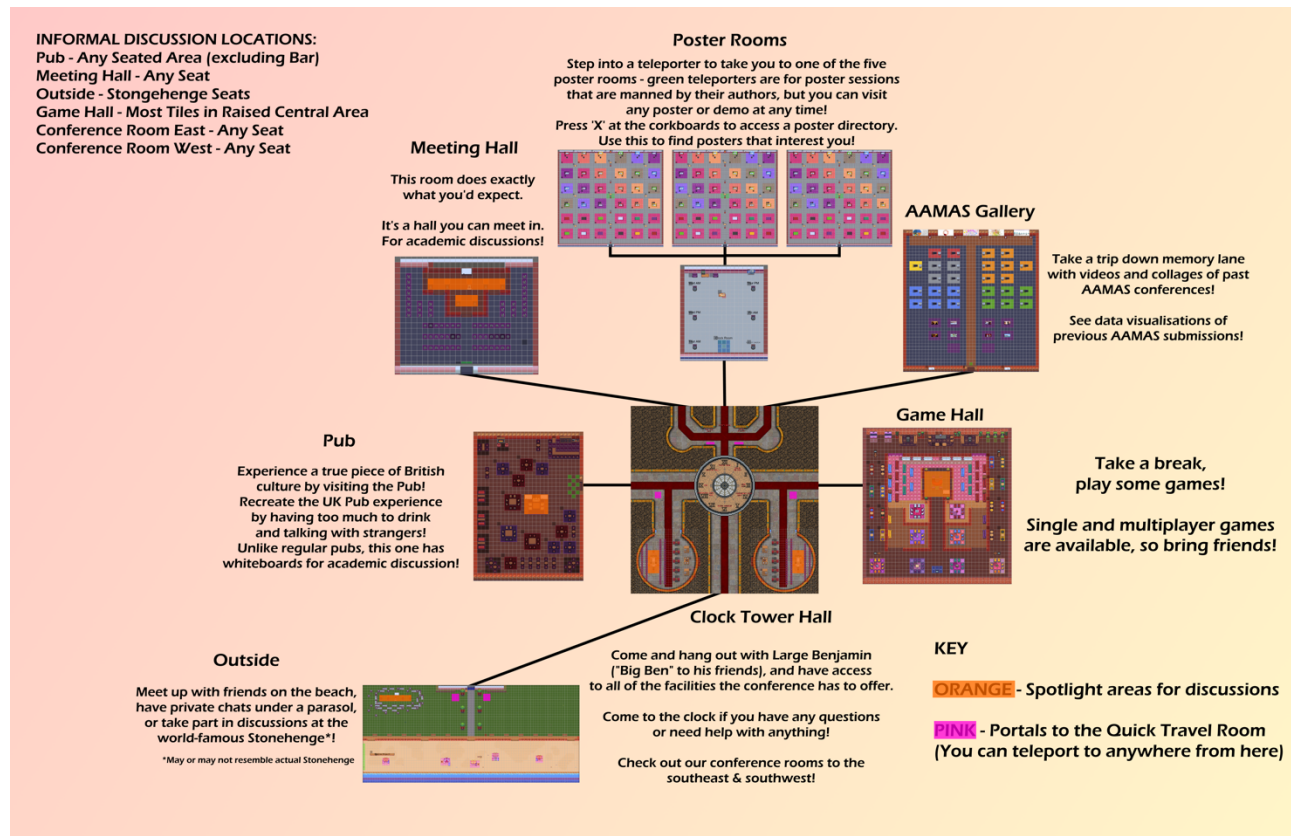# Welcome to Gather Town for AAMAS 2021

We are using Gather Town for some of the social elements of AAMAS 2021, including the poster and demo sessions, and informal discussions between participants.

Gather Town is a wonderful tool for exploring and chatting with other people. It is also avery new tool and has a few quirks. This document will help you get started, so you can discover and play on your own.

It is divided into two sections:

- **Basics** will help you get started with Gather Town if you are completely new to the platform. You can skip this if you are already familiar with Gather Town.

- **AAMAS-Specific Details** covers elements that are specific to the AAMAS conference.

