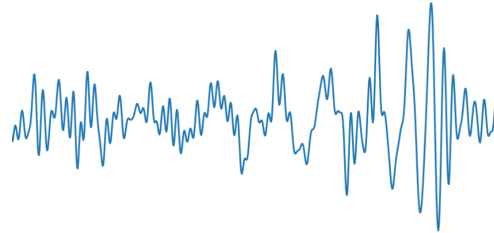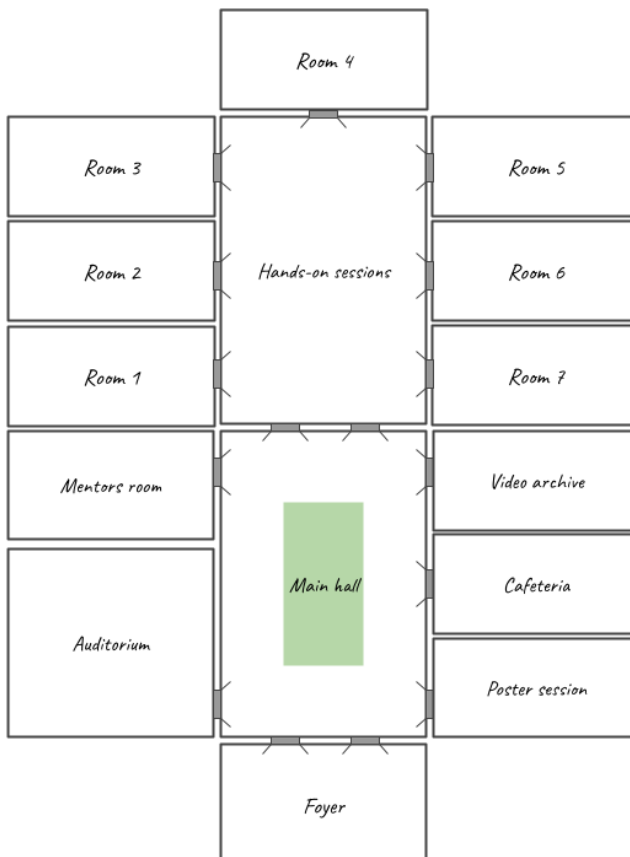# Welcome to Open Data Workshop #4

Introduction

This year, the workshop is hosted on **gather.town**. This is a web-conferencing software like Zoom, but with the added component of seeing the virtual "room" you and others are occupying, and with the ability to move around and interact with other participants based on your locations in the room, just like real life.

In the picture below, you can see a map of the space created for the Workshop.

ODW 2021 - Workshop space map

Room 4	
Room 3	Room 5
Room 2	Hands-on sessions	Room 6
Room 1		Room 7
Mentors room		Video archive
Auditorium	Main hall	Cafeteria
		Poster session
Foyer		

Foyer: is the entrance hall where you start the first time you connect to the ODW 2021 gather.town space. There is an "info point" where you can find assistance in case of troubles or suggestions about how to get oriented

Main hall: this space connects all the main areas of the workshop. Head there if you get lost. You will likely meet a lot of people there. Feel free to use one of the private areas on the sides (couches) or at the center (pic-nic tables) of this area

Auditorium: although the plenary sessions will be held on Zoom, it is always useful to have one. Also, there you will find the link to the Zoom sessions. Just enter the room and click "x" on your keyboard. A projector on the stage will highlight and you will be redirected to the Zoom call

Poster session: in this room we have placed the various posters that will be presented on May 13, 7:00 UTC. If you are presenting, we encourage you to go close to your poster during the poster session

Cafeteria: this is a sort of free space where people can gather in private areas to form working groups or have discussions on various topics

Video archive: in this room you can find various boxes where we will upload the recordings of the plenary sessions and other useful videos

Hands-on session area and connected rooms: this is the area dedicated to the hands-on sessions. You will find a "bulletin" with your name and the room you have been assigned to. Head for the corresponding room for the hands-on sessions. In there, you will find many tables where you can attend the sessions from. Also, there are "mentors desks" where you can go to ask for information from the mentors.

Get started with gather.town

The interface of gather.town is similar to that of an "old 8-bit videogame". The first time you connect, you will be asked to "choose an avatar" and a character name. Feel free to be creative with the former but remember that the latter is the only way we have to identify each other.

Next, you will be asked to follow a short tutorial. We recommend having a look at it (which is arguably nicer than reading written instructions). Long story short: use arrow keys to move. You can interact with some object going close to them. At a certain point, they will start "to glow" and a pop-up will prompt you to "press "x" to interact". You are able to talk to the other participants nearby. Also, there are some special zones called "private spaces" where people can talk freely with the others in there. Orange ones are another kind of special tile. If you are on them, you can broadcast (speak and share contents) to all the people in the room. Make use of them if you have questions, either generic ones or during the hands-on sessions.

In case of trouble or for any information, feel free to ask the mentors that you will meet in the workshop space. You will recognize them by the label "mentors" within parenthesis, close to their names.

Below some more detailed information.

What you need:

- A desktop/laptop with a mic and camera.
- A web browser (Chrome or Firefox recommended).
- We strongly recommend using headphones to help prevent feedback.
- That's it! There's nothing to install, no software to download.

How it works:

- Gather is a video chat platform that has avatars move around a map. As you get close to other avatars, your videos will pop up and you will be able to chat.
- Move around the space using the arrow keys.
- By moving your avatar around you can have spontaneous conversations with those around you. These can be either one-on-one or small groups depending on how many people are around your avatar.
- When your avatar moves closer to an interactable object, it will glow yellow and there will be a notification that shows up saying 'Press x to interact with -object-'. This can range from informational flyers, playable arcade games, integrated Zoom meetings, and more!

Icon explanation:

Screen sharing ability

Change your avatar character and clothing

Mini map to preview the space you're in. Also, in many areas you will find pedestals with the map of the entire workshop space, like the one in the first page of this document

Emotes that appear above your avatar. Use the "hand up" emoji (6) to raise your hand for questions

Opens the settings menu:

- Change Name
- Change Audio/Video Devices
- Respawn button to return to start
- Click for Mod Settings: Change room password, change mod message, toggle force mute whole space

Not-So-Obvious Features:

Here are some things you might find useful but aren't immediately obvious.

- There is a messaging feature that allows you to message people in four ways:
    1. individually by clicking on their name in the participant panel,
    2. locally to the people you are video chatting with,
    3. room chat (must be requested) with all the people in the current room you are in,
    4. globally to all the people in your map.

- (As in real life) You can't pass through the other participants. For this reason, there could be some situations where you get stuck by other characters and can't go where you want. To avoid this problem, you can press "g", like "ghost", and harmlessly trespass the other characters to get free of blocks of people. Unlike real ghosts, you can't pass through walls though.

- There is a locate feature to find others by clicking their name in the participant panel. The participant panel is the bottom-mot option in your toolbar on the left.

- Interaction distance is also sometimes altered by designated private spaces. This allows conversations to only include people inside that space.

- Want to full screen someone else's video? Just click on their video.

- Talking to a group of people? Click the down arrows centered below the videos to shift into grid view.

Technical difficulties:

- Refreshing the page will fix most things!
- If that doesn't work, try muting and unmuting your mic and camera in Gather.
- Check if your browser permitted camera and mic access
- Additional troubleshooting at https://gather.town/video-issues