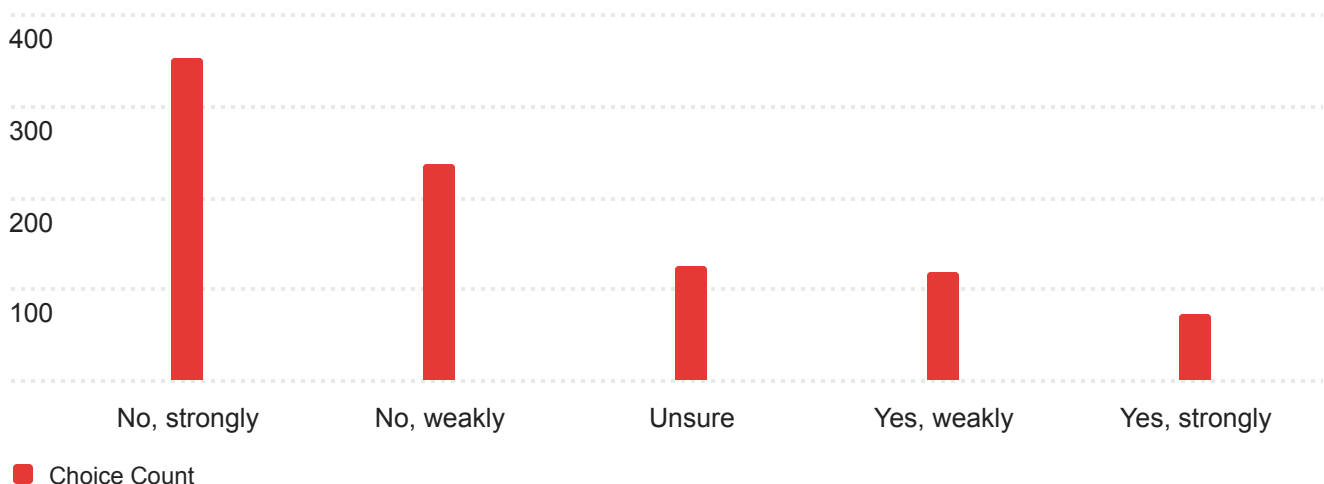
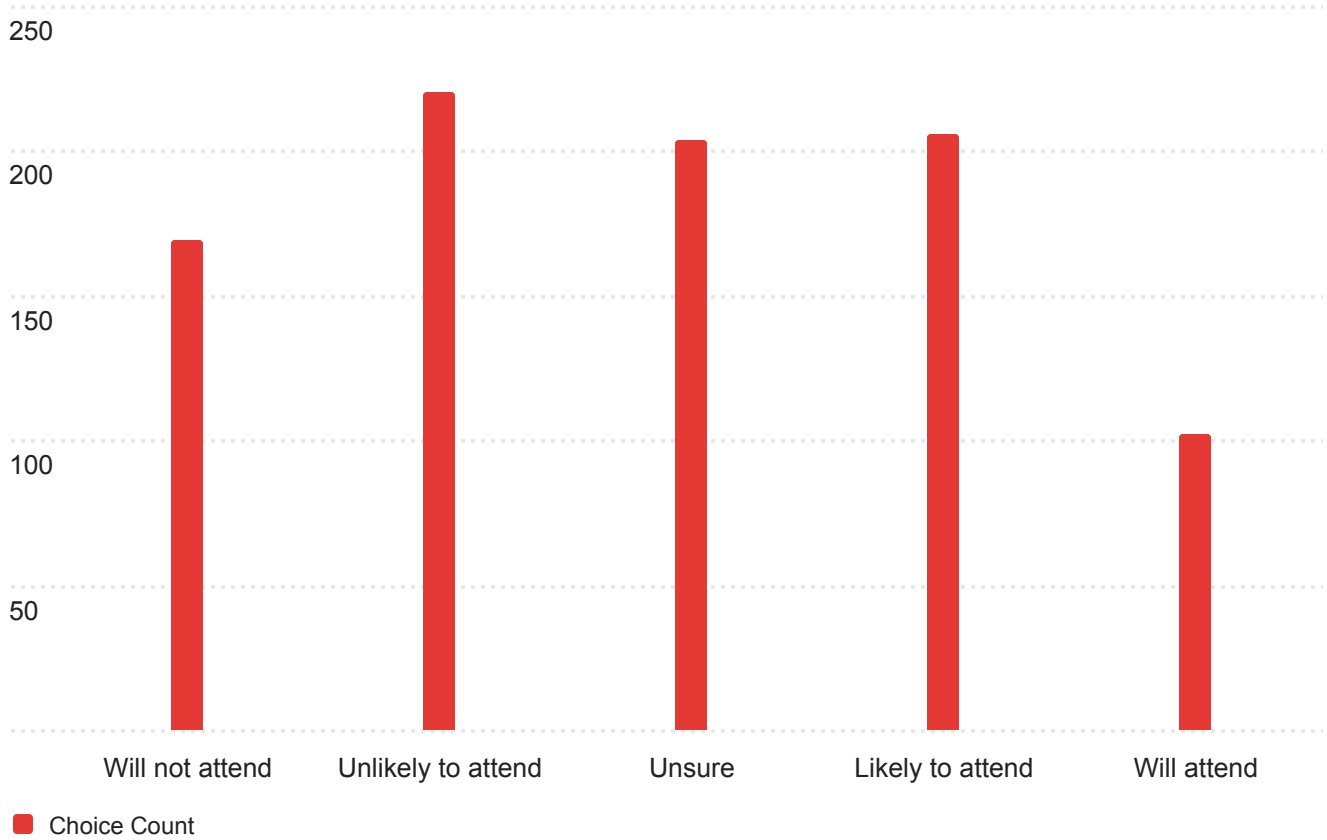


