

A photograph of a person with long brown hair, wearing a dark green sweater, holding a red Samsung camera. The person is standing in a field of pink and white flowers. The camera has 'SAMSUNG' and 'SAMSUNG LENS' written on it. The background is a soft-focus field of flowers under a teal sky.

DIY<sup>2</sup> Lab – Summary Report

## Using cameras creatively

**ijAB**

In March 2021, IJAB launched its new project DIY<sup>2</sup> Lab: Do-it-Yourself in Digital International Youth Work for experts, project managers and team leaders who want to explore the possibilities afforded by digital international youth work. The DIY<sup>2</sup> Labs are an opportunity for experts and team leaders to try out digital tools and methods and discuss practical as well as more fundamental issues associated with digital international youth work in the group. The events were all held on [Zoom](#).

At the DIY<sup>2</sup> Lab on 27 May 2021, participants discussed and tested creative and playful ways to use cameras in the digital space. Yves Sanwidi, education officer at [Roots & Routes Cologne e. V. \(RRCGN\)](#), supported the DIY<sup>2</sup> Lab with a presentation of various methods, tools and ideas. A former participant in the hybrid project [Generation Europe Mixed Reality Exchange](#), Yves was able to share his experience with the Lab participants. A report on the project is available on the [IJAB website](#).

## DIY<sup>2</sup> Lab

From January 2022, further DIY<sup>2</sup> Labs will take place monthly, one month in English, the next in German.

10 January 2022 (English)  
10 February 2022 (German)  
20 March 2022 (English)  
7 April 2022 (German)

# Programme

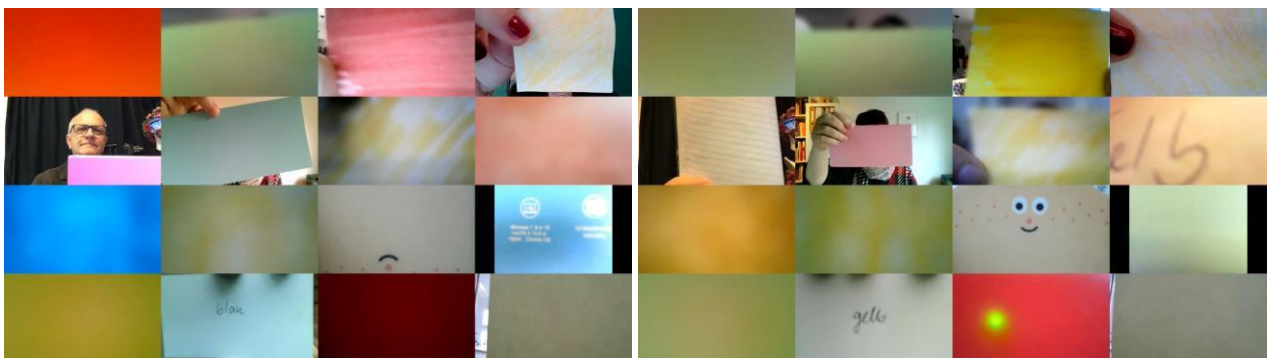
## Check-in activity: Webcam mosaic with Post Its

The facilitator reads out statements which the participants are asked to respond to. They cover their camera with PostIts (or pieces of paper they have coloured themselves) in three different colours, according to what they think about the statement.

Yellow means “agree”, blue “disagree” and red “undecided” or “partially agree”.



(Image: Yves Sanwidi)



Examples from the Lab (Screenshot: IJAB)

Several rounds were played and the following statements were mentioned:

- I wave to people more now that I've seen them online.
- I actively respond with facial expressions to what people say.
- I like the backgrounds and environments I see in video conferences.
- I've sometimes had to force myself to turn on my camera.
- Since the shift to digital technologies, I have rearranged and adapted my workplace towards more video conferencing.
- I prefer the gallery view and look at different people when I speak.
- I find it reassuring to see a picture of myself.
- I am a fan of the “Raise your hand” option.
- I like trying out video filters and virtual backgrounds.
- I have also used my device's webcam function offline.
- I have noticed people being obviously distracted.
- I make a point of looking directly at the camera when someone is talking.