INFORMAL DISCUSSION LOCATIONS:
Pub - Any Seated Area (excluding Bar)
Meeting Hall - Any Seat
Outside - Stongehenge Seats
Game Hall - Most Tiles in Raised Central Area
Conference Room East - Any Seat
Conference Room West - Any Seat

Poster Rooms
Step into a teleporter to take you to one of the five poster rooms - green teleporters are for poster sessions that are manned by their authors, but you can visit any poster or demo at any time!
Press 'X' at the corkboards to access a poster directory.
Use this to find posters that interest you!

Meeting Hall
This room does exactly what you'd expect.
It's a hall you can meet in. For academic discussions!

AAMAS Gallery
Take a trip down memory lane with videos and collages of past AAMAS conferences!
See data visualisations of previous AAMAS submissions!

Game Hall
Take a break, play some games!
Single and multiplayer games are available, so bring friends!

Pub
Experience a true piece of British culture by visiting the Pub!
Recreate the UK Pub experience by having too much to drink and talking with strangers!
Unlike regular pubs, this one has whiteboards for academic discussion!

Clock Tower Hall
Come and hang out with Large Benjamin ("Big Ben" to his friends), and have access to all of the facilities the conference has to offer.
Come to the clock if you have any questions or need help with anything!
Check out our conference rooms to the southeast & southwest!

Outside
Meet up with friends on the beach, have private chats under a parasol, or take part in discussions at the world-famous Stonehenge*!
*May or may not resemble actual Stonehenge

KEY
ORANGE - Spotlight areas for discussions
PINK - Portals to the Quick Travel Room (You can teleport to anywhere from here)

Basics

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 to log in:

- Open this URL: https://gather.town/app/PXARPLyqwrBIIduv/AAMAS2021

- If you receive a message that this is a protected space, follow the steps below. This will only need to be done once (unless you switch browser / computer):

    - Click the "**Sign In**" button.
        • Optionally, select your data to be deleted after the event.

    - Enter your **email address.**
        • IMPORTANT: Use the same one as for your **AAMAS registration**.

    - Click "**Send Magic Link**".

    - Click on the link you were sent by email and follow the instructions until you are signed in. Now open the URL above again.

How it works:

- Gather Town is a video chat platform that has avatars that 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 in small groups, depending on how many people are around you.
- When your avatar moves closer to an interactable object, there will be a notification that shows up saying 'Press x to interact with -object-'. This can range from information boards, images, demos, posters, to playable arcade games, and more!

Keyboard shortcuts:

ARROW KEYS	Use arrow keys on your keyboard to move around the map
A,W,S,D	Use A,W,S and D keys to move around the map (just like arrow keys)
X	Interact key – use it to interact with objects such as posters, videos or info boards
G	Ghost mode – use this to pass through people and easily get out of crowded places
1,2,3,4,5,6	Use number keys for emojis
Ctrl +/-	Zoom in and zoom out. Shortcut on Mac is Cmd +/-
Z	Dance

Setup and navigation ribbon:

When you are logged into Gather Town, your profile setup and navigation options will be on the bottom of the screen:
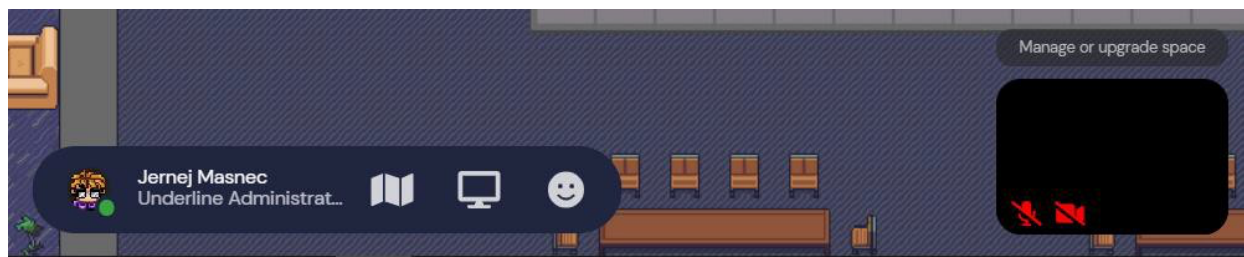
To mute and unmute yourself press on the microphone and camera icon in the **bottom right** corner of the screen:

Remember to mute yourself when listening to presentations or watching the videos in Gather Town to avoid echo.

