

› ICAME 41 – Moving Into the Digital Space

► Reasons for Moving ICAME 41 into the Digital Space: Here, we would like to give you an elaborate explanation of why we have taken the decision to change ICAME 41 into a digital conference.

As of March 11th, the German federal government strongly recommends canceling larger events and encourages all citizens to avoid participating in non-essential social events and to limit travel as much as possible. Furthermore, various states, including Baden-Württemberg, have decided to postpone university courses and other types of events until the end of April. Currently, the situation is severely aggravating.

Despite the fact that ICAME is a medium-sized conference, there are considerable health risks due to the nature of the event. ICAME conferences, traditionally, are not just highly international, but we also expect many participants falling into various high risk groups (e.g. older adults and participants with preexisting conditions). ICAME also is a rather long and very social conference featuring both an extensive academic as well as social program. While these features make ICAME the beloved conference it is, they have to be considered as serious risk factors given the current situation.

Furthermore, in addition to the fact that Heidelberg is located in one of Germany's most affected areas, we cannot guarantee that the conference venues comply with the space, monitoring, and hygiene recommendations made by the authorities. The conference would take place in regular university venues while the semester is ongoing. In case of an infection, this, in addition to the international nature of the event, would make identifying and tracking all contact persons almost impossible for the local authorities.

► ICAME 41 – Moving into the Digital Space

Even though we unfortunately will not be able to meet you ICAMERs in person in Heidelberg in May 2020, we are determined to make ICAME happen in a digital format. That is why we are currently trying to get all the technical infrastructure ready (fingers crossed! As all universities in the world are currently switching to digital facilities, there

will be certain challenges, but let us see what is possible). We are committed to providing a platform for sharing and discussing all of your amazing and inspiring projects and research. Therefore, instead of just cancelling the conference, we have decided to move ICAME 41 into the digital space and to conduct a remote conference.

This way, despite the current situation, we hope to keep the ICAME spirit going and to give everyone the opportunity to present and debate their work with others.

In order to account for the different time zones and to limit the risk of technical difficulties, we decided to rely on pre-produced videos and to only use livestreams and webinars for the conference opening, the plenaries and one or two special events. While additional details and instructions will follow, we want to give you an overview of how we plan to have the first fully digital ICAME conference.

As already said above, we plan to have both the **conference opening** as well as all of our **plenaries** as livestreams (webinars) at set times. This way, we want to ensure that we come together, virtually, at least once a day and that the spirit of a shared conference experience is kept. Of course, you will be able to ask questions and to actively participate! We also plan to record the plenaries for those who will not be able to attend due to their respective time zones.

For **all other types of presentations**, including pre-conference workshop contributions and poster presentation, we currently think that an asynchronous approach is best in order to limit the technical challenges associated with running multiple webinars at the same time over a period of multiple days. Therefore, we will ask all contributors to record short video presentations for the conference. The presentations, alongside an opportunity to ask questions and to discuss the contributions, will then be put online (non-publicly) during the conference. This way, all participants will also get the chance to see all presentations without having to make choices between different sessions!

More precisely, we ask you to prepare a short video presentation featuring your research for the digital conference. The video should be no longer than what you regular time-slot would have been (e.g. 20 minutes for full papers). While we recommend producing a simple screencast, you are absolutely free to get creative.

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Please also refer to the attached document for further details, especially regarding how you can submit your video. Of course, we will also provide assistance if needed!

While we decided to not have a virtual panel discussion, we will also try to virtualize our new workshop format **Corpus Linguistics Goes Public**. In order to do this, we will provide you with various thought-provoking questions regarding the future of our field as well as a collaborative working environment during the conference. We will then collect and synthesize your ideas before presenting them during another live event.

As a replacement for both the traditional book of abstracts and conference proceedings, we will also ask all contributors to write an **extended abstract** of about three pages (Arial 12, 12 pt, 1.5 spacing) until 18 May 2020. We then plan to publish these abstracts as conference proceedings shortly after the event has ended. Please refer to the instructions in the attached document for further information.

We are aware of the fact that not all participants and contributors will immediately feel at ease with these new formats and changes. However, we strongly believe that we as a community will be able to have a great ICAME experience despite the fact that we will not be able to physically meet each other or have a shared boat trip. Therefore, in unprecedented times where “social distancing” is recommended to save lives, we want to encourage all contributors and participants to embrace this chance of trying something entirely new for ICAME and draw closer digitally.

THANK YOU!

Stay optimistic and *bleibt gesund!*

All our best wishes

Beatrix, Franziska and Ingo