After the mood survey, participants discuss some of the statements.

One **suggestion** that was made to **test personal responses** to the statement "I find it reassuring to see a picture of myself" was to hide Self View. This is done in Zoom by clicking the three dots next to the thumbnail of one's own face. Self View can be restored by clicking the Show Self View option in the top-right corner of Zoom.

## Working creatively with cameras: Gestures as a form of non-verbal communication

Discussion about the kind of gestures participants observe in themselves and others.

Participants collected information about gestures and facial expressions such as nods, thumbs-up, waving, clapping, sceptical expressions, or grimaces and shared observations about how people try to hide facial expressions and look at their own thumbnails.

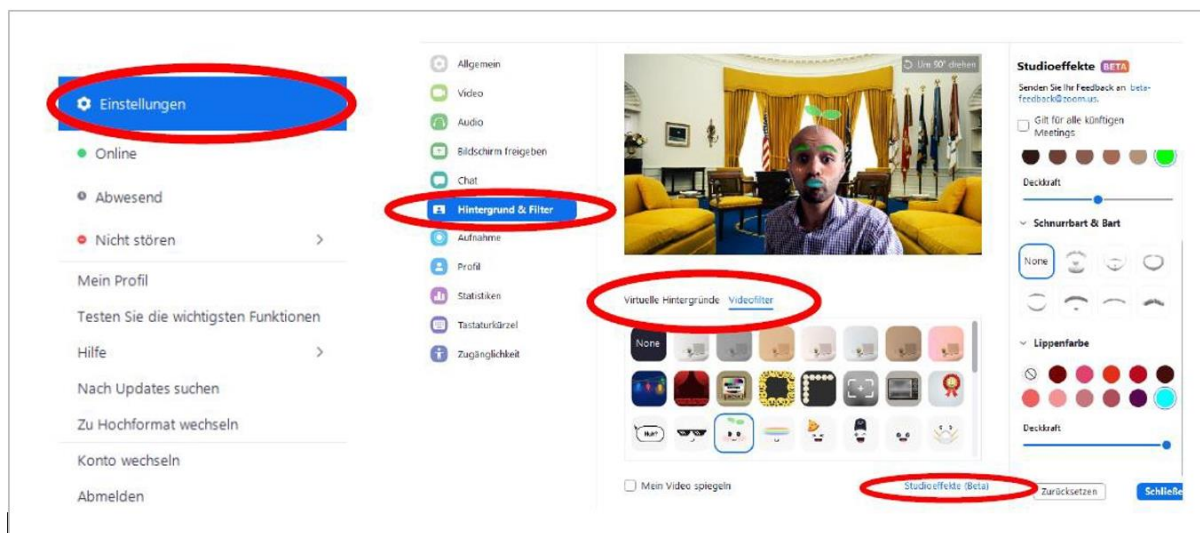
Researchers at University College London have developed a series of gestures known as [Video Meeting Signals](#), which are based on diving signals to support non-verbal communication in the digital space.

An **element** that can be incorporated in the methods is **to agree on the use of the hand signals**. This could enhance communication between participants who are remote:

Participants are given the [list](#) and perform the individual signs. The other members of the group call out what they think the signs mean. They do not have to stick to the exact meaning but should try and reach a common understanding.

