

The UK Acoustics Network Newsletter July 2019

Dear Members

This Network is still growing and now it has 677 members (30 July 2019). It has been a relatively quiet month. Since our last newsletter in June the Network ran or supported 2 events: (i) METAgenierie 2019 Symposium on principles and applications of acoustic metamaterials in Oléron (France) (1-5 of July); and (ii) Noise and Soundscape SIG Workshop to develop white/position paper in London on (24th of July), (see photo of participants who were happy to be in an air conditioned basement in Great George Street on one of the hottest days of the year). The morning of the Noise and Soundscape SIG Workshop included a useful discussion round existing challenges in environmental noise. The focus in the afternoon switched to the potential position paper on noise and soundscape. Given the scope of the subject attendees favoured producing papers around fundamental questions that could form the basis of a journal special issue (preferably open access). The questions are being refined by attendees before sharing with SIG members and the broader UKAN community as we seek to agree the questions and seek contributors to the text. This is important as it paves the way to a document which will

analyse rigorously the status of this area of research and the UK, UK's capabilities for developing international lead and the level of government support required for this to happen.

We would also like to note that following the very successful 1st Soundscape Workshop in June (videos from which should be on the website in late August) a 2nd Soundscape Workshop is planned for next year probably over two days allowing for presentations, case studies and perhaps some training elements. We encourage our members to provide their views on the structure of the 2nd Soundscape Workshop and topics for discussion.



Despite the start of this summer holiday season the Network remains active. [The UKAN2019 Summer](#)

School starts on the 5th of August. It will be held in be held at Gregynog Hall, Wales (see photo). This year the focus of our School is on machine learning in application to acoustics, data analysis and programming in Python. The event is fully booked.



The Noise and Soundscape SIG are proposing to launch a pilot programme in soundwalking and looking for volunteers. The aim of this programme is to train the volunteers to take members of the general public on guided walks during which the importance of sounds for the design of high-quality well-being and restorative spaces will be explained. This initiative is supported by the Institute of Acoustics, Noise Abatement Society, Environmental Agency and by Professor Jian Kang. The training programme will consist of classroom-based studies, expert discussions and soundwalks primarily based on methods given in the annexes of ISO/TS 12913-2:2018 (soundwalks) and methodologies presented in modern scientific literature. The UKAN will

provide financial support to this initiative. The volunteers will be expected to offer a series of soundwalks to the general public as a part of the International Year of Sound 2020. Do get in touch by email: soundwalks@acoustics.ac.uk before the 5th of September 2019 if you would like to volunteer for this initiative or would like to comment on how it should be run. It is anticipated that the training will be arranged in October 2019. Please feel free to forward this message to anyone who might be interested in this initiative.



There has been good deal of work on Ingleborough Soundscape Project done by Dr. Rob Pheasant and his team including capturing, analysis and presentation of data from camera traps (see photos above). This summer the team have started their education and engagement activities including ‘Turning the soundscape into art’ session, ‘Ingleborough Soundscape Project’ presentation and ‘Soundscape assessment and wildlife identification’ talk given to over 150 school

students in the North of England. Many more follow up networking and outreach events are planned by this team and a copy of the full report and plan produced by Dr. Pheasant can be found [here](#).

We would like to remind our members that there are two major acoustic conferences before the end of 2019: (i) International Congress on Acoustics, 9-13 September, Aachen, Germany; (ii) Fall 2019 Acoustical Society Meeting of America, 2-6 December, San Diego, USA. Funding to attend these meetings is available provided the purpose of your visit falls within the objectives of the UKAN (see the case for support). Fill in the online UKAN Travel Grant application form if you would like to apply. We also encourage our members to use the UKAN travel funding for short research visits to acoustic research centres through the UK and overseas. Get in touch with the UKAN management team for more information.

The Association of Noise Consultants (ANC) is asking UKAN members to enter a short video film, exploring a particular area of their expertise, for a new initiative to show schoolchildren examples of the opportunities involving STEM. Each video will then be judged as part of a new accolade being introduced in the Noise Abatement Society's renowned John Connell Awards programme. The John Connell STEM award - sponsored by the ANC

and ANV Measurement Systems - will be awarded to the best video clip, which engages the target audience, is creative in its approach, has good video and audio production qualities and promotes inclusivity and diversity. The link to this call is [here](#). A full PDF copy of the release document is [here](#).

Finally, we would still like to hear your views on whether or not the UKAN website should have a live depository for data and software. This fair question was asked by the EPSRC because all the EPSRC funded work should comply with their policy framework on research data. This policy suggests that publicly funded research data should generally be made as widely and freely available in a timely and responsible manner. In this respect it seems fair to suggest that the UKAN website is a good focal point for sharing data, software and publications. We would like our members to express their views on whether or not they would be happy to share the results of their work through our website. We also encourage our members to update their profiles and add links to any open source data/software which may be of interest to a larger acoustics community.

Yours sincerely,

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