

The UK Acoustics Network Newsletter April 2019

Dear Members

This Network is still growing and now it has over 600 members (606 as of today). In the last month the Network ran a few successful events, which included the Ingleborough Soundscape Project Launch Event in Settle and an Early Careers SIG (SIG-ECG) event on 'Building Effective Academic-Industrial Partnerships in Acoustics' in London. The aim of the SIG-ECG event in London was to develop the skills of early career UKAN members in establishing and maintaining effective research partnerships with industry and government. The meeting was wide-ranging, with a keynote speech from the President of the Institute of Acoustics, Professor Barry M. Gibbs (photograph below), and with presentations from a range of industry



experts. Feedback indicated that the event was very well received, and that it should be held again in a

larger format and on a regular basis, and include a broader range of industry partners, e.g. from the aerospace and automotive industries. Several people commented that they are looking to start a collaborative research effort and potentially hire people as a direct result of the event. There was a clear consensus that the Network, and particularly its [early careers group](#), should continue beyond November 2020, which makes a very strong case for seeking further funding for the Network. If you are interested in involving your organisation in the next academic/industry partnerships event, please contact the organisers, Simone Graetzer and Sam Jackson, at earlycareersgroup@acoustics.ac.uk. In August 2019, SIG-ECG is running its second summer school. The school will provide training in machine learning for acoustics. For further information, follow [this link](#).

The Ingleborough Soundscape Project Launch Event in Settle was also a success. It connected the UKAN with a number of other communities in the UK who work on projects related to geography, landscape management and architecture. Over the next two years, a team from the University of Leeds Wildland Research Institute will be working in partnership with Natural England, Defra and UKAN on a citizen science outreach project within the Ingleborough

National Nature Reserve. The aim of this study is to establish the extent to which environmental acoustics can be incorporated into an overall measure of ‘environmental richness’, using two contrasting e-wilding initiatives. This launch event on the 10th of April 2019 presented an overview of the project and initiated the recruitment of ‘Citizen Scientists’ to work alongside members of the academic team. The photograph below is of Dr Karen Bacon paleo-ecologist from the University of Leeds presenting to the audience at the UKAN-sponsored Ingleborough Soundscape Project Launch Event.



Do not hesitate to get in touch with Dr Rob Pheasant (r.j.pheasant@outlook.com) if you would like to know more about this project or would like to get involved personally.

The UKAN needs your help to collect data on acoustics activity in the UK. Combined with the

[Value of Acoustics Report](#) this data will present very strong supporting evidence to influence decision makers and stakeholders in recognising the importance of the sector and providing resources to drive research and innovation in acoustics.

Therefore, we would like you to complete an anonymous online survey about your work. Please do not ignore it. This survey asks about what you do, your company/employer, your skills and experience and the acoustics application areas in which you work. We would also like to know about your use of software and computational methods in acoustics. It takes around 10 minutes to complete. Access the survey at:

<https://lboro.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/acoustics-network-survey>. The survey is open and will remain open until 31st May 2019. If you would like to make any further comments in addition to your responses in the survey, please email Valerie Pinfield (v.pinfield@lboro.ac.uk) with the subject line “UKAN Acoustics survey”.

The next month is going to be very busy with various UKAN events. Please visit the [Events page](#) of the UKAN website for more information. We would also like to draw your attention to the forthcoming [Soundscape Workshop – Overcoming Traditional Acoustic Challenges to Urban Planning and Development](#) on the 25th of June 2019 in London.

This event proves to be particularly popular with our members and external guests. The places are limited, therefore we encourage you to sign in for this event now if you would like to attend it.

On the 7th of May Kirill Horoshenkov, Richard Craster and Andrew Bullmore are visiting the EPSRC in Swindon to present them with a half-way review of the UKAN activities. A part of this visit is to discuss the future of the Network. We believe that the UKAN has had and will continue to have a very strong role in developing a horizon for mission-led approach to research in acoustics, developing and bringing together future research leaders for acoustics in the UK, engaging them with industry, helping them advocate their work and embedding multidisciplinary approach and collaborative culture key to medium- and long-term development of research in the UK. These will be our main arguments for asking the EPSRC to continue to fund this Network after the end of the grant in November 2020. We would like to ask your support on this matter. Do not hesitate to let us have your comments by sending an email to info@acoustics.ac.uk.

On the 10th of May 2019 the UKAN launches its first PhD Exchange Day at the University of Sheffield. It is organised by the Leonardo Tribology Centre. Places are still available and we encourage our members, particularly our early career research

members, to attend this event. The registration is available [via this link](#). We also invite our members to volunteer to organise similar events in their own organisations.

We remind our members that [UKAN travel Grants](#) are available to support the attendance at these and other UKAN events by members of the Network. We would like to ask our members to get active on Twitter while attending these and other related events. Do not forget to insert some twitter # and our handle while tweeting on [@acoustics_ac_uk](#).

We are pleased to inform you that interactive maps have been added to the SIG pages which will allow visitors to browse users by their location. The maps place users who have inputted their location when joining or when editing their profile onto their respective SIG page map. Each user on the map has a link to their individual profile page. If you haven't already, feel free to log in and update your profile if you'd like to feature on your SIG map.

Yours sincerely,

Kirill Horoshenkov
and Richard Craster