The 10th International



#### **Learning Analytics & Knowledge Conference**

Frankfurt, Germany Cyberspace

March 23-27, 2020 #LAK20











### Running an Online Conference: Insights from LAK20

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### About us



#### Vitomir Kovanovic

- Research Fellow at Education Futures, University of South Australia
- Active in Learning Analytics, Educational Technology and Online Education Research
- Secretary of the Society for Learning Analytics Research (SoLAR)
- Program Co-Chair for LAK20 conference



#### **Maren Scheffel**

- Assistant Professor at Faculty Educational Sciences, Open Universiteit
- Active in Learning Analytics, Technology-Enhanced Learning and Online Learning
- President-Elect of the Society for Learning Analytics Research (SoLAR)
- Program Co-Chair for LAK20 and LAK21 conference

### Outline of the talk

- (Very) brief description of Learning Analytics & LAK conference
- COVID-19 crisis planning
- Main challenges for moving online
- Conference restructuring
- Technical infrastructure
  - Video conferencing
  - Website
  - Communication
  - Logistics & timeline
- Areas for improvement & lessons learned
- Overall impression
- Key takeaways

### What is Learning Analytics?

**Learning Analytics** is the field focused on using digital educational data for understanding and improving student learning

Good 2 min intro to Learning Analytics <a href="https://bit.lv/whatislavideo">https://bit.lv/whatislavideo</a>



#### **Learning Analytics: definition**

"the measurement, collection, analysis and reporting of data about learners and their contexts, for purposes of understanding and optimising learning and the environments in which it occurs"

First International Conference on Learning Analytics and Knowledge (LAK11), 2011

### What is LAK?

The International Conference on Learning Analytics & Knowledge (LAK)

- Annual academic conference in Learning Analytics (LA) field, since 2011
- Proceedings published by ACM
- Top ranked conference in educational technology (per Google Scholar rankings)
- Organised by the Society of Learning Analytics Research (SoLAR) <a href="https://solaresearch.org">https://solaresearch.org</a>
- LAK20 → 10th anniversary at Frankfurt University, March 23-27, 2020
- Numbers were growing each year, for LAK20 expected over 500 attendees



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### Information in Education

#### **Learning Analytics & Knowledge Conference**

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hosted by









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### A big THANK YOU to LAK20 organising committee



Christoph Rensing



Hendrik Drachsler



Grace Lynch



Nina Seidenberg



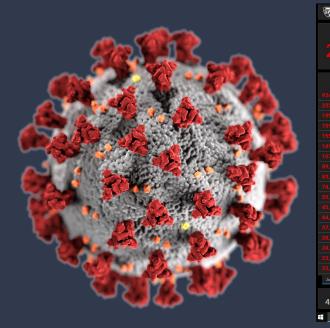
Nicole Hoover

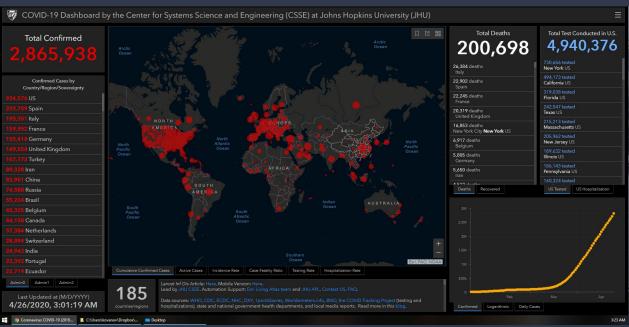
## LAK20 Conference original set-up

- 5 days
- 25 pre-conference events (+ doctoral consortium)
- 50 full research papers (30 min)
- 30 short research papers (20 min)
- 12 practitioner reports (20 min)
- 2 invited papers
- 3 keynotes
- 4 parallel tracks
- 60 posters/demos