## Working creatively with backgrounds and filters

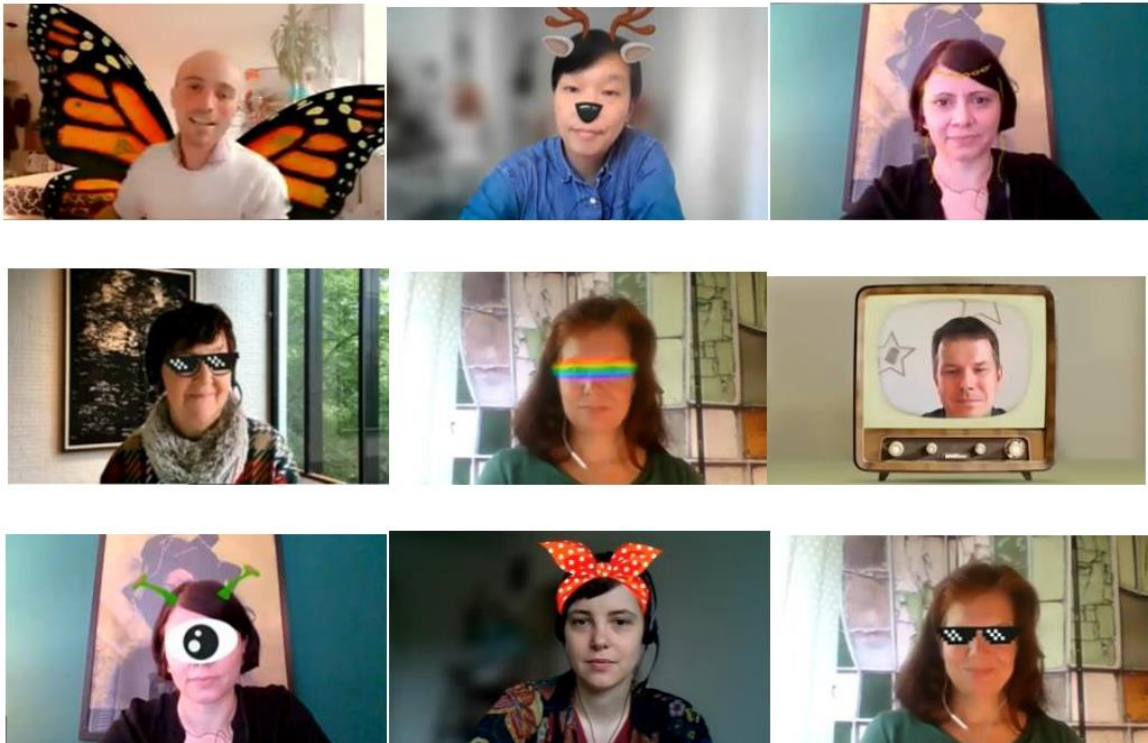
Zoom offers a variety of backgrounds and filters and [shows users how to use them](#).



(Screenshot: IJAB)

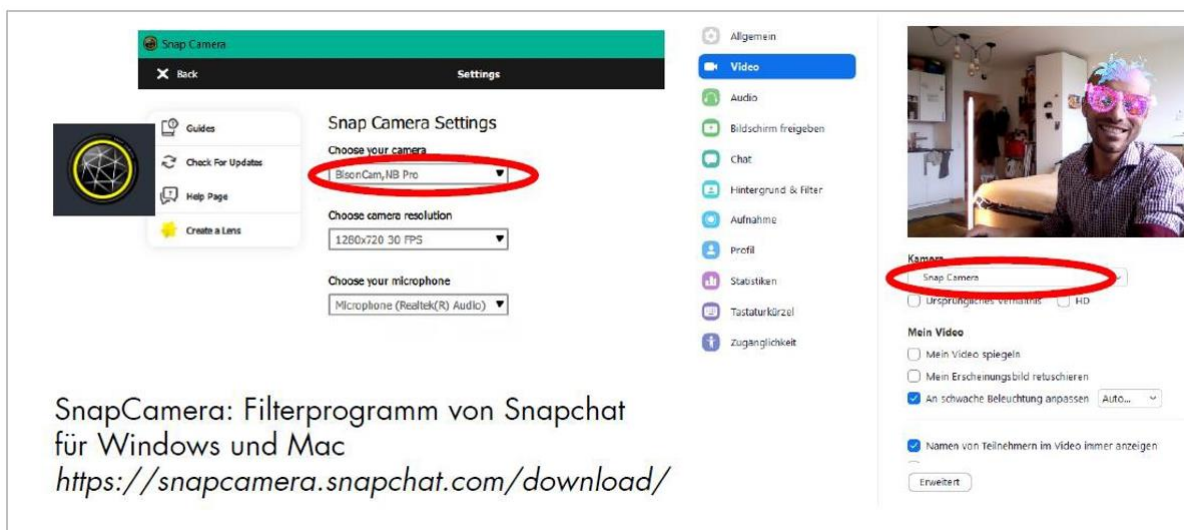


SnapCamera offers even more ways to experiment with backgrounds and filters



Examples from the Lab (Screenshot: IJAB)

To be able to use the camera, the tool has to be [downloaded](#), installed and then selected as the target camera in the Zoom settings. The internal camera must be switched off first.