Icons:

 Change your **avatar** character and clothing

NAME Click it to modify your personal settings

 Mini map to preview the space you're in

 Screen sharing ability

 **Emotes –** use them to express your feelings.
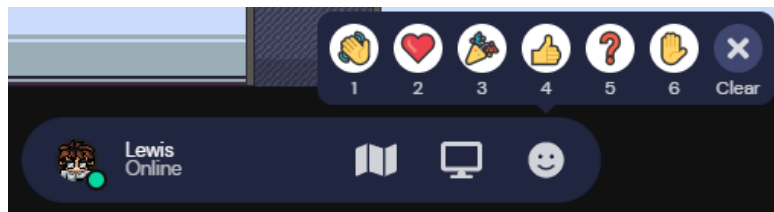
You can hover over the smiley face at the bottom-right to bring up a list of emotes. You can also press the respective number on your keyboard at any time to do any emote. These emotes will be helpful during discussion sessions – where you can indicate that you want to ask a question or contribute and have the chair immediately aware.

Not-So-Obvious Features:

Participant list is in the bottom left corner. By clicking it you will see all of the participants in thespace. Clicking on a participant you will get to options to send them a private message, locate them on the map, follow them or spotlight them (this last option is only available to moderators). Everyone in the same room will be able to hear the person who has been spotlighted.
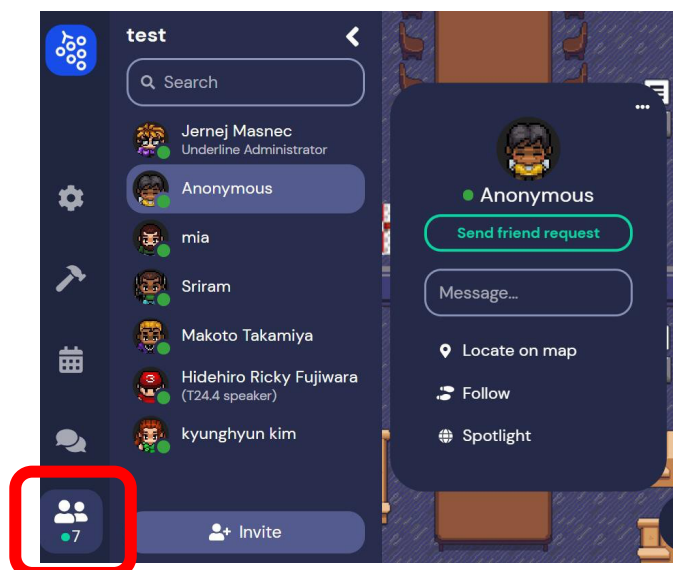
Chat icon is above the participants list. By clicking on it you will see the current chat and you willhave options to chat to EVERYONE (everyone in the room will see your message), NEARBY (only people in your immediate vicinity will see your message) or click on a specific person to chat to them.
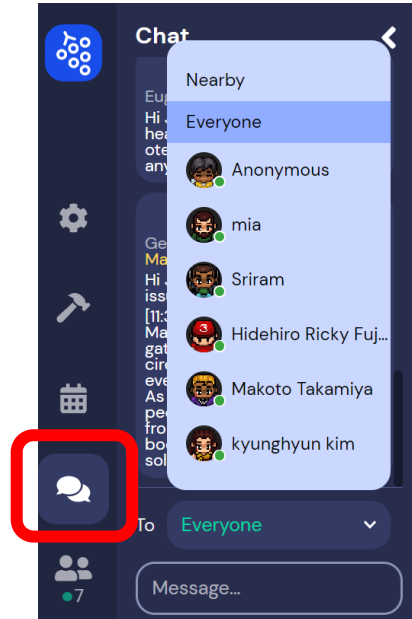
Interaction distance – you are only able to hear and speak to people who are in your immediate proximity. This is sometimes altered by designated private spaces. For example, a table with chairs in the pub might be a designated private space. If you enter a private space, it will highlight, and you will be notified as shown below:
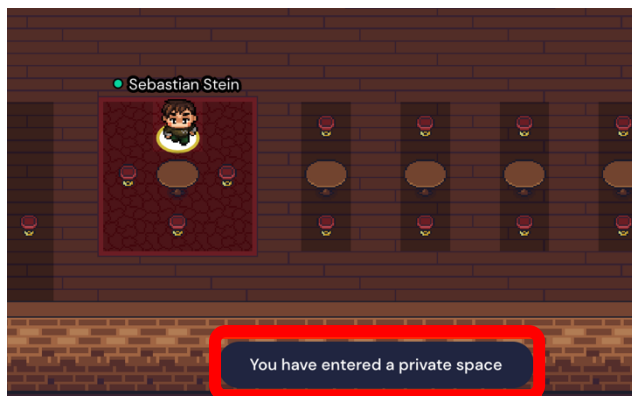
Full screen someone else's video - just click on their video.

