

Editorial

Welcome to the 30th edition of the CAPjournal, this time with a special issue dedicated to astronomy outreach and communication in a time of confinement. While the world still struggles to contain the spread of COVID-19, we've witnessed numerous creative and inspiring science engagement initiatives worldwide.

People from all backgrounds and levels of experience in public communication have risen to the challenge and organised astronomy events to stay connected with their communities. Individuals have streamed their night sky through a telescope at their window; astronomers have held virtual meetups; educators have shared fun DIY activities for parents and children at home; planetariums have broadcast live remote shows, and astronomy challenges have been set up online. The CAP journal team encouraged our community to share their stories behind the outreach initiatives that engaged the public meaningfully with science and astronomy during the pandemic. Outreach professionals, educators, amateur and professional astronomers, and astronomy enthusiasts worldwide have answered the call, and we received nearly 60 submissions from around the world.

In this special CAPjournal issue, we describe the mobilisation of astronomy communicators in Brazil, one of the countries most affected by the pandemic and where the amount and diversity of online activities increased considerably. We address the difficulty of visiting observatories located in remote areas, with the global pandemic making visits even harder and the role of virtual tours to continue engaging with the public. Astronomers for Planet Earth (A4E) and the impact of a global shift to online communication due to Covid-19, and how they utilised digital tools to engage their audience and continue to tackle and communicate help tackle the climate crisis. Discover the Universe team shares how they supported young families to adjust to the challenges faced with school closures by providing daily astronomy content. All of this and more in this special edition.

We want to thank our Guest Editors for their support in identifying and selecting from a vast and eclectic number of contributions the articles that compose this edition. We also want to extend our thanks to the whole CAPjournal team that, twice a year, helps bring you the CAP Journal editions: our thanks to the Editorial Board, peer reviewers and contributing authors for their efforts in bringing you another edition of CAPjournal.

CAPjournal will return in the Spring of 2022 with a regular edition thanks to the continued contributions from our community of science communicators, informal educators and outreach practitioners. If you are interested in sharing your work in a future issue of the CAPjournal, we continually accept abstracts and encourage you to submit them for consideration in issue #32 to be published towards Autumn of 2022.

Wishing you clear skies and good health,

Lina Canas
Editor-in-Chief

Cover: A mosaic composite with the IAU National Outreach Coordinators (NOCs) during one of the NOCs bimonthly online meetings and a detail of a broader image of the Carina Nebula (by ESO/T. Preibisch). The IAU National Outreach Coordinators (NOCs) are national-level representatives for the IAU Office for Astronomy Outreach (OAO). Members of the network act as a point-of-contact for astronomy outreach for a country or territory. NOCs support the implementation of IAU OAO projects on a national level, share astronomy news and events within their country, and bridge the IAU with local communities. Image Credit: IAU Office for Astronomy Outreach



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