

Getting Started with Gather.town

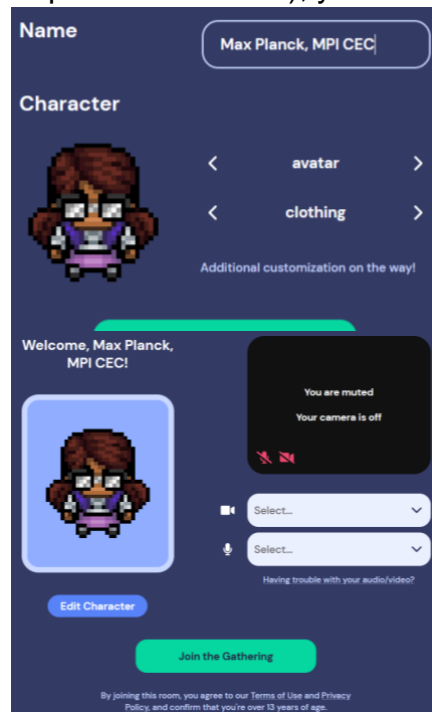
Dear participants of ExpReS2021,

To feel connected with everyone although we are sitting in front of PCs at different ends of the world, we decided to use the platform **gather.town** for our conference. Although the platform is quite self-explaining and user-friendly, here comes a short introduction on how to use gather:

When you click on our conference link (will be distributed *via* email prior to the event), you are asked to enter your name. Please type in your **first and last name and you affiliation** (or an abbreviation of it) as shown below. Furthermore, you will be able to create an avatar. Both can also be changed afterwards.

Next, you have to choose a microphone and a camera. When you are asked by your browser, **allow the access**. That's it – now you are ready to enter the conference hall!

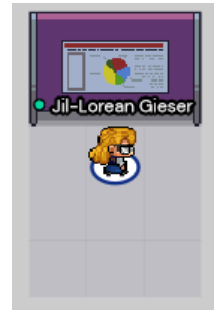
After entering, you will see a blue bar at the bottom containing your name. The map symbol right to the avatar opens a minimap of the conference hall. The screen symbol starts screen sharing for people standing close to your avatar. Click on the smiley to react to something with an emoji. Your **microphone and camera** can be **turned on and off** by clicking on the respective symbols in the bottom right corner (inside the video box).



To **move** your avatar, use the **arrow keys** or WASD on your keyboard. To talk to someone, simply approach another avatar. Within the range of 4 steps, you can hear and see others clearly. From 5 to 8 steps, you can still hear and see others, but they are faded. Moreover, there are so called **private spaces**. Only people standing inside it can hear and see each other. E.g. the Info & Help Desk in the image above is embedded in a private space.

Our conference hall consists of three main areas:

- **Lecture Hall:** Go into the lecture hall and then press X on your keyboard to get redirected to zoom.
- **Poster area:** To look at a poster, step inside the grey square in front of it and press X. The poster will open. Each grey square is a separate private space. During the **poster session**, you will be able to talk to the presenter when you are both inside the square.
- **Coffee Room:** You don't want to spend the coffee break alone? Go to the coffee room and >sit down< to meet other people, chat with them, play skribbl with them and so on.



Further tips and hints:

- Some objects are **glowing yellow** when you approach them, e.g. the 'Program & Announcements' pinboard. You can interact with these objects by pressing X on your keyboard.
- To close any window you opened by pressing X once more (or click on the X in the right top corner).
- When you are trapped between too many people, press and hold G for the **ghost mode**. You can then walk through other avatars. Alternatively, press E to teleport to the nearest open area.
- For the **quiet mode**, press ctrl + U. Only people immediately adjacent to you will be able to interact with you.
- More functionalities can be found in the **left tool bar**, e.g. a conference chat.
- For further information, visit us at the Info & Help Desk, write an email to expres2021@cec.mpg.de or visit <https://support.gather.town/help>.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the conference!

