaborative project to get information about the environmental noise during the quarantine period. They developed an app called OpeNoise and an Excel data-sheet to collect data.

Further information (in Italian) can be found here:

acustica-aia.it/covid-19-foglio-calcolo-openoise

CoViD19/SARS-CoV-2 literature review

reacting.inserm.fr/literature-review/thelancet.com/coronavirus

Cancelled and Postponed Events



April 2020

23rd - 26th — USA Science and Engineering Festival: International Year of Sound booth. Edmonton, Canada. **Postponed**



28th - 30th — International Sound Week 2020 Tucumán, Argentina. **Postponed**



29th — Workshop on International Noise Awareness Day. Singapore. **Postponed**



29th — INAD BR — 25th International Noise Awareness Day, Brazil. **Postponed**



29th — Hagamos ruido contra el ruido. Mexico. **Postponed**



May 2020

3rd - 6th — **BNAM 2020** — The Baltic-Nordic Acoustics Meeting. Oslo, Norway. **Postponed to 2021**



13th — Hands-on Workshop: Wiki4YearOfSound2020. **Postponed**



26th - 28th — **SHA 2020** — The Baltic-Nordic Acoustics Meeting. Leba, Poland. **Postponed**



Cancelled and Postponed Events



June 2020

20th - 26th — **SMC 2020** — 17th Sound and Music Computing Conference. Turin, Italy.
Postponed to 2021



23rd - 26th — IV Ecoacoustics Congress. Ubrino, Italy. **Postponed**



July 2020

12th - 16th — **ICSV 27** — The 27th International Congress on Sound and Vibration.
Prague, Czech Republic. **Postponed to July 2021**



September 2020

15th - 18th — Feicon Batimat & ProAcústica activities for the International Year of Sound.
São Paulo, Brazil.
Rescheduled from 1st of April



23rd - 25th — 47th Conference of the Acoustical Society of Italy. Matera, Italy.
Rescheduled from 27th - 29th of May



October 2020

14th — Hear for Tomorrow. London, United Kingdom.
Rescheduled from 8th of April



14th - 15th — **Acusti.cat 2020** — 3rd Catalan Congress of Acoustics. Sant Cugat del
Vallès, Catalonia. **Rescheduled from 28th - 29th of May**



19th - 21th — **Quiet Drones** — A Symposium on Noise from UASs/UAVs. Paris, France.
Rescheduled from 26th - 27th of May



Cancelled and Postponed Events



November 2020

9th - 13th — **ASA Fall Meeting** — Acoustical Society of America. Cancun, Mexico.
Cancelled



December 2020

8th - 12th — **ASA Spring Meeting** — Acoustical Society of America. Chicago, United States. **Rescheduled from 11-15 May 2020**



9th - 13th — **FA 2020** — Forum Acusticum. Lyon, France.
Rescheduled from 20th - 24th of April



June 2021

14th - 17th — **ICBEN 2021** — Congress on Noise as a Public Health Problem. Stockholm, Sweden. **Rescheduled from 15th -18th of June 2020**



Remote Working



Communication

Loom

Loom allows you to quickly record your screen and then share it with your colleagues. It can be more efficient than sending long slack or email messages and often you can also avoid unnecessary meetings through sending a quick loom.

In response to the COVID-19 situation, they removed video limits for all free accounts

www.loom.com

Slack

An instant messaging platform you can use to chat with your colleagues. It's added benefit compared to other messaging apps and platforms is that you can integrate a lot of external apps to it, such as Doodle for example.

slack.com

Zoom/ Jitsi/ MS Teams/ Discord

All these options are online video-conferencing platforms, with screen sharing features.

Zoom's free option only allows group calls for up to 40 mins, though the first two times are unlimited.

zoom.us

Jitsi is the video-conferencing platform that the YAN uses for their meetings.

jitsi.org

Discord acclaimed by online gaming communities, provides both text chat and audio-conferencing tools. On a given Discord server, the participants can join either audio or text channel which allows to separate discussions.

Discord is currently used by high-school and university teachers in France and elsewhere...

discordapp.com

Microsoft Teams is a cloud-based working space integrated in Office 365, designed to ease the communication and collaboration between teams of people. The participants can create several working groups, each devoted to a different topic, which is very helpful for team and project management. The main contributions of Microsoft Teams are focused on the reinforcement of collaborative tasks, allowing to have group meetings, chat, work in shared documents and plan tasks, among others.

