YPAR NEXUS

Working Group

OBJECTIVES

This working group aims to foster collaboration, knowledge sharing, and problem-solving among YPAR practitioners. Through regular meetings, we will achieve the following objectives:

- Identify opportunities for collaboration
- Facilitate peer-to-peer learning
- Stay informed on the latest YPAR research
- Provide open forum to present specific challenges
- Plan for further resource development

Apps & Platforms Used in YPAR

Shared August 2024

HIGHLIGHT REEL

The aim of the YPAR Highlight Reels are to keep our working group informed regarding trending topics and areas of focus in recent YPAR research. Our hope is that these spark discussions and reflections on the implications of new research for YPAR practice.

Visit this link for updates on the apps and platforms!

Online Apps and Platforms			

Virtual Communication and Collaboration			
	Cost	**Description**	**Notable Advantages**
Zoom	Free	Unlimited group video calls for 40-minutes per session or 1-on-1 meetings for an unlimited time Up to 100 attendees per online meeting. Includes screen sharing, chat features, whiteboard, waiting room, pin or spotlight multiple people, access to cloud storage, co-annotation,	Straightforward, intuitive user interface. Often praised for superior video and audio quality and caters to the needs of a large audience Supports integrations with Google calendar, Facebook, Asana, Smartsheet, HubSpot, Mural, etc. and easy file sharing with Dropbox, Google Drive, etc. Offers engagement tools (e.g., hand raise option, whiteboard brainstorming) Allows for the annotation and sharing of PDFs Provides additional features such as multiple hosts, secure login, certified integrators, etc. .
	Paid Plans *$12.49- $18.32 per month*	Additional features include live transcription, polling, language interpretations, assign meeting scheduler,	
Google Meet	Free	Easy-to-join video calls (for up to 60 minutes)that do not require sign-in Includes screen sharing and presentation tools, real time chat and messaging features, Fewer features than Zoom for larger groups.	Designed for ease of use (i.e., simplicity is prioritized over features) Often encounters technical Limitations and Connectivity Issues (poor video quality, difficulty joining meetings) Offers up to 60 minutes on free plan Integrates with Google Workspace (e.g.,Classroom, Slides, Docs, and Gmail).
	Paid plans *$5.40-18.00 per month*	Additional features include hosting large meetings for longer meeting times, use of transcripts, increased security	
Microsoft Teams	Free	Group calling for up to 60 minutes and 100 participants Includes collaborative planning with tasks and polling 5 GB of cloud storage	

	Paid plans ($4-12.50 per month)	Includes features such as screen sharing, call recording, hand raise option, displaying both administrator and speaker in a video meeting, interactive chats, background blur technology, etc. Learning curve is higher with Teams, especially for those not already familiar with Microsoft's software	Teams is integrated with all Microsoft apps, including Outlook and Office. Teams whiteboarding feature is more collaborative, allowing everyone to write and draw on them. Allows users to collaborate directly on documents (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) in real time within the meeting environment.
BigBlueButton	Free	Open source web conferencing system developed for virtual learning and education. Allows for viewing participants, chat, videos, and screen sharing simultaneously, making it the preferred choice for many education institutions.	Maximizes time for applied learning by enabling students to collaborate and receive feedback in real-time. Comprehensive PDF editing, sharing, and collaborative annotation options. Whiteboard functionality is the quickest and easiest among the platforms, displaying shared content within the rooms, and it offers a quick and teacher-focused polling system. Classroom features are part of Moodle, offering class material storage, individual notebooks for students, assignment submission, and grading.

Feature	Zoom	BigBlueButton	Microsoft Teams	Google Meet
Screen Sharing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Breakout Rooms	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Whiteboard	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Polling	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Video Options	HD Video	Low, Medium, High Resolution	HD Video	HD Video
Chat	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Document Upload	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Multi-User Whiteboard	No	Yes	No	No
Shared Notes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Hand Raise	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Emojis	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Custom Backgrounds	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Learning Analytics Dashboard	No	Yes	No	No
Dial-in phone numbers for every meeting	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Integrated with learning management systems	Yes	Yes – deep integration	Yes	Yes

Virtual Communication and Collaboration [Continued]

