

## Tutor Biographies

The core sessions will be run by members of the Science Communication Unit (SCU) 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.



### **Andy Ridgway**

Andy is a Senior Lecturer in Science Communication at UWE and programme leader of the MSc in Science Communication. 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. Andy continues to be a practicing journalist, writing predominantly for New Scientist and BBC ScienceFocus 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.

Andy is a judge of the Medical Research Council's Max Perutz Science Writing Award aimed at PhD students. He's also a member of the SCU team working on the European Commission-funded RETHINK research project, exploring how science is communicated online and seeking out innovative approaches.



### **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.



### **Clio Heslop**

Clio is Partnerships and Impact Manager at the British Science Association, where she works on policy, professional networks, audience research, training, and organisational development relating to equality, diversity and inclusion. She leads the BSA's work with other science engagement professionals and organisations, and how to support the field to be more innovative, sustainable, and outward-looking.

Clio is also a researcher and practitioner with interests in training, networks and collaboration. She recently completed a twelve-month sabbatical to join the US Civic Science Fellows initiative, based at University of Texas at Austin. There she focused on understanding how civil society organisations can more effectively participate in science engagement.



### **Hannah Little**

Hannah Little is a Senior Lecturer in Science Communication at UWE Bristol. She teaches at foundation, undergraduate and postgraduate levels, specifically focussing on online engagement and digital projects. She teaches lectures on podcasts, online video, citizen science and other online content. She also teaches on science and comedy, and sometimes even does some stand-up herself!

Before going into academia, Hannah worked in Science Communication professionally. She worked full time co-ordinating the STEM Ambassador programme and the Nuffield Research Placements in the North East of England. Since then, she has taken part in many public engagement events: she has worked in the press office for the British Science Festival, she was a scientist in "I'm a scientist, get me out of here!", and once appeared on Cbeebies' "Mr. Bloom's Nursery Roadshow, Ready, Set, Grow!" running a disco that was powered by bicycles!



### **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 this role, Helen was a post-doc researcher at UWE, Bristol looking at the public's 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 15 years she has been responsible for all aspects of these activities including fundraising, project management, content and event delivery, collaborative working and evaluation.

Since 2018, Helen has been Chair of BIG (the UK's STEM Communicators' Network) and in 2019 won the Beetlestone Award for Leadership and Legacy in Informal Science Learning.



### **Margarida Sardo**

Margarida is a Senior Research Fellow in the Science Communication Unit. She is currently developing ideas for collaborative projects with academic and research staff and teaches on the MSc in Science Communication.

Margarida is a trained scientist with extensive experience in evaluating and delivering science communication projects. She has worked as an external evaluator for several projects and public engagement activities including EU Researchers' Night, Wellcome Trust at the Latitude Festival, the AHRC/ESRC Connected Communities project, the Science for Environment Policy service, Guerrilla Science at the Latitude Festival and Maths Busking (Royal Institution).

Her 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.



### **Ruth Larbey**

Ruth Larbey is an Associate Lecturer in Science Communication at UWE, and an experienced writer and editor with a background in social science, government science and economic research communications. She has managed multiple websites, blogs and social media, and trained in digital strategy and production as a Web Editor. She has also led several EU- and UK-focused projects that use science communication to improve scientific foresight, assessment and decision-making processes. As Managing Editor of the Science for Environment Policy Project since 2014, she works to communicate policy-relevant environmental science to a European policymaker audience. Ruth is also a researcher with interests in science-policy-society feedback loops, and a social science focus on participatory environmental decision-making and responsible assessment of new technologies.



### **Sophie Laggan**

Sophie Laggan is a Research Associate working at the intersection of science communication and sustainable urban development. She has helped organise, communicate and evaluate several EU- and UK-focussed research projects that use creativity, social science and community organising approaches to involving citizens in decision making around sustainable development. Many of these projects shifted online due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and had to be adapted to work remotely. Sophie has delivered large-scale public engagement events including the South West's first Sci-comm conference, and develops educational materials that help to embed sustainability into the curriculum. She is passionate about the inclusion of marginalised voices in environmental decision-making processes, and making engagements fun and mutually beneficial for all involved.

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

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