

COMMISSION C2

COMMUNICATING ASTRONOMY WITH THE PUBLIC (CAP)

**PRESIDENT
VICE-PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
ADVISOR
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

**Oana Sandu Barbulete
Sylvie D. Vauclair
Vinicius de Abreu Oliveira
Richard Tresch Fienberg
Marieke Baan
Caterina Boccato
Nathalie Brouillet
Sze-leung CHEUNG
Carolina Johanna Odman
Kingsley C. Okpala**

**OAo Representative
IPS Representative
C2 IPS Liaison**

**Lina Canas
Kaoru Kimura
Lucia Marchetti**

**COMMISSION C2 WORKING GROUPS
Div. C / Commission C2 WG**

CAP Conferences

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

by Oana Sandu Barbulete (President) and Sylvie D. Vauclair (Vice-President)

1. Activities of IAU Commission C2 During 2021-2022

In our first year of the new triennium we have pursued three objectives:

- 1) Strengthening the C2 collaboration with the IAU Office for Astronomy Outreach (OAO).

To this end, we have continued having the OAO Director as part of the OC of C2, while the C2 President and Vice-President were invited to be part of a group of advisors to the OAO.

We have also agreed with the OAO to create three Working Groups led in collaboration so that C2 members can support the activities of the OAO, while also being recognised for their efforts. These WG are: a CAP journal WG (proposal in the writing), a Public Engagement Training WG (proposal in the writing) and a Communicating Climate Change through Astronomy WG (proposal in the writing).

- 2) We have run a survey among our C2 members to better understand their profile, their needs and their expectations from C2 OC to inform a strategy that the C2 President will put forward to the OC. The survey had 70 responses and the data is currently being analysed.

- 3) We have continued exploring the longer term project to identify ways in which C2 could provide an independent evaluation framework for astronomy communication to act as an industry standard. We have surveyed our members on the usefulness of this project and, from the preliminary analysis we have, we intend to create a Working Group for this project.

Other administrative tasks we have completed are:

- We have moved the C2 website hosting from the ESO servers to the NAOJ servers.
- We have established a monthly meeting of the OC to track progress.
- We have invited a total of 17 people to join the commission as Associates, already achieving our target of 10. 15 of those invited are supporting the OAO projects, while 3 of them are supporting the WGAC Working Group for Astronomy in Culture.
- An update of the C2-OAO Memorandum of Understanding was done.

The President of C2 serves as an ex-officio member of the Division C SC, and in that role she has participated in meetings and the evaluation of the Division Days proposal for the IAU GA.

2. Working Group Report

2.1 CAP Conferences WG

CO-CHAIRS:

Ramasamy Venugopal

Samir Dhurde

Lina Canas

WG MEMBERS:

Lars Christensen, Sze-leung Cheung, Thierry

Botti, Kazuhiro Sekiguchi, Pamela L Gay, Jin

Zhu, Ángela Patricia Pérez Henao, Helen Sim,

Ankit Bhandari, Vinicius de Abreu Oliveira,

Eleni Thomai Chatzichristou, Farseem

Mohammedy, Ilídio André Costa, Kimberly

Kowal Arcand, Avivah Yamani, J.E. Chase,

Dongni Chen, João Retrê, Niruj Mohan

Ramanujam

In view of the global pandemic, the WG organised the first [virtual CAP conference](#), held during 24–27 May, under the central theme - Communicating Astronomy with the Public in the Age of Global Crises. Thanks to the generous support from The Kavli Foundation, which provided a grant to strengthen the IAU's public engagement programmes and scientific meetings, CAP 2021 was free to all attendees.

The CAP 2021 SOC and VOC (Virtual Organising Committee) jointly organised the event which included 16 plenary talks, 163 oral presentations, 4 panel discussions, 5 workshops, and 75 digital posters. The recorded talks, panel discussions and video posters can now be watched on the [CAP YouTube channel](#). A total of 863 participants tuned in for the keynotes and plenary talks

while 699 participants joined the 40 parallel sessions for oral presentations, workshops, and panel discussions. More than 550 participants viewed and interacted with the e-posters. The networking sessions were also popular with more than 500 participants making use of the one-on-one networking feature on the conference platform.

After the business meetings of the 2021 General Assembly, a call for new WG members was sent to the C2 membership which received 9 responses. All 9 members were inducted into the WG together with 2 volunteers (non IAU members). The WG also elected an additional co-chair to work with the current chair and co-chair. Finally the group reviewed and updated its rules and responsibilities of members.

Currently the WG is busy preparing to organise CAP2022 in hybrid format in Sydney, Australia in September (postponed from 2020).