	Cost	Description	Notable Advantages
Whatsapp	Free	Instant messaging and real-time communication. Team members can call and video chat with each other and send voice and video messages, and file sharing (but no screen sharing)	Simple, accessible and user-friendly. Customize group chats and use pre-created group channels. Or use broadcast list feature which allows you to send a message to multiple contacts at once without creating a group (useful for sending announcements, updates, or general information to a specific set of recipients) Includes polling feature, disappearing message feature, chat filters to organize your chats, Provides a web version (WhatsApp Web) so you can sync your account and chat with team members directly from computer

			browser.
Discord	Free and paid plans	Historically a gaming tool (integrating with Playstation/Xbox/etc) that includes text, voice, and video chat, facilitating real-time interactions, screen sharing, and content sharing. Strong community features, voice and video calls, text channels for organization. Interface can be complex for younger users. Can talk with up to 5,000 users during voice call at the same time	Can create voice channels, stages, chat channels, forum channels, and announcement channels. Customizability of servers and roles within the server allow for easy user management and organization.
Slack	Free and paid plans	Powerful communication tool, integrations with other apps, suitable for larger teams. Includes audio and video call quality is not as central to the platform as Whatsapp/Zoom/Discord Requires bit of a learning curve to navigate, might be overkill for smaller projects.	Can privately save posts for future reference (not offered on Discord Includes task management features, calendar management, file sharing, "activity view" which allows you to see conversations that mention you and emoji reactions to posts Offers integrations with Google Drive, Zoom, Twitter, etc. Comprehensive search capabilities across channels and conversations (unlike WhatsApp which allows for searching within chats but lacks the advanced search features present in Slack).

Scheduling/Planning

	Cost	Description	Advantages
SimplyMeetMe	Free	Invitees can either self-book by selecting from your available meeting times or you can use 'Share time slots' feature to handpick the dates and times. Includes unlimited meeting types, 500 meetings/month, group meetings, video meetings, etc.	Options include making the meeting secret, adding intake questions, setting your availability, customizing email and SMS notifications, accepting payments, and setting the maximum number of meetings per day. Integrates with Google, iCal, and Microsoft calendar Can also adjust the booking page's theme, color palette, etc..

Remind	Free	App created specifically for students and parents, to send out reminders for deadlines/ events.	Can use it to make announcements/send reminders. Includes a group chat feature that also allows you to reach out to students individually Track stats and read receipts to see who got the message you sent out.
Calendly	Free	Scheduling automation platform for	Simplifies scheduling with groups and individuals (eliminates the back-and-forth emails to find the perfect time) Integrates easily with a range of other platforms including MS Teams, Zoom, etc.
	Paid Plans	Options of Round Robin and collective scheduling Meeting Polls feature allows you to vote on proposed times to find time to meet. Also, can set reminders for all meeting participants.	
SavvyCal	Free and Paid Plans ($12 per month)	Multi-use scheduling app designed to prioritize easy collaboration and finding optimal times to meet. Free plan includes meeting polls Paid plans include individual and team scheduling links.	Very similar to Doodle, Offers option for invitees to automatically overlay their calendars within the polling page (no more toggling back and forth between the poll and your personal calendar).
Sidekick	Free and Paid Plan ($5 per month)	Free calendar and scheduling app (unlimited scheduled meetings) that lets you save a variety of your favorite meeting types.	Great if you hold a lot of meetings in person (can save favorite physical meeting locations) Integrates with Google meet, Zoom, and Teams
Individual and Collaborative Brainstorming Tools			
	Cost	**Description**	**Advantages**
Wooclap	Free (maximum of 2 questions, 1000 participants and unlimited events) Paid Plans ($9.99-$24.99)	All-in-one Jamboard alternative for whiteboarding and brainstorming are key. Includes models such as SWOT, Porter's Five Forces, McKinsey's 7S for visual brainstorming	Can invite participants to answer in their own words using the Open Question, Find a Number, and Word Cloud question-types Includes multiple choice, poll, and find a number questions to allow you identify what your audience thinks and detect trends quickly.

