

Tutor Biographies

The core sessions will be run by Dr Clare Wilkinson, Andy Ridgway, Dr Emma Weitkamp and Dr Erik Stengler all from the Science Communication Unit at UWE, Bristol. In addition, specialist lecturers will be brought in to cover individual sessions during the Masterclass. Brief biographies on all the tutors are provided below.



Dr Clare Wilkinson

Clare is an Associate Professor in Science Communication and Co-Director of the Science Communication Unit. Clare is a sociologist whose research interests include the relationship between science and society, media representations of science and public engagement. Her work has explored a variety of scientific and medical fields including nanotechnologies, genetics, robotics and medical education. Clare has published in journals including *Science Communication*, *Public Understanding of Science*, *Social Science and Medicine*, *Qualitative Health Research* and *Health, Risk and Society*. She co-wrote the book *Creative Research Communication: Theory and Practice* (with Emma Weitkamp) for Manchester University Press. Clare has worked in a number of expert steering and advisory group roles, including as a competition judge for the NCCPE's national public engagement competition and a member of the funding review panel for the BBSRC Great British Bioscience Festival.



Dr Erik Stengler

Erik Stengler is Senior Lecturer in Science Communication. His special interests in this area include Science Museums and Planetariums, Science in Film and, more broadly, how to succeed in communicating science to those not particularly interested in it.

Erik has extensive experience in Communicating Science informally in Science Centres, through Outreach Projects and in the Media. He has been project manager of various initiatives that range from a Science Van to Courses on Science in the Movies, including a TV children's show; theatre plays; science programmes for senior citizens, in prisons or in leisure environments; and educational partnerships with Science Historians. Erik has also been involved in the training of museum explainers and in various teacher training programmes.

Erik's scientific background is that of an astrophysicist, with a PhD in the field of Observational Cosmology, using quasars as background beacons to study large scale objects in their line of sight.



Andy Ridgway

Andy is a Senior Lecturer in Science Communication at UWE. An award-winning journalist, he has spent nearly 20 years in the profession, most recently as Deputy Editor of BBC Focus and then launch Editor of Science Uncovered. Prior to that, he worked in local newspapers as a Reporter and News Editor.

Andy continues to be a practicing journalist, writing predominantly for New Scientist and BBC Focus magazine. He has also written for Newsweek, The Economist and Men's Health.

As well as writing for and editing print publications, Andy has extensive experience of digital publishing, particularly on tablet computers. While editing BBC Focus's interactive iPad app, it was named specialist publication of the year twice at the Digital Magazine Awards (2011 and 2012). Andy was also named Editorial Person of the Year in the BBC Magazines Awards for Excellence in 2010.



Dr Emma Weitkamp

Emma is Associate Professor in Science Communication and Co-Director of the Science Communication Unit at UWE with an interest in public relations, narrative communication and SciArt. Her current research includes exploring the role of cartoons in science communication, communicating drought risks, and evaluating the Food Growing Schools: London project. Emma also runs bespoke training in science writing and contributes to the Science Communication Masterclass run by the unit.



Dr Margarida Sardo

Margarida is a Research Fellow in the Science Communication Unit. She is currently developing ideas for collaborative projects with academic and research staff and teaches occasionally on the MSc in Science Communication. Margarida is a biologist whose research interests include good practice in science communication, informal learning, generic venues in science communication, science contributions to environmental policy-making, evaluation methodologies and evaluation and innovative strategies for public engagement.



Laura Fogg Rogers

Laura Fogg Rogers is a Research Fellow in Science Communication. She is a trained science journalist with extensive experience of working in the media and with the public. She has fifteen years' experience designing and delivering innovative science communication projects for a range of audiences, including young people, in the UK and New Zealand. Her research focuses on learning and engagement at live events - examining the impact of formal and informal learning programmes and public engagement on researchers, schools and the public. Laura's research portfolio includes the EU ClairCity project, exploring future lifestyles in cities to reduce air pollution; Paired Peer Mentors to improve STEM outreach and teaching in schools; and Science Live, exploring the live public science events sector in the UK and US.



Dr Helen Featherstone

Helen Featherstone, PhD, is the Head of Public Engagement at the University of Bath. As part of the Public Engagement Unit, Helen works across the university supporting engaged research and creating the conditions for engaged research to flourish. Prior to joining the Catalyst family, Helen was a post-doc researcher at UWE, Bristol looking at the publics' roles in public engagement. Helen continues to teach on the MSc Science Communication course at UWE.

Alongside her research and teaching experience, Helen has extensive experience in practical STEM engagement activities primarily in interactive Science and Discovery Centres. For 14 years she has been responsible for all aspects of these activities including fundraising, project management, content and event delivery, collaborative working and evaluation.

For 3 years (2010-2013), Helen was Chair of the Visitor Studies Group. The group for audience researchers in non-profit visitor centres such as museums, galleries and botanic gardens. The VSG advocates putting visitors at the heart of cultural experiences.

Science Communication Masterclass

6-9 November 2017



Host Venue: At-Bristol

At-Bristol is an award winning science and discovery centre based in Bristol and a major player in the worldwide science centre movement. It aims to be a world-class science centre that makes distinctive, valued and recognised contributions to informal science learning and public engagement with science - locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. Since opening in July 2000 as a Landmark Millennium Project, At-Bristol has hosted more than four million visits and continually strives towards making science accessible to all.

For further information about At-Bristol visit www.at-bristol.org.uk.

For further information about the Science Communication Unit at UWE, including publicly available evaluation reports about all of our projects, please visit:

<http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/research/sciencecommunicationunit.aspx> .