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday					
	Pre con	ference								
7:30 AM	Registration	(Whole day)	Registration							
8:30 AM	Full Day V	Vorkshops	Welcome and opening remarks							
8:45 AM			Keynote introduction							
9:00 AM			Keynote							
10:00 AM			Morning tea							
10:30 AM	Mornin	ng tea	Concurrent sessions:	Concurrent sessions:	Concurrent sessions:					
			A. Co-designing Learning Analytics     B. Blended Learning     C. Dashboards and Visualisations	A. Collaborative Problem Solving     B. Institutional Adoption     C. Video Analytics	A. Learning Analytics Past and Future     B. Multi-modal Learning Analytics     C. MOOCs					
11:00 AM	Full Day V	Vorkshops	D. Cognitive Psychology     E. Keynote Discussion and Panel	D. Intelligent Tutoring Systems E. Keynote Discussion and Panel	D. Linking LA and Self-regulated     Learning Theory     E. Keynote Discussion and Panel					
12:00 PM				Lunch						
12:30 PM	Lur	nch								
1:00 PM			Concurrent sessions:	Concurrent sessions:	Concurrent sessions:					
			A. LA Tools & Infrastructures     B. Participatory Design of Learning Analytics	A. New Domains B. Personalised Dashboards	A. Learning Design B. Text Analytics					
1:30 PM	Full Day V	Vorkshops	C. Learning Approaches D. Community of Inquiry Model	C. Course Recommender Systems D. New Methodologies	C. LA for Mathematics Learning D. Predictive Analytics					
2:30 PM				Afternoon tea						
3:00 PM	Afterno	on tea	Concurrent sessions:	Concurrent sessions:	Closing Panel					
3:30 PM	Full Day V	A. Self-regulated Learning  B. Curriculum Analytics  C. Social Learning		A. Mining Study Strategies     B. Testing and Assessment     C. Prompts and Feedback						
4:00 PM			D. Novel Uses of Learning Analytics	Departure						
4:30 PM			Networking sessions							
5:00 PM			Poster & Demo Reception	Conference dinner at Depot 1899						

# COVID-19





### Crisis planning

For 10 months: planning a normal F2F conference

Jan-Feb: Preparing counter measures

- Registering LAK20 with Ministry of Health
- Exploring AV setup for virtual presentations
- Buying hand sanitizers and cleaning products



March: Total chaos

Multiple COVID-19 statements by the LAK20 Organisers

- February 26: still going for the F2F event
- March 6: still going for F2F plus virtual
- March 13: fully online

How do you organise an online conference for 500+ attendees and 90 presenters in 10 days?

### Researching online conferences

#### Most online conferences

- Mostly focused on a specific World region
- Typically one-day events
- Seem focused on cost-saving and coolness
- Organisers are also presenters

Presenters experienced with conference tools





#### LAK20

- Global conference
- Three-day main event (92 papers)
- "Invited" Presenters, not involved in the organisation
  - Limited experience with conference tools



### Main challenges

- How to make the conference available to everyone around the world?
- How to make sure presenters show up?
- What to do if tech fails?
- How to arrange presentations?
- Do we have sessions or will each paper presentation be independent?
- How do we pick the time for presentations?
- How to quickly communicate with other organisers?
- Where to post all conference information?
- How to support social interactions?



### Rule #1



### Conference (re-)structure: Minimum Viable Product

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#### **Learning Analytics & Knowledge Conference**

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#### Keep the same days and "roughly" same time

- Most people already booked those days
- Postponing F2F
  - Uncertain value
  - Conflict with other events/next year
- Postponing online (to better prepare)

#### Cancel workshops and tutorials

- Main issue logistics with so many organisers + event being too long
- Fully refunded
- o Organisers free to run on their own
- Doctoral consortium organised as a full-day event independently of main conference

#### • Keep main conference program

- Refund 50% of the registration fee
- New registrations at the new 50% rate
- Lost one keynote

#### Keep posters and demos

- Ask poster authors to provide poster PDF + short video
- Keep poster/demo voting

### Conference program (re-)structure

- Lengthen the conference day
  - We looked at registrants' countries
    - Europe main audience
    - Americas/Australasia even split
- Record and upload immediately
- Organise in sessions, but around presenters' time zones instead of topics
  - Submission forms had presenter tickbox
- Have dedicated session chairs
- Ask presenters for pre-recorded "backup" videos
  - Provided a small tutorial https://bit.ly/lak20recordingtutorial

