

ISLE 6 Announcement
5 February 2021



The organizing team has decided that ISLE 6 will take place fully online. This decision is not an easy one, as we were hoping for some form of on-site participation. In the light of the recent news of the mutated variants of COVID that are spreading even faster than the original virus, and the fact that the full impact of the vaccine efforts in many parts of the world will only be effective by summer, we feel that it is unlikely that safe international travel will be possible in early June. What is more, our local university restrictions regarding meetings are still in place, making it impractical to organize a hybrid event. Making this decision now enables us to put all our energy into ensuring that online participation goes smoothly.

We would have loved to meet you in person in Joensuu, but it is equally clear that conference practices are changing. We feel that it is environmentally sustainable to make a shift towards online environments (we recommend using this carbon emission calculator to estimate the carbon print in your conference travels: <https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/Carbonoffset/Pages/default.aspx>).

ISLE 6 will use Whova as the conference platform, which allows for different types of virtual events and meeting grounds for the conference participants. Details on the different options for participation and presentation of papers and posters will be updated on the conference website in March at the latest. The workshops will take place on Wednesday, 2 June 2021.

The cost of online participation will be affordable compared to on-site participation - we expect that the new registration fee will be in the range of c. 100 EUR for the full conference. Additionally, we will offer a very affordable student fee to encourage participation. Please note those of you who have already registered and paid the fee will be duly contacted and the payments settled accordingly. The registration for ISLE 6 will open in March 2021, and we hope that the digital turn together with the low conference fee enables larger than usual attendance for the conference. The second round of the abstract review process is now nearly completed, and the conference will have c. 135 papers altogether.

We will now focus on planning an exciting online event that enables us to discuss our fresh research results, to learn from one another, to meet each other over a cup of coffee/tea and to enjoy the company of our fellow linguists, even if online.

We will communicate the options for participation on the conference website (<https://sites.uef.fi/isle6/>) and through our circulars – if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at isle6@uef.fi.

With best wishes,
ISLE 6 Organizing team