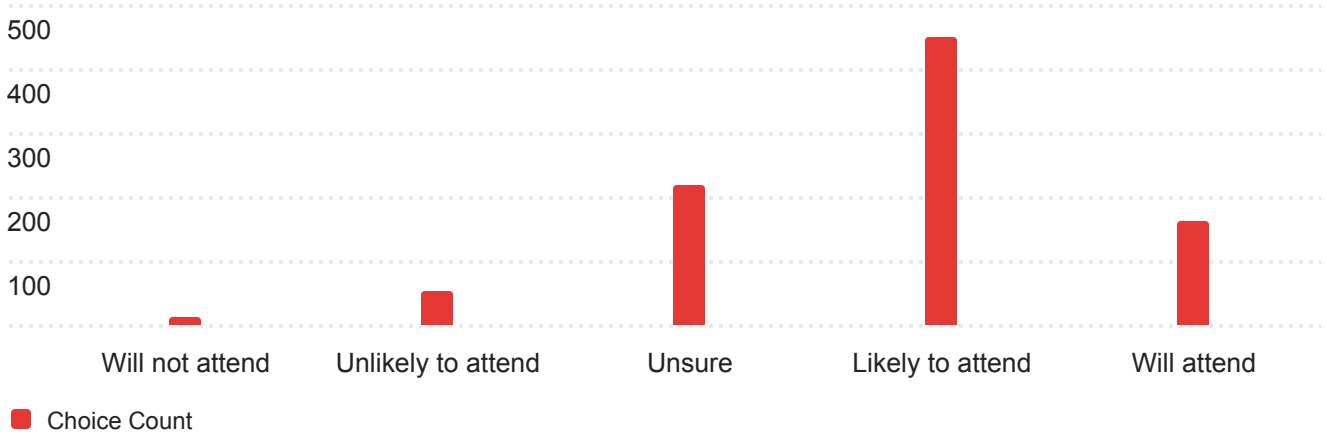
Q31 - SSE, ASN, and SSB are considering the advantages and disadvantages of running the Evolution meetings in a virtual-only format in some years (i.e. no in-person meeting that year). Virtual meetings have much lower carbon footprints, and they are in principle more accessible. Many members of our community are unable to attend in-person meetings because of expense, child- or elder-care duties, difficulties with visas, and other reasons. On the other hand, virtual meetings struggle to provide the kinds of scientific interactions that in-person meetings do so well. Perhaps as a result, virtual sessions at recent Evolution meetings post-COVID have on average fewer questions and lower attendance than similar in-person sessions. Recent Evolution meetings have been held in two parts: a virtual meeting (including contributed talks, the Hamilton Symposium and the Mayr Symposium) followed 3-4 weeks later by the in-person part of the meeting. In 2024 for example, over 900 people attended at least one session for the virtual component (~320 of these were registered only for the virtual component) and over 2,100 people attended the in-person meeting. The Societies view the two-part meeting model as a success; here we wish to explore people's views on having a year with only a virtual meeting. Do you believe that an Evolution meeting periodically in some years should be held in a virtual-only format?



