

# SPP 2080 Summer School Went Online

DFG Priority Programme "SPP 2080" PhD and PostDoc Summer School  
Online, September 28 – October 1, 2020

Due to the current pandemic situation the SPP 2080 Summer School was held as an online event from September 28 to October 1, 2020. This was initially planned and organized to happen in Mannheim. However, the organizing committee of the SPP 2080 Summer School, consisting of Gereon Behrendt, Steffen Czoska, Antonia Herzog, Aleks Arinchtein, Dilara Issayeva, Hanna Türk and Sebastian Weber, decided to switch to a reduced online format as we think a regular exchange possibility is important for the PhD students and PostDocs within the SPP and not only in their respective consortia.

Initially for the meeting in Mannheim we planned a half day visit to BASF SE in Ludwigshafen with a site tour and seminars at the site as well as interactive sessions, i.e. social activities, group work, interactive soft-skill workshops. Those were obviously not possible as planned in the online format. However, as for the last PhD and postdoc workshop which was held in Leipzig, we decided to focus the Summer School on a certain scientific topic of the SPP which was electrochemistry and electrocatalysis this time. Furthermore, we held on to the successful format of students-teaching-students with a general introduction into electrochemistry and electrocatalysis, lectures about fuel cells, electrolysis, electrosynthesis and CO<sub>2</sub> electroreduction held by members from within the SPP. This scientific program was complemented by an online session together with BASF SE focusing on BASF's battery research and entry options for scientists at BASF SE. For this session Benjamin Bergner and Matteo Bianchini introduced the battery research at BASF SE and at the joint laboratory BELLA between BASF SE and KIT, respectively. Julia Jähnigen and Norman Funk introduced entry options for PhDs and postdocs at BASF SE. This was complemented by a marketplace where all participants of the summer school had the opportunity to ask questions to all four guests. We thank BASF SE a lot for supporting our event and giving us this opportunity despite we were all looking forward to an on-site excursion.

Besides the lectures the PhD students and postdocs presented recent results of their research in three to five minutes' pitch talks instead of having a poster session. Between the session the participants had the opportunity to come together via the online meeting room gather.town to pair up in individual groups and have an online coffee or tea together. However, the participation and activity in these gatherings could have been better. Additionally, we discussed in an open round the issues accompanied with the pandemic situation for all the PhDs and postdocs. All participants were affected by the situation and limited in lab work, while groups relying on synchrotron studies experienced strong difficulties in doing beamtimes as planned, as experiments often got shifted or even cancelled. On the other side we also discussed positive developments for the individual persons due to the situation. People enjoyed the time for unpressured and thorough data analysis and the huge possibilities of online conferences, while in general all were missing the personal feedback from conferences in presence.

In total 25 people participated in the workshop and the work of every consortium was represented by at least one group. All the organizers are gratefully acknowledged and we are looking forward to the next PhD and postdoc workshop within the SPP 2080.

Sebastian Weber

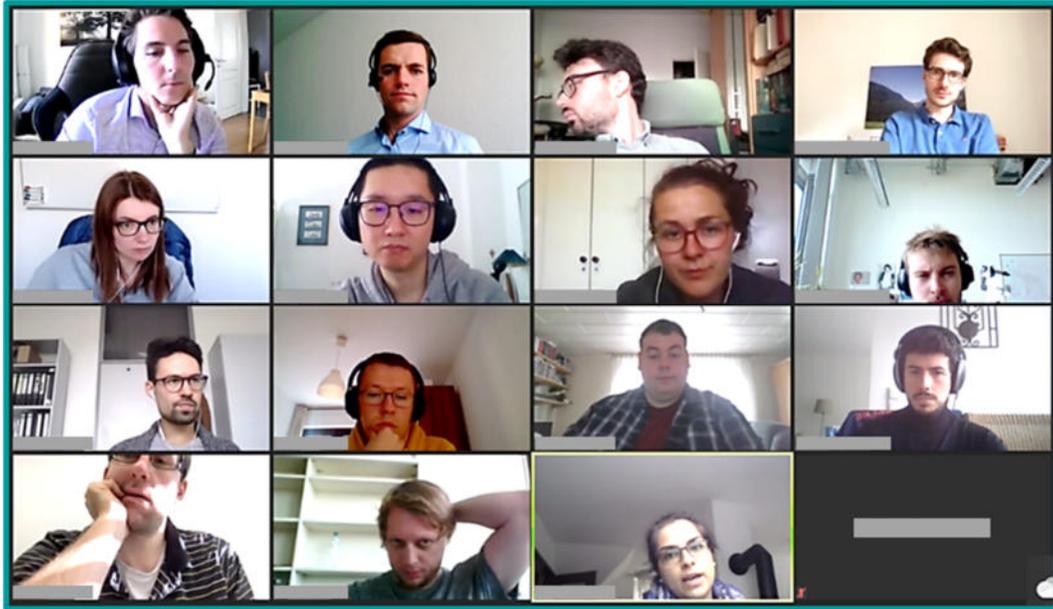


Figure 1: Participants of the SPP 2080 PhD and PostDoc Summer School in an online format instead of meeting in presence.