Selecting the SnapCamera in Zoom (Screenshot: IJAB)

### Possible ways to incorporate this in a method:

- Use a black and white filter via the SnapCamera and make a silent film.
- Select a TV via the SnapCamera and perform "hand theatre".
- Use the internal Zoom filter features to rotate the camera.
- Involve participants who don't have the appropriate technical equipment; e.g., they can use coloured, transparent foils as analogue filters or dress up in a costume.
- Use filters if participants do not want to be filmed all the time.
- Create an appearance in front of the camera according to the current mood.

## Creating a mini-clip as a virtual background

Another option is to turn a short video clip into a virtual background



Example from the Lab: Yves Sanwidi waters his plants in the background (Screenshot: IJAB)



Example from the Lab: Yves Sanwidi gets into bed in the background (Screenshot: IJAB)



Example from the Lab (Screenshot: IJAB)

To do this, the Zoom webcam must be deactivated and the internal camera program enabled. The internal camera in Windows can be found by entering “camera” in the search bar. After making a short film, for example showing yourself getting a cup of coffee, the video can be added to Zoom’s collection of virtual backgrounds and selected. It then runs in a continuous loop as a virtual background.

## Outcomes, questions and ideas from the discussion

### Discussion about personal experiences and ideas

Participants reported on their own experiences:

#### Virtual city tours and soundtrack for exchange venues

As part of a media project, participants created virtual tours of Kaliningrad, Danzig and Wentorf in the form of smartphone videos. Given that Zoom can also be used on smartphones, live streams are also conceivable. The same project included a soundscape workshop where participants recorded ambient sounds in their home cities using the app [Lexis Audio Editor](#) and created a beat using sounds from [SEQUENCE – Drum Machine](#).

#### Language animation

A story was read out and the participants were assigned the different roles from the story. Whenever a certain role was mentioned, the participants had to respond with an appropriate gesture. This also works when the story is read in a language which the participants do not or only partially understand.

#### “All those who...” as a check-in and warm-up activity

All cameras are covered/switched off. Statements such as “All those who have been on a bike today” are then read out. All the participants to whom this statement applies uncover or switch on their camera so that they are now visible. Each statement can be followed by further questions and the person making the statement can also change. Source: <https://digitale-spielewelten.de/methoden/alle-die/134>

#### Making a video

In the context of a virtual exhibition of drama education methods, participants made a 90-second video in 20 minutes showing how they experienced the exhibition. The reporting participant was surprised at the variety of ways images could be framed. As an example, she mentioned coming into the shot from below, above or the sides, working with closeness and distance to the camera or passing on objects with hands via different screens (e.g. upwards, looking upwards).

