

## **Tutor Biographies**

The core sessions will be run by Dr Clare Wilkinson, 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 a Senior Lecturer in Science Communication. 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 has recently co-written the book *Nanotechnology, Risk and Communication* with Alison Anderson, Alan Petersen and Stuart Allan for Palgrave Macmillan. Clare is the Programme Leader for the MSc Science Communication based at UWE, Bristol.



**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.



**Dr Emma Weitkamp**

Emma is a Senior Lecturer in Science Communication at UWE with an interest in science writing. Her current research includes managing the Science for Environment Policy news alert service which provides the latest environmental research to policy makers around the world. The service has over 17,000 subscribers. Building on her previous work with [Sciencecomics.uwe.ac.uk](http://Sciencecomics.uwe.ac.uk), Emma has recently developed an astronomy comic for young people ([Cosmiccomics.eu](http://Cosmiccomics.eu)) and is developing a series of narrative based competitions for young people as part of her outreach work. Emma also runs bespoke training in science writing and contributes to the Science Communication Masterclass run by the unit.



**Franca Davenport**

Franca is a part-time science writer for Science for Environment Policy, a news service produced by the SCU at UWE on behalf of the European Commission's Environment Directorate-General. The service disseminates scientific research findings on a wide range of environmental topics to policy makers across Europe and serves to reinforce the links between science and policy.

Franca has worked as a freelance journalist and writer for several years and before joining the SCU she worked for the youth charity Headliners delivering a programme of learning through journalism to young people. In the past she has worked as a research psychologist on several projects investigating health and mental health issues in a number of settings.



**Gez Smith**

Gez Smith is a Digital Engagement Consultant, who has designed and managed some of the largest online public engagement exercises ever run in the UK, for clients such as 10 Downing Street, the BBC Trust, Health Authorities, Police Authorities, Charities and tens of UK Local Authorities. In 2012, Gez was named South West Freelancer of the Year for PR and Communications.



**Dr Ann Grand**

Ann Grand is a Research Fellow in the Science Communication Unit. Ann recently completed her PhD research, based in the SCU. Her project looked at ways in which the emerging ideas and practice of open science can be a medium for public access to and involvement in the process of science and an innovative method for real-time science communication.

Ann also looks after the Learning Labs project, offering creative placement opportunities for our Science Communication students, and (under Dr Clare Wilkinson) acted as internal evaluator for the 2012 Science for Environment Policy service evaluation. She also lectures occasionally on the MSc modules and supervises students through their projects.



**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](http://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> .**