Los Angeles	New York	London	Berlin	Mumbai	Singapore	Tokyo	Sydney
Tue 1:00 am *	Tue 4:00 am *	Tue 8:00 am	Tue 9:00 am	Tue 1:30 pm	Tue 4:00 pm	Tue 5:00 pm	Tue 7:00 pm *
Tue 2:00 am *	Tue 5:00 am *	Tue 9:00 am	Tue 10:00 am	Tue 2:30 pm	Tue 5:00 pm	Tue 6:00 pm	Tue 8:00 pm *
Tue 3:00 am *	Tue 6:00 am *	Tue 10:00 am	Tue 11:00 am	Tue 3:30 pm	Tue 6:00 pm	Tue 7:00 pm	Tue 9:00 pm *
Tue 4:00 am *	Tue 7:00 am *	Tue 11:00 am	Tue 12:00 noon	Tue 4:30 pm	Tue 7:00 pm	Tue 8:00 pm	Tue 10:00 pm *
Tue 5:00 am *	Tue 8:00 am *	Tue 12:00 noon	Tue 1:00 pm	Tue 5:30 pm	Tue 8:00 pm	Tue 9:00 pm	Tue 11:00 pm *
Tue 6:00 am *	Tue 9:00 am *	Tue 1:00 pm	Tue 2:00 pm	Tue 6:30 pm	Tue 9:00 pm	Tue 10:00 pm	Wed 12:00 midnight *
Tue 7:00 am *	Tue 10:00 am *	Tue 2:00 pm	Tue 3:00 pm	Tue 7:30 pm	Tue 10:00 pm	Tue 11:00 pm	Wed 1:00 am *
Tue 8:00 am *	Tue 11:00 am *	Tue 3:00 pm	Tue 4:00 pm	Tue 8:30 pm	Tue 11:00 pm	Wed 12:00 midnight	Wed 2:00 am *
Tue 9:00 am *	Tue 12:00 noon *	Tue 4:00 pm	Tue 5:00 pm	Tue 9:30 pm	Wed 12:00 midnight	Wed 1:00 am	Wed 3:00 am *
Tue 10:00 am *	Tue 1:00 pm *	Tue 5:00 pm	Tue 6:00 pm	Tue 10:30 pm	Wed 1:00 am	Wed 2:00 am	Wed 4:00 am *
Tue 11:00 am *	Tue 2:00 pm *	Tue 6:00 pm	Tue 7:00 pm	Tue 11:30 pm	Wed 2:00 am	Wed 3:00 am	Wed 5:00 am *
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Tue 1:00 pm *	Tue 4:00 pm *	Tue 8:00 pm	Tue 9:00 pm	Wed 1:30 am	Wed 4:00 am	Wed 5:00 am	Wed 7:00 am *
Tue 2:00 pm *	Tue 5:00 pm *	Tue 9:00 pm	Tue 10:00 pm	Wed 2:30 am	Wed 5:00 am	Wed 6:00 am	Wed 8:00 am *

### Conference program (re-)structure

- All paper presentations and breaks 30 min
  - Allows for easy jumping between tracks
  - If someone doesn't show up, no moving to the next presentation
- Assign authors to timeslots (don't ask them to pick)
  - Very important, saved us a lot of time
- Start with a keynote and close with a keynote
- Keep daily schedule as consistent as possible
- Keep the "dinner" as a social activity on the end of second day

