



Skills for Scientists



Science communication workshop for PhD students

Dates: February 11th, 18th and 25th, 2019

Times: February 11th and 18th: 9h00-17h30; February 25th: 13h30-17h30

Where: Room B305 (CLE-Epalinges)

ECTS: 1.5 credits

Maximum number of participants: 16

Deadline for registration: February 4th. Use the registration form that is specific to this workshop found on the [skills for scientists webpage](#).

Title: Engage, Inform, Inspire

Objective: Learn to create and assess impactful presentations

Trainer: Dr Samuel Lagier is a multi-talented scientist and improviser. He teaches presentation skills to experts (SamSpeaksScience.com) and curates, coaches and hosts the TEDxLausanne conference since 2012. He manages the Geneva branch of the Catalyst theatre company which creates new media to communicate science (thecatalyst.ch). He performs and teaches improv to individuals and applied improv to corporate clients with the Renegade Saints (renegadesaints.ch). In his scientific career, Dr Lagier studied sensory perception in the normal and in the schizophrenic brain, in France, the United States and in Switzerland.

Description: Distilling complex ideas into simple images and messages is challenging. Yet it is crucial for any professional to be able to present their work efficiently. This 2.5-day intensive workshop will help participants to improve their presentation skills, from design to delivery, for application beyond the group-meeting setting. Participants will receive feedback from the trainer and from their audience throughout the workshop. The presentations at the start and the end of the workshop will be filmed and the videos will be shared with the participants. We will discuss the importance of feedback and work on both giving and receiving comments in order to keep learning from others. At the end of the training, participants will know the principles of storytelling, the best practices of slide design and will know how to align their verbal and body languages to reliably engage an audience. Following our discussion on and practice of giving and receiving feedback, the participants will have tools to further their training through observation and personal assessment.

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Schedule:

Day #1: February 11th. All day 9:00-17:30. The workshop will begin with each participant giving a brief 5-minute conference-style presentation of their work. This first day will focus on presentation design: different styles of storyarcs, structure, depth, and visualisations, specifically with a focus on presenting and discussing scientific data.

Day#2: February 18th. All day 9:00-17:30. The second day will start with the creation of a graphical summary of each participant's research. The rest of the day will focus on the performance and practice of the talk. How to cope with stage fright? How to handle unexpected questions or technical problems? How to hook and keep the audience? How to be engaging in both verbal and non-verbal communication? Participants will learn to use specific verbal devices to communicate clearly in a memorable way and to handle the pressure of the public eye.

Day#3: February 25th. Half day 13:30-17:30. The workshop will close with the participants presenting their revised talk in front of the group. All the participants will assess each other's talks and the trainer will give individual feedback after each presentation. The presentations will be filmed and the videos shared with the participants.

Preparation for the course:

- a 5-min presentation of your work
- up to 5 slides to illustrate that presentation
- comfortable clothes to move around freely
- a description of your work to a non-scientist in one sentence

This event is sponsored by the UNIL Graduate Campus