When:
Saturday, June 13, 2020 from 2:00 - 5:00 pm

Where (main Zoom link):
https://zoom.us/j/96357565025

Zoom Tips and Tricks

As a platform for gathering a community, Zoom has a lot of advantages - it's flexible and free to use, many people have some familiarity with it, and it can generally handle a large crowd. However, it can be tricky to use if you haven't practiced. To help the event Saturday go smoothly, read on for some Zoom tricks and tips, and troubleshooting hints.

We know Zoom cannot match an in-person experience. You'll be more likely to have a great time if you understand what Zoom can do, and what it cannot do.

Audio - the good, the bad, and the ugly

In Zoom, you will only be able to hear one audio source clearly at a time. This is a hard rule. You cannot get around it. Believe me, I have tried. It is because of the difficulty of synching sounds from two inputs, and the inherent but different amounts of lag between the devices on a Zoom call. Zoom "chooses" what to broadcast, and doesn't always get it right. Human ears are much more discriminating.

This means you will only hear the loudest person, if more than one person tries to speak at a time. In order to keep our Zoom event moving along, activities will have a clear mechanism for holding the Zoom mic (metaphorically speaking). This may mean you respond or call back with a hand signal instead of a shout. Or you may respond in chat and a moderator will convey the response to everyone.

It is Zoom etiquette to Mute yourself unless you are speaking. This keeps the app from getting confused about what sound to convey to everyone.

Video - better, not best

Zoom is better at simultaneous video than audio. You can choose how you see everyone, though you'll be limited to 49 people at a time and it will depend on how much processing power your computer has (**hint** - for a more satisfying experience, see if you can hook up a large monitor or your TV screen to be your computer display).

Laptops and desktops - yes!! Phones and tablets - no!!

Zoom definitely works better on a desktop or laptop. Really, really better. If you have to use your phone or a tablet, many of the interactive activities will be less satisfying or even not possible. Your gallery view will be very limited and you will only be able to see one or maybe a handful of people at a time. Many of the instructions below won't apply, since the app is different.

Zoom setup

To maximize your Virtual Onas experience, see the instructions and recommendations below. Note that these instructions are all for a laptop or desktop. If you are on a tablet or a phone, you may not have the same options. Come early to figure out your situation…

To see as many people as your device allows, choose "Gallery view" from the top right corner (if it says "Speaker View" like below, it's already in gallery view!
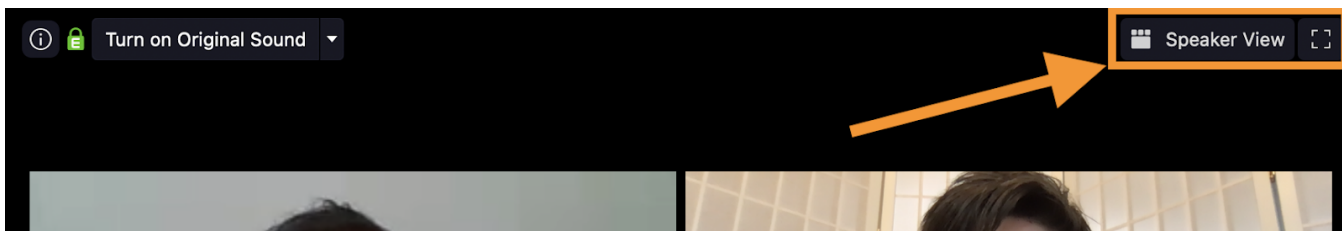
To make one person's video feed stay big, front and center, "pin" their video by selecting "Pin video" after choosing the three horizontal dots icon in their video screen:
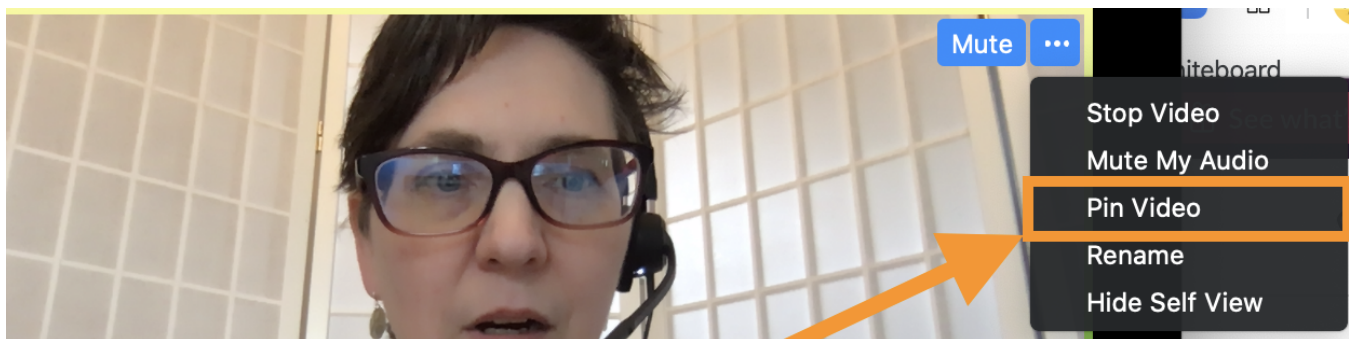
"Nametags" on Zoom

Like the nametags we wear at ECRS events (but not so colorful or creative), Zoom labels your video with your name. You can change the default name Zoom assigns you by clicking on the three dots icon (see the screenshot above) and choosing "Rename"

Accessing Zoom controls

If you move your cursor to the bottom of your Zoom screen and let it sit there, you will expose the main controls.

Be polite - mute your mic! Also - how to let your video shine!

You will be muted by default when you join the meeting. **It is Zoom etiquette to mute yourself unless you are speaking.** Of course we want to see you participating! You mute or unmute the microphone and video using the lower left menu bar:
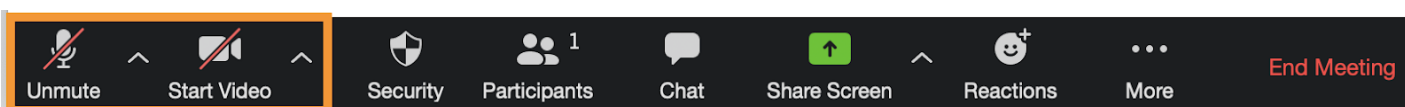

How to unmute your mic temporarily

Your mic should be muted for the program. When you want to speak, you can press and hold the spacebar (only an option with keyboard). Your mic will be unmuted while you hold it down.

Communicate and troubleshoot in real time with chat

Although you can't really talk all at one time, it's possible to "talk" together using the chat function. Select the chat function to expose the chat screen. From the chat window, you can send a message to the whole group or to one person (privately):
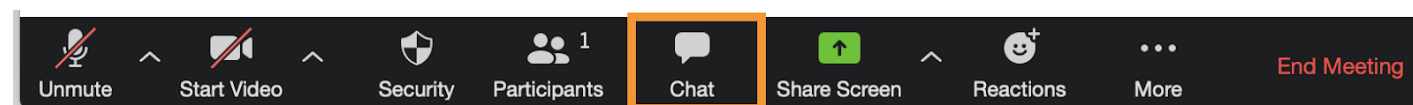
Having Zoom difficulties?

If you are having technical problems, you can send a private chat to the co-host (class session), or to Hugh Abrams-Helde (main room).

New to Zoom?

We suggest you do a test with one of the links you were sent ahead of time. You may get a message about "The Meeting has not yet Started" but at least you will know that your Zoom app, and microphone and speakers work. If you need technical support before the event you can call the following for help:

Donna Miller-Small: 516-603-7528

Karen Wisnia: 215-681-0539