

# Discussion Forum @ CGWeek 2020: Remote Participation



# Statement for SC election, January 2020:

## (3) Participation:

Meeting other researchers is fundamentally important, but traveling around the world all the time is hard to sustain. To foster inclusiveness, I would look into establishing additional ways to participate in virtual ways, e.g. by streaming talks, remote presentations or regional „hub“ conferences.

# Previous (!) arguments regarding remote participation



- Inclusiveness
- Travel cost
- Environment
- Time
- Visa
- Emergencies
- Family logistics
- ...



- Meeting in person is better
- Live talks more stimulating
- Travel as an incentive
- Getting away improves focus
- Integration into community
- Meeting new people
- Additional local organization
- ...

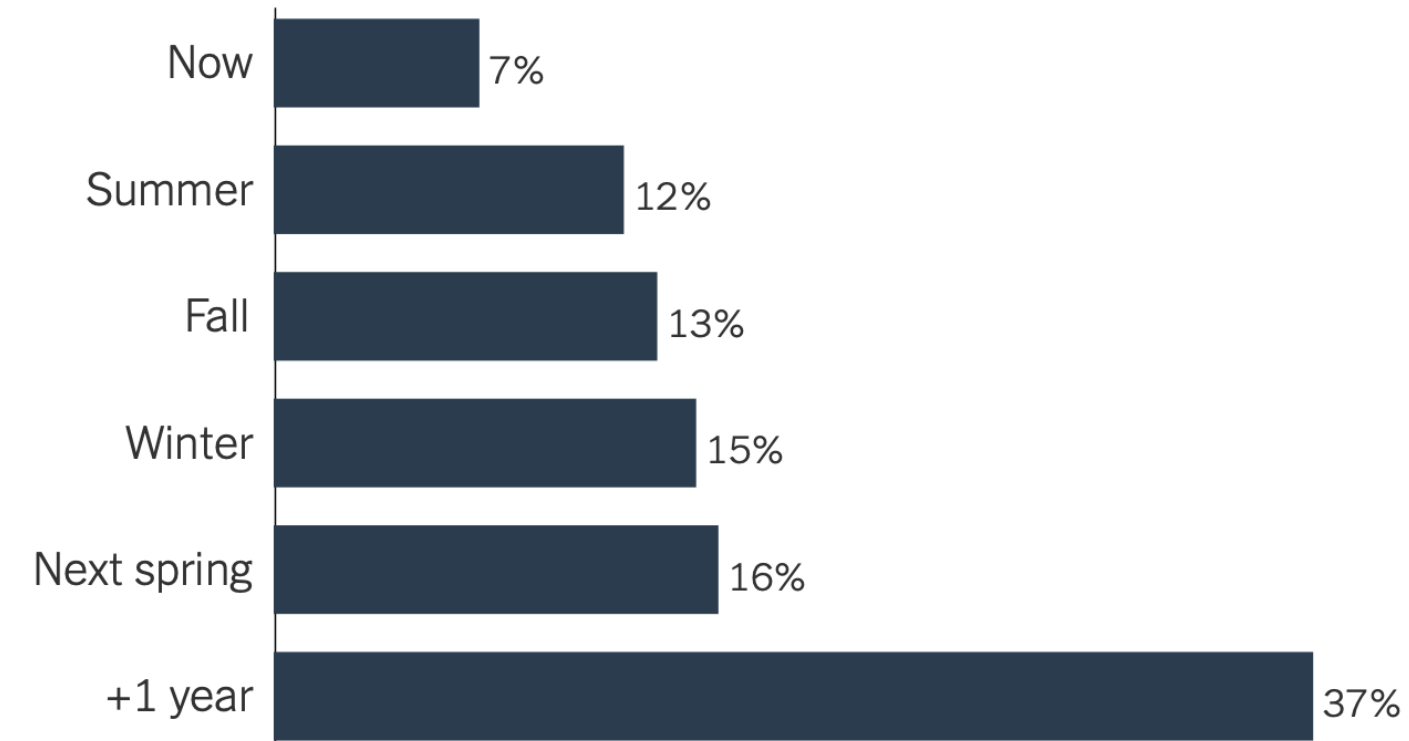
# New situation + experience

- Travel impossible
- 100% remote conferences
- 100% remote teaching
- Short- to midterm unchanged
- Long-term situation unlike before
- New appreciation for both kinds of reasons
- Intensive experience with remote presence
- New possibilities

## When 511 Epidemiologists Expect to Fly, Hug and Do 18 Other Everyday Activities Again

By Quoc Trung Bui, Claire Cain Miller and Margot Sanger-Katz June 8, 2020

### On airplanes:



**“Unless I have absolutely no choice, I wouldn’t travel by the airplane anytime soon.”**

Lilia Lukowsky, U.S. Department of Veteran’s Affairs  
*Would wait more than a year*

**“A flying tube of germs.”**

Chelsea Richard, South Carolina First Steps  
*Would wait until winter*

# New aspects regarding remote participation



- Various tools that work
- Larger audiences
- Less overhead for traveling
- Remote presence will stay
- Some constraints no longer matter
- New formats
- Time zones
- ...



- Meeting in person is **MUCH** better
- Really hard to keep focus
- Interaction in large groups is hard
- Integrating new people takes extra effort
- Additional organization
- Possible pressure to attend remotely
- Time zones
- ...

# Specific aspects for discussion

- **Active participation: Remote speakers**

- **Passive participation: Remote audience**

- Preserving and sharing content

- Other ideas and formats

# Straw votes at business meeting (1)

**Q1: What is your present feeling about allowing remote audiences at CG Week?**

- I would be in favor**
- I'm not sure yet**
- I would be against**

## Straw votes at business meeting (2)

**Q2:** What is your present feeling about allowing remote **speakers** at CG Week?

- I would be in favor
- I would be in favor of a limited number of slots
- I would limit this to provable emergencies
- I would be against
- I'm not sure yet



## Straw votes at business meeting (3)

**Q3:** The Steering Committee proposes to install a Task Force to develop a proposal (possibly with several alternatives) for remote attendance at CG Week; this proposal would then be voted on electronically in time for possible implementation.

Are you in favor of setting up such a Task Force?

**Yes**

**Abstain**

**No, I do not want remote attendance at CG Week**

**Thank you!**