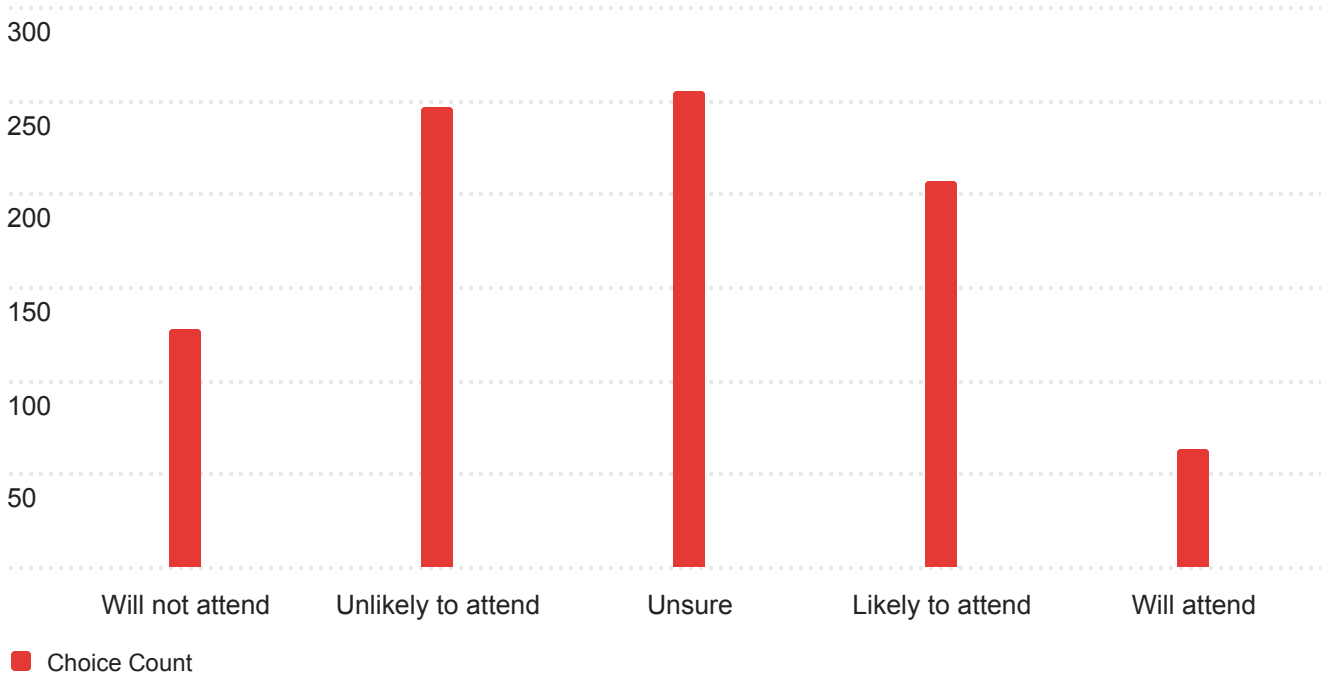
Q53 - Due to contracts with convention centers, 2028 would be the first opportunity to have a virtual-only meeting. The following questions concern the 2028 meeting. If the 2028 Evolution meeting were held only in virtual form, how likely are you to attend?