Los Angeles	New York	London	Berlin	Mumbai	Singapore	Tokyo	Sydney
Tue 1:00 am *	Tue 4:00 am *	Tue 8:00 am	Tue 9:00 am	Tue 1:30 pm	Tue 4:00 pm	Tue 5:00 pm	Tue 7:00 pm *
Tue 2:00 am *	Tue 5:00 am *	Tue 9:00 am	Tue 10:00 am	Tue 2:30 pm	Tue 5:00 pm	Tue 6:00 pm	Tue 8:00 pm *
Tue 3:00 am *	Tue 6:00 am *	Tue 10:00 am	Tue 11:00 am	Tue 3:30 pm	Tue 6:00 pm	Tue 7:00 pm	Tue 9:00 pm *
Tue 4:00 am *	Tue 7:00 am *	Tue 11:00 am	Tue 12:00 noon	Tue 4:30 pm	Tue 7:00 pm	Tue 8:00 pm	Tue 10:00 pm *
Tue 5:00 am *	Tue 8:00 am *	Tue 12:00 noon	Tue 1:00 pm	Tue 5:30 pm	Tue 8:00 pm	Tue 9:00 pm	Tue 11:00 pm *
Tue 6:00 am *	Tue 9:00 am *	Tue 1:00 pm	Tue 2:00 pm	Tue 6:30 pm	Tue 9:00 pm	Tue 10:00 pm	Wed 12:00 midnight *
Tue 7:00 am *	Tue 10:00 am *	Tue 2:00 pm	Tue 3:00 pm	Tue 7:30 pm	Tue 10:00 pm	Tue 11:00 pm	Wed 1:00 am *
Tue 8:00 am *	Tue 11:00 am *	Tue 3:00 pm	Tue 4:00 pm	Tue 8:30 pm	Tue 11:00 pm	Wed 12:00 midnight	Wed 2:00 am *
Tue 9:00 am *	Tue 12:00 noon *	Tue 4:00 pm	Tue 5:00 pm	Tue 9:30 pm	Wed 12:00 midnight	Wed 1:00 am	Wed 3:00 am *
Tue 10:00 am *	Tue 1:00 pm *	Tue 5:00 pm	Tue 6:00 pm	Tue 10:30 pm	Wed 1:00 am	Wed 2:00 am	Wed 4:00 am *
Tue 11:00 am *	Tue 2:00 pm *	Tue 6:00 pm	Tue 7:00 pm	Tue 11:30 pm	Wed 2:00 am	Wed 3:00 am	Wed 5:00 am *
Tue 12:00 noon *	Tue 3:00 pm *	Tue 7:00 pm	Tue 8:00 pm	Wed 12:30 am	Wed 3:00 am	Wed 4:00 am	Wed 6:00 am *
Tue 1:00 pm *	Tue 4:00 pm *	Tue 8:00 pm	Tue 9:00 pm	Wed 1:30 am	Wed 4:00 am	Wed 5:00 am	Wed 7:00 am *
Tue 2:00 pm *	Tue 5:00 pm *	Tue 9:00 pm	Tue 10:00 pm	Wed 2:30 am	Wed 5:00 am	Wed 6:00 am	Wed 8:00 am *

### Result

- Over 90 registrants for the new "virtual" format
- Tech worked (almost) perfectly
- Two tracks instead of four
- Some presenters changed (no travel costs)
- More attendees at each session.
  - Previously ~ 30 people per paper presentation
  - This year, typically ~ 50-60 per paper presentation
  - At some sessions over 120 people
- Everyone could present
  - Only two request to change time
  - Only 4 pre-recorded talks



Really enjoying the first virtual #LAK20 #sharemyselfie @lak20frankfurt thank you for all of the hard work/ no sleep that went into creating this!



& Nia Dowell

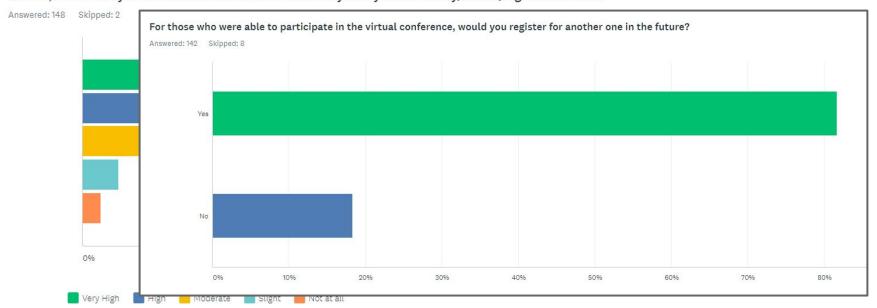


Participating in the first online #LAK20 means providing your own coffee #HomeOffice #StayHome



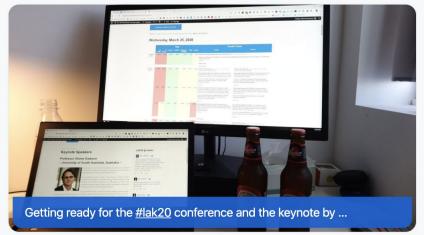
### **Impressions**

Overall, how would you rate the value of the conference to you in your university/school/organisation role?





#### Vitomir Kovanović @vkovanovic · Mar 25





Kayley Lyons @Kayley Lyons  $\cdot$  6h

Settling into my first session of online **#LAK20**. The session started early in Germany - but here in Melbourne - it is time for sunset and wine on the balcony! @lak20frankfurt





#### KaLe Blomquist @KarstenLensing · Mar 25

We are #curious about getting to know the #community @ our first (fully online) conference on #LearningAnalytics - thank you organizers of the #LAK20 for accompanying our breakfast!





military.

#### HDrachsler @HDrachsler · 17m

Working on the **#LAK20** dinner for the conference social night, while watching sessions, quite demanding these **#onlineconferences** for the local host oring your drinks to riase the glass for 10 years of **#LearningAnalytics** 







Inge Molenaar @Inge\_molenaar · 45m Replying to @lak20frankfurt new contestant #lak20 Happy 10th Birthday!







