



Newsletter



COVID-19

MOCCA in COVID Time

MOCCA during COVID-19.

How has the outbreak of Covid-19 affected the project?

Find out on page 2.

Moving on line: MOCCA training activities, September-March 2020

Due to the pandemic, MOCCA training activities have been moved online...

Read more on page 3.

MOCCA Dissemination and Outreach activities

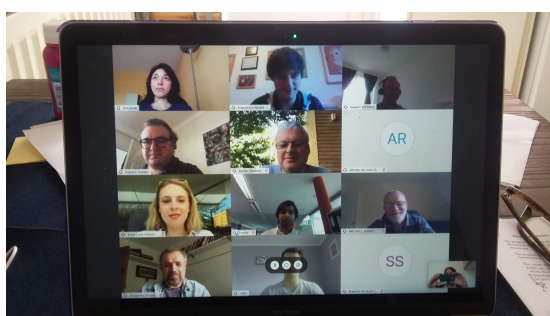
Despite the pandemic MOCCA ESRs have kept themselves busy with dissemination and outreach activities...

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MOCCA during Covid-19

With the unexpected outbreak of Covid-19 in March 2020, a challenging time has started for everyone. As the rest of the world, also MOCCA and the researchers who participate in the project had to adapt themselves to a new way of working. For some weeks MOCCA ESRs were not able to enter their laboratories and offices. Nonetheless they carried on working on their research from home. Some of the project activities were postponed or modified. Let's see more in details how MOCCA has so far coped with the pandemic.



Due to the travel ban across most of Europe, many of the project activities have been moved online, and held via Webex. However, the participation and commitment of the team has not diminished. Since March several management meetings, including the project mid-term check, have taken place, and MOCCA ESRs have been engaged with many training and dissemination activities.

The **MOCCA Mid-term check** was planned to take place in Paris on April 27, but, due to the pandemic, it was finally held online. During the event, the EC Project Officer, Ioannis Bitsios, met the whole MOCCA team: the ESRs, the Coordinator deputy, supervisors, WP leaders and partners. Presentations were given by the Coordinator deputy, Sergey Segeyev, the Project Office and the ESRs. After the presentations, in the afternoon, the ESRs had the chance to talk further with the Project Officer.

MOCCA Supervisory Board, IPAG and management meetings took place on June 17, 2020 via Webex. The SB and management meetings had been previously scheduled for April and were supposed to be held in person in Paris. When the pandemic broke out, the meetings were initially postponed and then it was decided to move them online.

MOCCA Training Activities

(March-September, 2020)

Joint Mini Symposium "Introduction to Machine Learning" Online (via Webex)



For more info, please see:

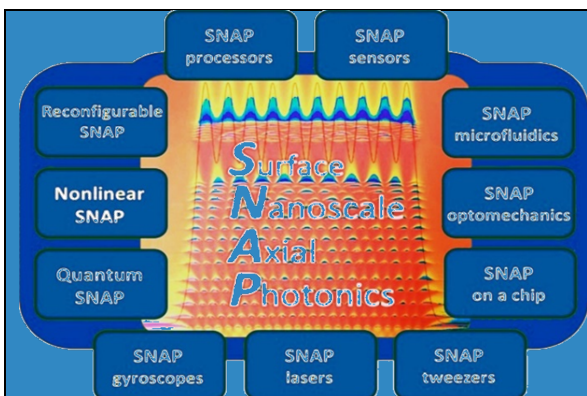
<https://mocca.astonphotronics.uk/joint-mini-symposium/>

Together with other ITNs coordinated by AiPT ([FONTE](#), [REAL-NET](#) and [WON](#)), MOCCA participated in the organization of the Mini Symposium [Introduction to Machine Learning](#). The event was held on September 7-8, (via Webex).

The aim of the Mini Symposium was to facilitate a high-level discussions on research challenges in machine learning in optical communications.

The seven speakers were chosen among well-known scholars and promising young researchers. The event also featured a practical section for ESRs organized by Prof Darko Zibar (DTU Fotonik)

MOCCA Mini Symposium I SNAP based optical frequency comb



MOCCA Mini Symposium I [SNAP based optical frequency comb](#) was held on September 10, 2020.

With the participation of ESRs, MOCCA WP leaders and external speakers, the aim of the workshop was to facilitate high-level discussions on important issues related to OFC technologies.

To know more please see:

<https://mocca.astonphotronics.uk/mocca-mini-symposium-1-snap-based-optical-frequency-comb/>

Dissemination and outreach activities

Despite the pandemic, MOCCA ESRs have engaged in many training and dissemination activities: They have taken part in summer schools, given papers at seminars and conferences and engaged in outreach activities.



MOCCA ESR1 Victor Vassiliev participated in an outreach event organized by the student branch of the Optics Organizations at Aston university. The event (held on March 2, 2020) was organized within the celebration for the International women's week and its aim was to explain optics to undergraduate students.



ESR2, Loredana Maria Massaro, presented her project at *ePIXfab*, within the ePIXfab Silicon Photonics Summer School. The summer school was held online, on 15-19 June 2020.



ESR3, Francesco Rinaldo Talenti, gave the paper "Control of Kerr Cavity Soliton Combs by Chirped Pumping" at the OSA "Non-Linear Photonics" meeting at "Advanced Photonics Congress 2020". This took place on July 13-14, 2020. Initially planned in Montreal, the conference was held remotely due to the Covid-19 outbreak.



MOCCA ESR4, Avinash Kumar, gave a talk on "Integration of Graphene with Mid-IR Optical Materials & Far-Field Excitation of Graphene Plasmons" at AMO (April 30, 2020)



For more info on dissemination and outreach activities, see:
<https://mocca.astonphotonics.uk/news/>



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