This tool is being used by some universities during this quarantine period for online teaching.

products.office.com/en-US/microsoft-teams/group-chat-software

Remote Working



Task lists apps

Trello/Notion

Notion and Trello are both incredible tools that will help you manage the tasks of your team. Trello is great because it has an abundance of integrations through Zapier, for example. Notion, on the other hand, is incredibly useful for building out and managing an entire workspace/company dashboard with progress board, wikis, calendars, etc.

trello.com
notion.so

Todoist

A to-do list app, which can help you keep track of your to-dos over a day, week or more, when you've lost the regularity and reminders of going to work.

todoist.com

Zapier

Zapier moves info between your web apps automatically, so you can focus on your most important work. Try removing as much manual work as possible from your workflow to streamline your work. Oftentimes a simple 'zap' can save a lot of man-hours.

zapier.com

Online Courses

Some online platforms where you can find a lot of high-quality online courses offered by high-ranked universities. Some are free, and some are not. "Vous aurez l'embarras du choix".

edx.org
coursera.org

Playlists

There's a lot of work/chill playlists out there, and we're sure you've got your favourites. Here are a few of our picks. If you feel like trying something that's (maybe) a bit different, give them a try!

LoFi hip hop radio - beats to relax/study to

youtube.com/watch?v=G0se23XZClc

Video game soundtracks - made to help the player concentrate

youtube.com/watch?v=5qap5aO4igA

Remote Working



Personal Productivity

Brain FM

Brain FM offers functional music and sounds to help you focus. Also, on Tuesdays and Thursdays for March and April, they will be hosting and streaming concentration music for their Live Group Focus Sessions.

brain.fm/www.youtube.com/watch?v=G0se23XZClc

Flux

Flux adapts the color of your display to the time of day, leading to less blue light emission before you're trying to fall asleep.

justgetflux.com

Forest App

Forest can significantly improve your focus, through the Pomodoro method for example and through staying off of your phone, is Forest. Its gamified approach to deep work has proven to be successful for many.

forestapp.cc

'Do not disturb' Mode

Even though this is not technically a specific app or service, most devices have some sort of a 'do not disturb' setting that mutes all notifications. We recommend anyone who is trying to get some serious work done to turn this mode on throughout your entire deep work phase. In addition to countless emails and messages, at the moment we're also getting hit with an abundance of breaking news regarding the coronavirus almost hourly. These notifications will literally kill your focus and your productivity!

Alarmy

If you're working from home you might find it difficult to get out of bed in the morning because there is no hard deadline for you to be at a specific place. The alarm app 'Alarmy' literally forces you to get out of bed to scan a barcode, for example, in order for the alarm to turn off.

alar.my

Remote Working



Methods

Pomodoro

Named after the old-style kitchen timer shaped like a tomato (Pomodoro in Italian), Pomodoro is a time management technique based on short bursts of work. The idea is to focus on a single task for a given period (25 minutes for instance). You set a timer, work, and when the alarm rings, take a short (3- 5 minutes) break before the next burst. Every 4- 5 bursts, take a longer break.

Eat the frog

"If your job is to eat a frog, do it first thing in the morning." This quote, adapted from Mark Twain, gives very valuable advice. Consider that there is 4 kind of tasks, the ones you:

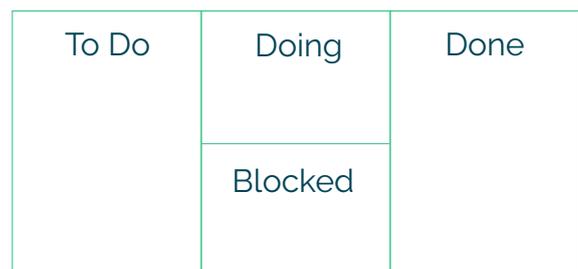
1. don't want but need to do
2. want and need to do
3. want but don't need to do
4. don't want and don't need to do

Your frogs are the tasks in group 1. Start with one or two of them every day. Drop all tasks in 4, as they will just be frustrating without reward and keep groups 2/3 for when your stamina is lower.

Kanban

Kanban is a task management technique that works best for teams with a lot of loosely coupled tasks. Grab post-its and create the following pattern on a window/wall/whaterer.

Put one post-it per task in To Do. Tasks can never move to the left and you can't put more tasks than the space available in Doing (2 for instance). To start a new task, you have to finish one of those in Doing and move it to Done. The Blocked slot is rarely included but it makes sense in research: if you're waiting for something you can't control (results from a colleague for instance) put the corresponding tasks in Blocked. When you free a spot in Doing, check first if you can take up one of the Blocked tasks before taking from To Do.



