

Workshop : Communicating science

Frédéric Schütz (schutz@mathgen.ch)

Introduction

More and more, scientists are expected to communicate about their work outside of a circle of specialists. Whatever career path researchers choose after their studies, it is indeed difficult to imagine any occupation that would not require possessing related competencies. Communicating science to the general public is, however, very different from the usual written and oral communication that researchers are trained for and do perform in the course of their work.

The goal of this workshop is to introduce scientists to communication of science to a (more) general audience, both orally and in writing. Participants will learn about the specificities of this type of communication, and will have the opportunity to practice communicating about their own project to a non-specialized audience.

Content

During the workshop, we will in particular :

- discuss the « why » and « how » of science communication ;
- compare how science communication is different from the scientific publications and presentations scientists are used to ;
- comment and discuss texts prepared by the participants presenting their research ;
- exercise oral skills in front of a camera (including being interviewed).

Target audience

Scientists who want to better communicate to a general audience.

Participation

This workshop requires active participation, both before the event (writing and commenting on texts, see below) and on the day (taking part in the discussion, commenting on other people's work, short oral presentations, etc).

The ideal number of participants is between 10 and 12.

Duration

This workshop takes place over one day, with assignments to complete before and (optionally) afterwards.

Prerequisite

No prior knowledge is required ; ideally, participants should bring their own project they want to communicate about.

One week before the course, participants will need to prepare and submit a short assignment (details will be provided to the participants in due time). The week before the course, participants will need to read and comment on documents that will be provided by the organizers. These assignments are compulsory, and participants who have not submitted them will not be accepted to the workshop.

Credits

We estimate this workshop to be worth 0.5 ECTS (a total of 14 hours of work, 6 hours before the session, and 8 hours on the day) ; however, only doctoral schools and other similar services can award credits, so participants who are interested in participating must discuss with their host institution.