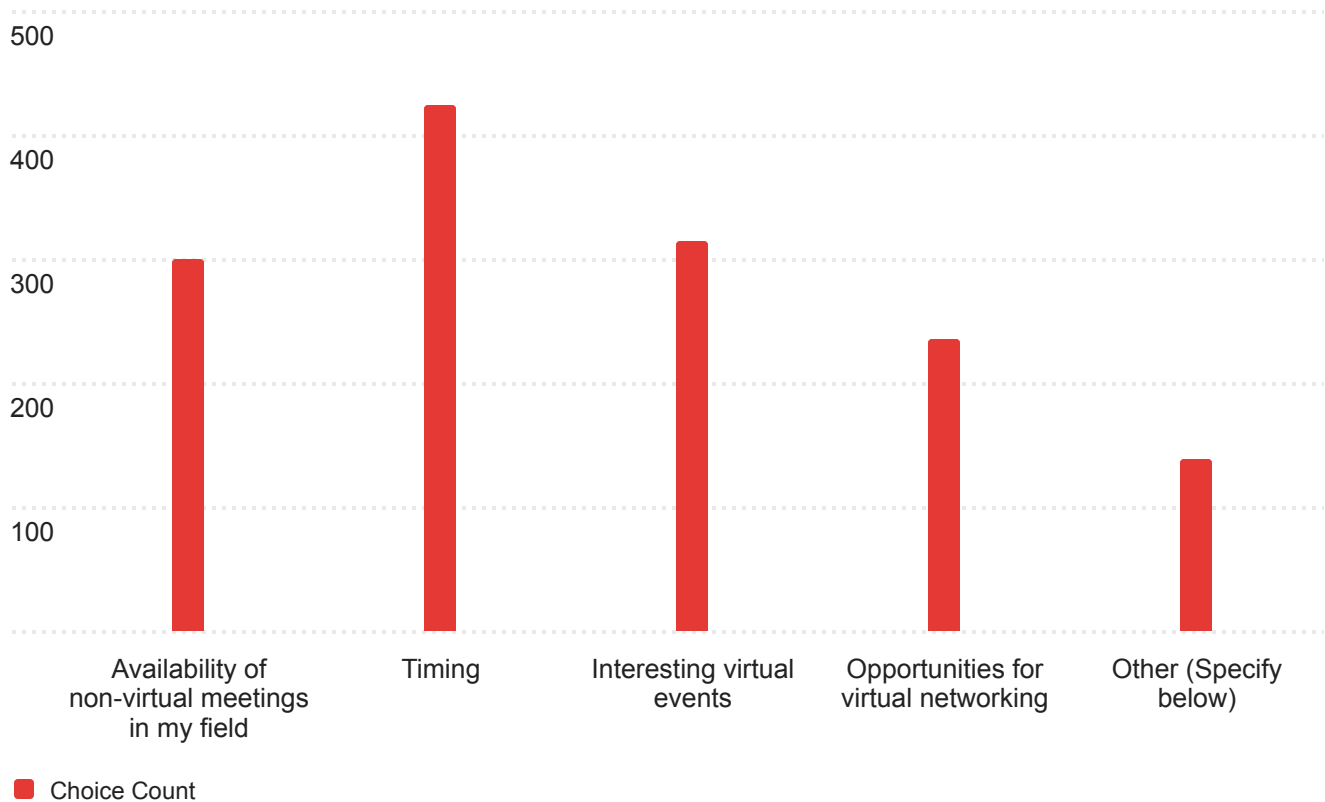
Q54 - If the 2028 Evolution meeting were held in its recent mode of both a virtual and an in-person component, how likely are you to attend the in-person component?



Q55 - If the 2028 Evolution meeting were held in its recent mode of both a virtual and an in-person component, how likely are you to attend the virtual component?



Q34 - What factors influence your likelihood of virtual attendance? - Selected Choice



Q36 - Please give any comments to the Societies about your views on virtual meetings for our societies.