			Audience can participate in your event anonymously or you can invite them to identify themselves to keep track of their results. The choice is yours!
Clickup	Free Forever Plan (100 MB) Paid Plans ($7-$19 per month)	All-in-one productivity platform that includes features for brainstorming, planning, and collaborating on process documents, product designs, etc. .	Quick to set up and easy to use Features include an extensive template library, chat, calendar, docs & wikis, task assignment/tracking, automated dashboards for insights into team progress/capacity, brainstorming whiteboards, gantt charts, time tracking, etc. Includes template whiteboards for brainstorming (flow charts, concept mapping, retrospective brainstorming, reverse brainstorming, brainwriting, etc.)
Figjam	Free for 3 FigJam files and unlimited collaborators; Professional plan from $5/user/month	Intuitive interface, a decent selection of templates, and all the features, voting, and sticky notes that you need to run a good collaborative design meeting.	Great for collaborating on designs One of the more powerful AI implementations. It's capable of creating entire whiteboard templates from a single prompt, organizing your sticky notes, generating brainstorming ideas, and a lot more.
Miro	Free for 3 editable boards; Starter plan from $10/user/month	Tad less intuitive than some of the other apps	Best for for turning ideas into tasks Includes long list of templates or start with blank whiteboard Includes Miro marketplace for list of apps you can integrate
Stormboard	Free for 5 Storms/5 users Paid Subscription for $8.33 per month	"Turns unstructured interactions into data-rich collaborative workspaces." Sticky note-style ideation tool that handles the basics really well. It's simple for anyone to drop notes or index cards with text, pictures, and even videos onto different sections of the board User interface is a bit more basic than some other apps	Great for for creating multiple whiteboards in a single brainstorming session StormAI can help you brainstorm or summarize the key takeaways of something, and it can automatically group sticky notes based on the themes or sentiment it detects.
Mural	Free for 3 murals; Team+ plan from $12/user/month	Digital collaboration platform that gives teams the functionality for brainstorming, planning, and executing projects Can house multiple whiteboard areas, similar to Photoshop artboards, that you can rearrange and resize as	Quick to set up and easy to use Great for very large remote teams Features include ready-to-use templates, digital sticky notes, ability to draw/add notes/pin images and files, etc.

		needed.	Lets you create multiple "rooms" for your whiteboards, each with different permissions to limit access
Collaboard	Free (up to 3 boards) Paid Subscriptions ($10 per month)	Online whiteboard for sharing ideas and information in real-time and visually, making team communication more efficient. Can also help streamline workflows	Features include sticky notes, digital drawing/sketching, shapes, documents upload word/excel/ppt/PDF), integrate pictures/audio/video(upload or take audio/images/videos, use image search), create comments on whiteboard, embed external content (e.g., websites), etc. Also includes facilitation functions and integrations in video conferencing & chat solutions

Dissemination Support (Presentation Software)			
Canva	Free Plan Paid subscriptions (Pro and Premium, $9.99-19.99/month)	Online designing tool that offers users an easy and intuitive way to create professional-looking graphics. Free Version Availability.	One of the most robust free plans of all the presentation apps Extensive template library for all use cases--flyers, logos, social media graphics, websites, infographics, powerpoints, etc. The app's streamlined interface gets rid of the clutter surrounding your average slideshow presentation, creating a more professional look.
Beautiful.ai	No free plan Plans start at $12/month for unlimited slides, AI content generation, viewer analytics, and more. Upgrade to a Team plan for $40/user/month to get extra collaboration and workspace features and custom brand controls.	AI-powered presentation software for teams Can design unique and engaging materials with animations, custom icons, photos, and more; can build interactive presentations and assignments and share via a link, website in just a few clicks; can record voice overs to presentations	Best for fast and efficient presentation design without extensive design skills (Canva is a more comprehensive graphic design platform Enhances collaboration, allowing team members to work on presentations simultaneously
Powtoon	Limited free plan available Paid Plans ($15-$40 per month)	Visual communication platform that makes it easy to create engaging videos by orienting the editor around a slide deck. (i.e., creating video feels like editing a	Best for creating "professional-looking" video presentations, animated videos, whiteboard doodling, etc.

		presentation)	
Pitch	Free plan (up to 5 members, unlimited presentations, AI presentation creation, branded links/PDF exports) Paid Plans ($20-$80 per month)	Google Slides alternative that includes beautifully-designed templates, customizability, and ease of use. Can delegate work and manage team feedback quickly, engage in collaborative editing, access free assets (GIFs, icons, logos), include interactive embeds, etc. create winning presentations.	Best when collaborating with a team on a building a presentation Offers 100+ expert-made presentation templates or option to generate a draft with AI. Right-hand sidebar provides extensive project management and collaboration support (e.g., set and update the status of your deck, assign entire presentations or individual slides to team members, comment or add notes).