

Welcome to the 69. StuTS + TaCoS 2021 Leipzig on gather.town!

First Steps

We advise you to come to the space a little early on your first day, so that you have enough time to follow the log-in process. After you've followed the link, you will be asked to **sign in with an email address**. You need to use the one under which you registered for the conference. A link will be sent to that address, which you can click to enter the space. It depends on your browser configurations whether you will stay logged in for the rest of the conference or have to follow this procedure every time you enter the space.

You will be offered a quick tutorial upon entering, where you can practice the controls. Gather will provide you with a customisable avatar, which should automatically be displayed with your full name. Additional information, such as pronouns, your institution or languages you speak, can be added later in the **status bar**.

Moving through the space

Our gather.town environment contains rooms for talks, a main hall, the foyer where you enter, the conference office, the lounge and a couple of spaces for leisure. It is indicated on the floors where each door will lead you; feel free to explore! The **opening session** will be held in the Audimax. To get there, just head north from the foyer into the main hall and then go east.

Your avatar is moved with **WASD**. If you stand close to other users, you will be able to see and hear them (and they you) as long as both of your cameras and mics are turned on. This means you can walk up and chat to people you meet in the halls, just like in real life.

To give users the opportunity to have private conversations, there are so-called **Private Spaces**; after entering one, you will be able to hear and be heard by everybody in it, but no-one on the outside (no matter how close you are standing to them). Most of the private spaces are to be found around tables, chairs or couches and on carpets; upon entering one, the rest of the room will be slightly darkened to let you know where the space ends.

Attention: If the gather.town tab is moved to the background, you will automatically be muted and your camera will turn off.

When you encounter an object that glows in bright yellow, that means you can **interact** with it by pressing x; these objects can contain images, videos, websites oder games.

Giving and watching presentations

In every talk room, there is an orange **Spotlight Tile** for the presenter to stand on; from there, his audio and video is broadcast to the entire room. As the presenter, you will only be able to see the people in the first row, and hear nobody (except for the Session Chair). You will present your slides via screen sharing; the button to start sharing your screen is located in the toolbar on the bottom of your screen. If listeners want to **ask questions**, they can either raise their hand (via the smiley face button in the toolbar) or go to the front and stand next to the Session Chair. You will be informed in each talk what strategy works best. In addition, you can always just sent your questions to the chat for the Session Chair to ask them: put Q: in front of your question and make sure to select the Chair as the recipient (otherwise your question might get lost).

Attention: In the talk rooms, every single chair is a private space, meaning you won't be able to chat with your neighbour.

There are frequent problems with screensharing in Firefox, so if you are giving a talk, try to use a different browser; Chrome has worked great for us in the past.

Here are some interesting additional tips:

hold g – ghost mode (enables you to pass through people; helpful when you get blocked in)

press e – teleport to an empty space (also helpful when you are blocked in)

hold z – dance!

On the left side, you will find a **list of all users**; selecting a person will give you the options to

- send them a message

- find where they currently are on the map

- follow them (meaning your avatar will automatically follow them wherever they go)

The **chat** is to be found on the left side as well. Pay attention to who is selected as the recipient of your messages, as they all appear in the same conversation (like on Zoom). Selecting 'everyone' will send a message visible to everyone in the space; selecting 'nearby' will send a message to everybody you can currently speak to; and selecting individual people will send a message only visible to them. Remember to open the chat when there are technical difficulties, as we might use it to give everyone further instructions.

The gather.town space can be edited throughout the conference, so if you come across anything that isn't working properly or where something important is missing, just come to the conference office or send us an email, and we will see if it can be fixed. You can use those same means of contact if you have any other questions at all. **You will find these instructions in the foyer at all times, if you need to see them again.**