

IVAC - International Virtual Academic Collaboration

Enabling all students, regardless of family, financial or physical conditions, to have an international and intercultural experience.

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Our website is live now!

Get to know the IVAC Team

Part 2



I have a degree in Organizational Psychology, and I have always been interested in different cultures. After graduating from school, I went to live and travel through South America for 9 months. This experience has deeply broadened my personal and academic perspectives. Although it is certainly not the same as actually being in another country, I see a huge potential in virtual academic exchange formats such as IVAC. Currently, I am working on my doctoral thesis, where I look into different age stereotypes in the organizational context. I believe that cultural stereotypes can be deconstructed too by deliberately engaging students in virtual exchange, thereby breaking down barriers.

Ivana Drazic

Quality Assurance & Evaluation

I have a strong passion for design and effective learning. My academic background in design (M.A.) and psychology (B.Sc. intended graduation 30.06.21) enables me to support students and lecturers with suitable and user-friendly design and thus enhance learning. Previous work experiences, such as my contribution in founding a private University of Applied Sciences and developing an online learning platform have formed the base for IVAC.



Caroline Liss

Instructional Designer

Event Recap

Outcome of three non-academic culture events



Virtual Culture Events

During the last months we planned and offered three non-academic cultural events for SRH students and students from partner universities. Alongside academic programmes, the cultural exchange is a significant part of the study journey, online and offline.

With our online events we explored the topics of diversity, history and pop culture.

Diversity: Identity and Integration

In this workshop the students went on a journey of self-reflection and analysed topics of society and culture. With discussions and interactive, cooperative work they were able to investigate stereotypes, understand the influence of culture on one's perception of things and define their own current identity. The knowledge of the productive potential of diversity will prepare them to interact effectively in a globalized world.





Life in the GDR with - A sneak peak behind the Berlin Wall

A nostalgic talk with music journalist and author **Wolf Kampmann**

Together with students and colleagues from partner universities we travelled back in time to talk and learn about the German Democratic Republic, a country that does not exist anymore since 1990. Wolf Kampmann was born and raised in the GDR and let us be part of his memories from his life in East-Berlin. It was then the students' turn to dive into history themselves by completing our customized Scavenger Hunt. The casual talk with our guest and the interactivity of the event, which was hosted within the Virtual World Tour 2021 (Coventry University, UK), impressed the attending students and the event was experienced as a full success.

Diversity in Gaming

A conversation with freelance journalist, podcaster and speaker **Lara Keilbart**

Together with Lara Keilbart we scratched the surface of the extensive topic of "Diversity in Gaming". Playing games (especially video games) is part of the daily life of around 41% of the population in Germany. In the event we talked about gender roles in video games, issues in the gaming culture and communities, as well as about professional E-Sport and the pressure female gamers face being an E-Athlete.

We also invited the students to play a game themselves. With the video game of the year 2020 "Among Us" we ended the event in a fun activity.

Students described the event as "interesting, fun, eye-opening and informative".





Second Global Classroom

Another round of a collaborative course with TEC de Monterrey, Mexico

SRH Berlin and TEC de Monterrey engaged again in the "Global Classroom" within the module Risk Management in Financing (SRH Berlin, M.A. International Management). Through a series of activities over a five-week period, students from both universities had the opportunity to practice communication, negotiation, and problem-solving in a cross-cultural context.

Students worked in small groups and the course was split into 3 phases:

- Ice breaker: Introductory activity with the main objective to assist team formation
- Main activity: Case valuation of a real-life scenario.
- Reflection activity: Students identified and reflected on the competencies they developed during the "Global Classroom" experience.

Lessons learned:

1. It has shown that the students highly valued the time in their groups to get to know and learn from each other.
2. Time, language and cultural differences can be barriers for effective communication.
3. Therefore, communication standards should be negotiated and be given a high priority.



Digital Badges

Pilot project: a new Recognition Format - SRH Badges for Students (orange) and Staff (blue)

A Digital Badge is an indicator of accomplishment or skill and can be displayed, accessed and verified online. The IVAC Team introduced this format in a pilot phase within the IVAC project.

The first SRH Digital Badges have been issued in the M.A. International Management at the BSM and in the B.A. Audio Design at SOPA. The launch was also successful with the Badges for SRH employees, which were assigned to the Best Lecturer 2020/21 finalists of the BSM.

We are working on a concept to introduce Digital Badges in further areas, so stay tuned for more news on this topic.

The Leap from Theory to Practice

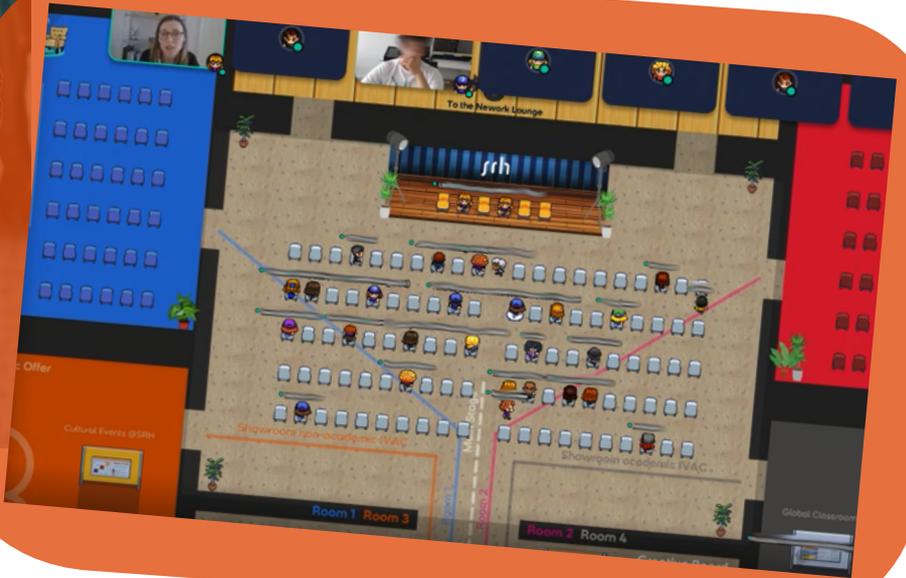
Recap of the IVAC @ SRH Berlin - Conference



On the 22 June 2021 we invited colleagues from German and international Higher Education Institutions to learn about successfully executed collaborative projects from the IVAC SRH Berlin Project and Team, as well as from our partners from TEC de Monterrey (Mexico), Coventry University (UK) and the University for the Creative Arts (UK).

All guests were able to explore different rooms with presentations, panels and interactive features in Gathertown, a virtual social world.

The ultimate goal was to present our current experience working with IVAC courses and make a start to build a community of practice with international partner universities and higher education institutes in Germany.



Feedback

- From a scale of 1 to 7 the event got an average rating of 6.6 for the overall contentment
- Participants emphasized that they appreciated the use of the innovative Platform "Gather" to host the event
- Especially the insights and shared experiences of the course projects as examples found to be very helpful
- Attendees appreciated the view on collaborative projects from both the organizational and the lecturers point of view

Coming Up

Things to look out for...

- SUMMER HOLIDAYS!!! See you back in September.