One of the key aspects of Kanban is that everyone can see the state of the work to do at a glance...

As it might be hard to find a common window or whiteboard when everyone works remote, you can use online tools for the same effect:

- Kanboard
- Trello

Games



Online games

Online games are a good way to meet friends virtually. Consider the good side of this pandemic: you now have plenty of time at home and the perfect excuse to finally try out all these games you've been dreaming about.

You can either use Valve's Steam and their impressive catalog or go for Fortnite from EpicGames. Another option is to give a shot at the offers of Humble Bundle, supporting charity and indie game studios! This last one even has a Covid-19 bundle and the profit are given to organisations fighting the virus!

steampowered.com
epicgames.com/fortnite

Skribbl

skribbl.io is a free multiplayer drawing and guessing game.

One game consists of a few rounds in which every round someone has to draw their chosen word and others have to guess it to gain points!

The person with the most points at the end of game will then be crowned as the winner!

skribbl.io

Chess

If you want to play chess.

chess.com
lichess.org

Fibbage

store.steampowered.com/app/48080/

Fibbage_XL/

Drawful 2

The team behind the hit party games Fibbage, Quiplash, and YOU DON'T KNOW JACK presents Drawful 2, the game of terrible drawings and hilariously wrong answers!

You use your phone or tablet to draw weird and funny things like "pitcher of nachos" or "death by trombone."

The other players type in what they think the (probably terrible) drawing is and those become the multiple-choice wrong answers. Then everyone - even an audience of potentially thousands - tries to guess the REAL answer.

epicgames.com/store/en-US/product/drawful-2/home

Offline Games

Yahtzee

Yahtzee is also called poker dice or is known as Kniffel in Germany.

Even though you can play Yahtzee online, it is easy (and more fun) to play offline while having a video chat with your friends. Every player just needs five dice, a pen and paper. By rolling five dice, the player aims to collect as many points as possible. There are different categories to score, for example the sum of a specified dice face, a full house or a straight.

The rules and the score sheets can be found here:

templatelab.com/yahtzee-score-sheets/

Corona Cocktails



Coronarita

Coronarita Ingredients

- Ice cubes
- Rimming salt
- 1 1/2 oz. silver tequila
- 3/4 oz. triple sec
- 3 oz. lime sour mix
- 1, 12 oz. bottle of Corona, Dos Equis, Pacifico, Tecate, Carta Blanca, Modelo or any Mexican beer

How to Make a Coronarita

1. Pour ice cubes, tequila, triple sec, and lime sour mix into a cocktail shaker.
2. Shake the mixture and strain it into a salted pint glass.
3. Quickly flip the beer upside down and place it into the drink, so it dispenses slowly as you drink your delicious Coronarita from a straw.

www.webstaurantstore.com/blog/510/mexican-car-crash-drink-recipe.html



Corojito

Corojito Ingredients

- 45 ml of White Rum
- 25 ml of Lime juice
- 5 g of Sugar
- 4 Lime Wedges
- 80 ml of Corona
- 50 g of Crushed Ice
- 5 Mint Leaves

How to Make a Corojito

1. Pour the rum, lime juice, sugar into a glass half filled with crushed ice.
2. Add the mint leaves and the lime wedges.
3. Top up with Corona and stir.
4. Garnish with a lime wedge and a spring of mint.

www.yamu.lk/recipe/corojito-the-best-of-both-worlds



Job Announcements

Research Scientists – Underwater Acoustics, National Physics Laboratory (NPL).
Teddington, England.



Principal Acoustic Consultant, SLR Consulting. London, England.



Principal Acoustic Consultant, Verde Environmental Consultants. Republic of Ireland.



Principal Acoustics Consultant, Cass Allen. Manchester, England.



Environmental Consultant (Rail), Carrington West. London, England.



NVH Simulation Engineer (Noise Vibration Harshness), Valeo. Erlangen, Germany.



Calculation Engineer, Bombardier. Vienna, Austria.



Development Engineer Digital Signal Processing, MED-EL. Innsbruck, Austria.



Development Engineer for Acoustic Sensors, MED-EL. Innsbruck, Austria.



Project Engineer Acoustics & Vibrations-Urban, TRACTEBEL. Brussels, Belgium.