Marcel Schmitz @marcelschmitz · 15m

Getting ready for the social event of #lak20 @lak20frankfurt



### Technical infrastructure

## zoom

- Use Zoom as main conferencing platform
  - We had most experience with Zoom
  - More used than WebEx/GoToMeeting
  - Not locked to institution (like Teams)
  - Used "Webinar" extension to Zoom
  - Did extensive testing of Zoom Webinar functionalities



 Used Slack for communication among organising team and with session chairs



- Use original conference WordPress website for everything else
  - Conference schedule and Zoom URLs.
  - Attendee/presenter information
  - Discussion boards
  - Poster/demo voting
  - Video recordings
  - Worried whether our WordPress installation would sustain the load

### Video conferencing setup

- Used SoLAR's "group" Zoom account
  - o Two tracks two support people
  - Both part of SoLAR's Zoom account
- One person created all Zoom Rooms
  - Make sure settings are the same for all sessions
  - Other person added as a "co-host"
  - Made sure both have the same Zoom settings
  - Did not use QA (to make things simple)
  - Used practice session to test AV
- Presenters:
  - Invited as "panelists" to their session
  - o Enter Zoom room via email link
  - Should arrive 15-30 min earlier to test AV



#### Attendees:

- Attendees enter via link posted in the schedule webpage
- Muted upon entry, can't unmute
- Can't share video/screen
- Raise hand if they want "mic" or write questions

#### Session chairs:

- Also invited as "panelists"
- Enter Zoom room via email link
- Promoted to co-chairs upon entry (for mute/unmute)
- Facilitate QA (read questions from chat & mute/unmute)
- Keep track of time and post 5/1/0 min in the panelist chat

### Video conferencing setup

- Technical support in each zoom room all the time
  - Making sure everything is OK
  - Email presenters if they do not show up
  - Record presentations
  - In contact with the rest of the team via Slack



#### • Video recordings:

- Stored in the cloud (Local recording blocks Zoom App while the recording is being processed)
- Started/stopped after each talk to make separate recordings for each presentation
- Did not include QA (mistake)
- Cloud recording URL shared with Frankfurt University Team who uploaded recordings to their media server

#### Sessions open 30 min earlier

- Presenters should join early and test AV in the "Practice Mode" (must be enabled)
- Presenters emailed immediately if they didn't show up

### Logistics & timeline

#### **Create Online Program**

- 1. Create a draft program (based on presenter timezone)
- 2. Email presenters to
  - Confirm allocated time slot.
  - Ask to pre-record sessions
  - Sign consent form for publication of video
- 3. Finalize conference program (email again ones that did not confirm)

#### **Define session support**

- 4. Identify session chairs
- 5. Invite org team and session chairs to slack
  - One channel for org team
  - One channel for session-chair support

#### **Tech setup**

- Create Zoom Rooms
- 7. Create/update conference website
- Create website accounts for attendees/presenters (or automate)

#### **Provide training**

- Book training sessions for presenters and session chairs
  - Several sessions due to short notice + multiple time zones

### Logistics & timeline

#### Communicate with attendees, presenters and chairs

- 10. Email all attendees with attendance info
  - Tech information
  - Username/password for conference website
  - Other stuff (ACM download link)
- 11. Email all presenters with presenter info
  - How to join sessions
  - Remind for pre-recordings
  - Inform about training sessions
- 12. Email session chairs
  - How to chair sessions
  - Inform about training sessions

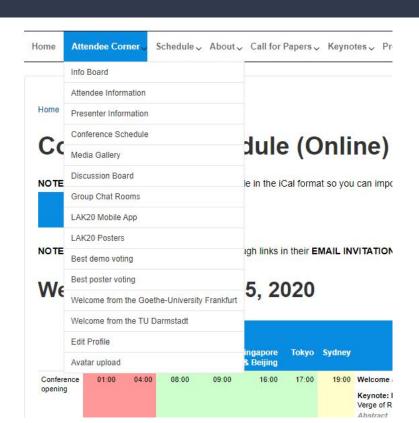
#### **Final preparations**

- 13. Run training sessions
- 14. Add Zoom URLs to conference schedule (24 hr before the conference start)
  - Reduces chances for Zoombombing
- 15. Hope for the best :)

### Conference website (https://lak2o.solaresearch.org)

- Required login (created for each attendee)
- Single place for information
- Public program without Zoom URLs
- Private program with Zoom URLs
- Info Board Dedicated for "urgent" information
- Media Gallery place with posters/demos and presentation recordings
- Group chat rooms unmonitored places for chat





### Group chat rooms

Home > Group Chat Rooms

#### **Group Chat Rooms**

As a way to enable social communication, we have two open zoom rooms. Those rooms are everyone can share their video & audio. You can also use it to share files with other conferencems will open each day 2hr before the conference starts and be open 2hrs after conferencem.