Please give any comments to the Societies about your views on virtual meetings for our societies.

problem with virtual meetings is timing. It is common that only one region attend given that they have an ideal time for it. This reduces diversity in a meeting, which is the point. Maybe repeated talks in different schedules might work, or at least randomized talks at different schedules during a whole day.

I can't take time off to attend a virtual meeting, so I'm juggling virtual events with my normal work schedule. Because of this I'm less likely to attend.

Given the climate crises and the carbon required for in-person meetings, I really cannot understand how we have not pivoted to virtual events.

It is in no way the same experience. We do not go to meetings just to see talks. The networking experience is in valuable especially for trainees.

I think they're good but not as effective as in person meetings. I cannot attend evolution as often bc of the cost so it would be quite helpful to have an occasional virtual meeting. At the same time it is not my preference because of the difficulty of "making" time away from regular duties for virtual meetings and lack of substantive interactions.

I think occasional virtual only meetings are a good idea. I think there are way more meetings than ever before, and there is a lot of meeting fatigue. I am less and less likely to travel far distances for meetings.

To me, the social interactions are the primary benefit of the meetings. I have simply not had satisfying social interactions through virtual meetings.

lack of formal networking easier to get lost in all the virtual names

Virtual meetings are a supplement, not a substitution to in-person meetings. The differences between them are vast, and we ought to weigh the pros and cons of each to figure out how to best make use of both those options - not limit ourselves to just one. This goes both ways - not just virtual, not just in-person.

Virtual meetings will help those who may not be able to attend in-person conferences due to factors such as visa delays.

They are not the same and do not allow for serendipitous conversations

I strongly prefer in person meetings. I find it hard to focus when staring at a computer screen for hours per day.

Because I'm at a late career stage (full prof), I don't "need" to attend conferences; therefore, I will prioritize attending ones in person because what I value most are the personal interactions.

I think all meetings should be in-person. For what it's worth, I also think it would be beneficial to have more meetings in developing countries (in Latin America, for example) to make it more accessible and inclusive

I get nothing out of virtual meetings. I'd rather look for interesting content on YouTube and watch that.

I support the idea of some years hosting virtual meetings only for climate and equity issues primarily.

Virtual meetings allow for learning more about work conducted around the world. They lower the cost of attendance and have the potential to connect people who share research interests.

Virtual events will never replace the real FtF events. They are easy, cheap fixes that served a purpose during the pandemics - and might work under some circumstances or needs, but not as a replacement to the real live conferences.

NA

I know it is such a hard call. But in-person meetings have their own magic and it's way easier to engage on the talks

Q56 - If you have attended a successful virtual meeting at other societies post-COVID, please let us know which society and what features made it successful

If you have attended a successful virtual meeting at other societies post-COVID, please let us know which society and what features made it successful

Please refrain from using expressions such as "post-COVID". The COVID pandemic is not over.

No

Live streams aren't bad, to let people watch from the room if sick/tired/personal constraints

SMBE. The virtual meetings were short and themed.

nope

I have never attended a virtual meeting that I would describe as successful

Have not.

I think having the opportunity to personally connect with interested people would be useful. Having breakout social spaces that connect people with shared interests would be helpful.

I attended >10 virtual meetings during and post-COVID. None were 'successful' for the reasons described in my previous answer.

NA

Network meetings, lecture series

N/A

Not sure if this was post-covid, but the best virtual meeting I remember was organized such that the talks were prerecorded and made available before an actual session (consisting of three time slots for three speakers), while during the session the three speakers were available to answer questions (which could also be stated before and during the discussion session)

Small-group networking spaces (less than 10 people per room) to facilitate conversation that mirrors in-person dynamics

You should also ask the people who DIDN'T attend those same virtual events if they consider those events "successful" or not. "Success" is very much in the eye of the beholder. A virtual event that's "successful" in the eyes of someone who has strong moral objections to flying might not look so successful to others who don't have the same objections.

I haven't seen any meetings in my field that have been virtual

No. In my experience, virtual meetings lead to multitasking and low engagement

Not post-COVID. Virtual ASN during COVID.

No

Hennig Society