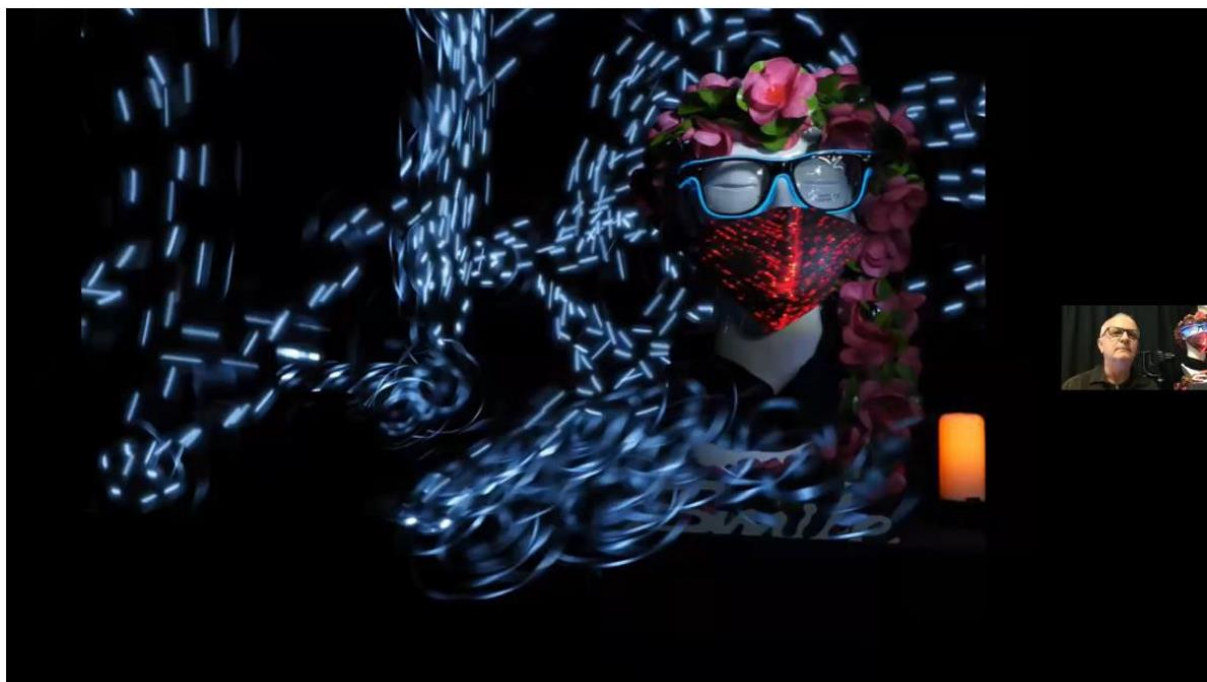


## Report on experiences with light painting in youth work

Richard Kratz talked about his experiences with *light painting*, which is a photographic technique whereby a moving source of light (e.g. a torch, glow stick or smartphone) is used to alter an image during a long exposure.



Source: Richard Kratz, <https://www.instagram.com/p/CNVXEw2h9Yz/>



Example from the Lab (Screenshot: IJAB)

The discussion produced more ideas, such as

- using young people's smartphone torches as a moving source of light
- using the professional mode in smartphone cameras as an alternative to a high-quality camera with long exposure feature
- using the [Light-Painter](#) app to post-edit photos.



# Digital Tools

Zoom (Videokonferenz-Tool): <https://zoom.us>

Evaluation tool [www.edkimo.com](http://www.edkimo.com)

[Lexis Audio Editor](#)

[Light-Painter](#)

[SEQUENCE – Drum Machine](#)

SnapCamera <https://snapcamera.snapchat.com/download/>

Zoom (video conferencing tool): <https://zoom.us> <https://support.zoom.us/hc/de/articles/210707503-Virtueller-Hintergrund>

## Links/literature

Digitale Spielewelten (methods and tools): <https://digitale-spielewelten.de/methoden/alle-die/134>

Generation Europe Mixed Reality Exchange 2020 – The Documentary (YouTube): [Generation Europe Mixed Reality Exchange](#)

Generation Europe Mixed Reality Exchange – project report on ijab.de:  
<https://ijab.de/projekte/kommune-goes-international/aktuelle-beitraege-zu-kommune-goes-international/generation-europe-mixed-reality-exchange>

Information on the organisation: [Roots & Routes Cologne e. V. \(RRCGN\)](#)

Konektis.org: Video Meeting Signals: <https://www.konektis.org/signals>  
[https://media.wix.com/ugd/bc61ad\\_b178d6bf946a42e1aeb8e0842a6ff6ba.pdf](https://media.wix.com/ugd/bc61ad_b178d6bf946a42e1aeb8e0842a6ff6ba.pdf)

Light painting by Richard Kratz: <http://www.richard-kratz.de/Lightpainting.html> and  
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CNVXEw2h9Yz/>

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