#### **Coffee Machine**

Zoom URL: https://zoom.us/j/555900798



#### Bench in the Sun

Zoom URL: https://zoom.us/j/24

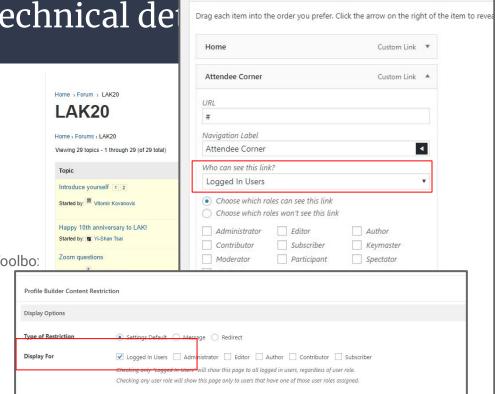




### Conference website - technical de

- Online discussions
  - bbPress + bbPress Members Only plugins
- Automating user accounts creation
  - o Import Users from CSV plugin
- Poster/demo voting
  - Poll Maker plugin
- Enabling users to edit profiles and
  - Profile Builder + Profile Builder Customization Toolbox
     Add-On plugin
  - WP User Avatar plugin
- Enabling access to registered users
  - o User Menus plugin
  - Profile Builder plugin





Abstract

Check if you wish to add custom messages for this page.

Are Forum Networks Social Networks? A Methodological Perspective

Restriction Messages

**Enable Custom Messages** 

Menu structure

Menu Name Main

### Schedule page <a href="https://lak20.solaresearch.org/schedule">https://lak20.solaresearch.org/schedule</a>

#### Pay attention to usability

#### Consistent session times

0	Early morning:	09:00 - 10:30
0	Morning:	11:00 - 12:30
0	Early Afternoon:	13:00 - 14:30
0	Afternoon:	15:00 - 16:30
0	Late Afternoon:	17:00 - 18:30
0	Evening:	19:00 - 20:30

#### Time zone conversion

- Display multiple time zones
- Provide .ics calendar file

#### Wednesday, March 25, 2020

	Time							Parallel Tracks			
	US Pacific	US Eastern	London	Frankfurt	Singapore & Beijing	Tokyo	Sydney	Track A	Track B		
Conference opening	01:00	04:00	08:00	09:00	16:00	17:00	19:00	Welcome and Opening Keynote (90 min) (Zoom URL: https://zoom.us/lj978684501)  Keynote: Professor Shane Dawson, University of South Australia, Australia (60 min): Learning Analytics – A Field of Verge of Relevance?  Abstract  Keynote QA			
								30 Min Break			
Morning sessions	03:00	06:00	10:00	11:00	18:00	19:00	21:00	Session A1 (Zoom URL: https://zoom.us/ij/755020755) Session Chair: Vitomir Kovanovic	Session B1 (Zoom URL: https://zoom.us/i/421279563) Session Chair: Maren Scheffel		
								Short research paper A1-P1 (#215): "Evaluating Teachers' Perceptions of Students' Questions Organization" by Fatima Harrak, François Bouchet, Vanda Luengo and Pierre Gillois	Full research paper B1-P1 (#44): "Comparing Teachers' Use of Mirroring and Advising Dashboards" by Anouschka van Leeuwen and Nikol Rummel		
								Keywords: teacher's perception, question organization, student's need, student's question, student's profile, pedagogical interest	Keywords: cooperative/collaborative learning, elementary education, human-computer interface, improving classroom teaching, teaching/learning strategies		
								Abstract	Abstract		
	03:30	06:30	10:30	11:30	18:30	19:30	21:30	Full research paper A1-P2 (#133): "Predicting Student Success in a Blended Learning Environment" by Steven Van Goldsenhoven, Daria Bogdanova, Galina Deeva, Seppe Vanden Broucke, Jochen De Weerdt and Monique Snoeck	Short research paper B1-P2 (#183): "Learning analytics dashboards: the past, the present and the future" by Ketrien Verbert, Xavier Ochoa, Robin De Croon, Raphael Dourado and Tinne De Laet		
								Keywords: blended learning, grade prediction, e-learning, machine learning, logistic regression, random forest	Keywords: learning analytics dashboards, visualisation, interaction, evaluation		
								classification, learning analytics  Abstract	Abstract		
	04:00	07:00	11:00	12:00	19:00	20:00	22:00	Invited paper A1-P3 (#-1): "DAS3H: Modeling Student Learning and Forgetting for Optimally Scheduling Distributed Practice of Skills" by Benoît Choffin, Fabrice Popineau, Yolaine Bourda, Jill-Jénn Vie	Full research paper B1-P3 (#78): "How working memory capacity limits success in self-directed learning: a cognitive model of search and concept formation" by Paul Seitlinger, Abida Bibi, Onne Uus and Tobias Ley		

