

DY 15: Physics of Contagion Processes I (joint session SOE/DY)

Time: Tuesday 9:30–10:00

Location: ZEU 260

Invited Talk DY 15.1 Tue 9:30 ZEU 260
Digital Pandemology – Is that physics? — •DIRK BROCKMANN
— Humboldt University of Berlin, Berlin, Germany

Three years of COVID-19 lie behind us. Experts from various fields worked constantly on understanding, mitigating and making sense of the pandemic. Novel digital tools became an essential part and complemented traditional, epidemiological methods. I will report on research activities and digital projects we launched during the past years

that delivered important insights and were helpful as real-time assessment tools during the pandemic. These include the Covid-19-mobility monitor and the Corona Data Donation Project in which more than 500,000 participants donated daily data collected by their smartwatch or wearable device. I will summarize the results we obtained from these technologies and discuss why physics, as a mindset, is helpful for understanding phenomena that unfold across the borders of traditional scientific disciplines.