Technical difficulties:

Refreshing the page will fix most things!

- If that doesn't work, try muting and unmuting your mic and camera in Gather Town.
- Check if your browser is permitted camera and mic access.
- Close down other communication apps (Zoom, Teams, Hangouts…)
- Additional troubleshooting at https://gather.town/video-issues

AAMAS-Specific Details

Navigation Portals:

Pink portals (found Outside and in the Clock Tower Hall) will take you to the Quick Travel Room – where you can teleport straight to almost any room of your choice immediately.
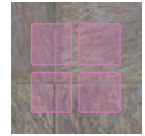
Green and **Red** portals can be found in the Poster Portal Room.

- **Green** portals will take you to poster rooms where the authors are currently present.

- You can visit **Red** portals at any time, but the authors won't be present.
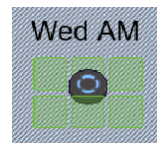
Blue portals will simply take you to another room. There will often be another blue portal leading back to where you came from.
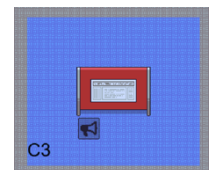

Poster Sessions:

In the poster room, you can find specific posters by looking at the **directory** (use 'x' to interact with it).

Then find the poster using the **coordinates** in the bottom left of each poster area. The posters are also **colour-coded by topic** to enable browsing. As you approach the poster, a small preview image will appear – to view it full-screen, press 'x'.

The entire coloured area around a poster is a **private space**, so you can discuss the poster with the authors and other attendees (see next section).

Demo presentations may have a demo computer that you can also interact with (usually linking to a website or a video).

For poster presenters: Please identify yourself by standing on the megaphone icon. During your discussions, you can point to parts of your poster by viewing your own poster, enabling presenter mode (a very small and easily missed icon on the right of your poster) and then clicking on the poster.

Spotlighting & Private Spaces:

Scheduled **informal discussions** (see the detailed program) will be held in one of several locations as specified in the program. During the informal discussions, spotlighting will be activated. **Spotlights** are orange tiles that allow you to speak to everybody in the same room – rooms that are built to facilitate informal discussions will have up to 7 of these. Simply stand on an orange tile, and everyone in the room will be able to hear you.

All spaces for the informal discussions also have a **whiteboard**. Press x to view and interact with the whiteboard.

Private Spaces limit the audience of your camera and microphone to people in the same space. Some private spaces (e.g. on the coloured carpets in the Poster Rooms, beach towels or the bar in the pub) are made up of several tiles, so you can talk to friends undisturbed.

Furthermore, AAMAS 2021 uses single-tile Private Spaces for attendees of informal discussions, so that any background noises from your microphone will be hidden from the rest of the cohort. These spaces are usually found in seats in the same room as a spotlighted area.

Finally – AAMAS 2021 Duck Hunt:

If you need some time off between sessions, why not look for the 8 ducks we've hidden in the AAMAS 2021 Gather Town space?

When you walk on a duck, press x to reveal a hidden code. Once you've collected all 8 codes, you can submit them here: https://forms.office.com/r/AhDGRnBD8R

As reward, you will receive a star next to your Gather Town name!