EDM'19 best paper

Abstract

Keywords: Self-directed learning, Concept formation, Worki

memory capacity, Cognitive-computational modeling

Abstract

### Areas for improvements - easy

 QA Recording: there were some really good, really bad we did not record "Whilst [in person] presenters could see the number of participants, it was a different experience presenting to a "blank" room."

- QA Chat: Consider use of QA functionality in Zoom.
  - Attendees can upvote questions
  - Especially good for keynotes due to limited QA time

Hazel Jones (Griffith University), Linda Corrin (Swinburne University of Technology) and Srecko Joksimovic (University of South Australia)

https://bit.ly/ascilitelak20

- Attendee count: enable participants to see the count of attendees
  - Can feel sometimes like watching youtube videos all alone

There is no setting for this, only option during the webinar

### Areas for improvements – moderate

- Mingling after talks: Allow people to chat after the presentations
  - Extend sessions for 15 min, shorten the preparation session to 15 min
  - Overlapping sessions too expensive (doubles Zoom Webinar Room costs)

"We would recommend for future conferences that sessions remain open for 10 minutes following any Q&A to allow networking and continuation of discussions"

Hazel Jones (Griffith University), Linda Corrin (Swinburne University of Technology) and Srecko Joksimovic (University of South Australia)

https://bit.ly/ascilitelak20

### Areas for improvements - hard

"This was something we all found was missing during LAK20. While technically there was a conference social hour in place of the conference dinner (which was very early morning for us in Australian time zones), this didn't quite provide the spontaneous connections that often emerge when you put a large number of people together in a physical space"

Hazel Jones (Griffith University), Linda Corrin (Swinburne University of Technology) and Srecko Joksimovic (University of South Australia)

https://bit.ly/ascilitelak20

#### Challenges:

- Happen in parallel to the "main event"
- Very ad-hoc

#### More social interactions

- Use breakout rooms or similar functionality
- Afraid people would be confused

#### More prominent Posters and Demos

 They were available, but the lack of a dedicated poster & demo session made them a bit on the side

### Our overall impression

Significant advantages over face-to-face conferences:

- Far less CO2 used
- Much cheaper overall
- No need for travel
- Supports
- Everythir
- Fewer paragraphuniversit

Substantial disadvantages as well:

- Much higher technology costs
- Need for very careful communication
- Hard to coordinate with many presenters
- "I really hope it will be virtual again next year. I don't want to fly to
- California (not good for the world), but if its (also) virtual, I would
- attend. I enjoyed it very much."

lees engaged

unities

rooms might be a solution

ds-on activities

- ALT events have three types of activities
  - Webinars
  - Tweetchats
  - Edit-a-thons
- O How to do a data analytics hands-on tutorial?

### Key takeaways

- Make sure to have good technical team and plan long in advance
- Know your presenters and audience
- Allow participation from people around the world
- Time zones are not your friend treat them with care
- Explore and test the functionalities of the selected conference platform
- Provide training opportunities for presenters (they might have never used the platform)
- Be very careful and clear in your communication
- Plan for the emergency situations
  - Pre-recorded presentations
  - Communication channels
  - Secondary internet connection
- Find ways to engage the audience
  - Breakout rooms
  - Mingling after talks
  - Hallway places (bench in the sun and coffee machine)
  - Online discussions/twitter

# Thank you

Vitomir Kovanovic

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# Q&A

Vitomir Kovanovic

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