

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2020



PROFESSIONAL SKILLS SERIES

Seminar: “The Scientific Essence”

Speaker: **Dallas Murphy** Date: **5 – 6 October 2020, tbd** Max. Participants: **8**

Dallas Murphy has conducted annual science-writing workshops at several Max Planck Institutes for the last decade, working on hundreds of grad-student papers. These works often lack structure and are thick with verbiage and long sentences, instead of clearly expressing their main scientific ideas. Thus, writing techniques and structured communication are important issues to address. However, they are not the first thing to consider. A clear understanding of the content must precede thinking about structuring the expression of the content.

The Scientific Essence is the place for graduate students to begin thinking about composing a research paper-before writing a single sentence of the actual paper; we will deal with questions such as:

- What scientific problem are you addressing?
- Why must the problem be addressed? (Gap)
- How did you as a scientist address it? (What’s new?)
- What did you conclude?
- How will your new scientific contribution change current thinking in the field about the scientific problem?

For this seminar, the participants will be asked to answer these questions as thoroughly as possible in advance, and then again after the discussion of the first day. After two days, the answers will be better developed and it will be more clear how and why the content of the paper is the place to begin with when writing a research paper.

Presentation Skills: “Empower Your Voice”

Speaker: **Kathrin Keune** Date: **19 October 2020, 10am – 1pm** Max. Participants: **6**

The voice is an instrument that we use to position ourselves, to stand in for something and to present an image of our personality and professionalism. If used correctly, we can develop a convincing presence that is considered impactful and professional. In order to learn more about the voice, the workshop begins with technical aspects.

You will learn about essential ingredients of the voice. These ingredients will be explored freely within different improvisational processes. As a next step, you will integrate an embodied approach, understanding and using the connection between both *body and voice* and *body language and voice*.

With that knowledge we transition into the application of vocal production in the spoken voice. With the use of a poem, you learn how to connect to the content in a meaningful way and you “vocalise” the con-tent in a versatile and enlivening fashion.

Content

- Voice technique
- Vocal explorations to learn about the full voice range
- Voice and Body – impact and connection
- Speaking, articulation and bringing content alive

Preparation

The participants of the “Empowering Your Voice” Workshop need to bring in a poem in English that they would like to work with. We will be working with one paragraph or maximum 5 lines.

Here are some options for inspiration:

Robert Forst – The Road Not Taken

Billy Collins – anything

Maya Angelou – Still I Rise

Mary Oliver – The Journey, The Summer Day, and anything of her is wonderful

Rainer Maria Rilke – The Panther

Hermann Hesse – Steps Oriah

Mountain Dreamer – The Invitation

Charlie Chaplin – Speech to his 70th birthday

Presentation Skills: “Performing with Presence”

Speaker: **Thomas Müller** Date: **20 October 2020, 10am – 1pm** Max. Participants: **6–8**

Physical presence and body language are one of the most important aspects of convincing communication. Online, through the lense of a camera this becomes even more obvious. The workshop begins with a short discourse on technical considerations of online performance: Camera work, light and most importantly, directing your own performance, presenting only what you decide to present. The next part focusses on body language or body talk. You learn about effective physical presence and exploring your own potential in terms of finding a good stance, using your arms, developing a natural and organic physical movement. The last part brings all these elements together: Through improvisation and short presentations you learn how to apply an effective and present performance style.

Content

- Camera training - Performing in front of a camera
- Physical presence and charismatic performance through body language
- Spontaneous improvisation and applied body language

Methods

In these workshops, we use hands-on practice, improvisations, “doing it” rather than “talking about it”. Theoretical input is kept to a necessary minimum and is being immediately applied to the practice of performance. The goal is to provide a first understanding of the topic and some practical considerations for improvement.

Seminar: “Conflict Management”

Speaker: **Sabine Lerch** Date: **26 October 2020, 9am – 1pm, subgroup 1: 2:30 – 5pm, 27 October 2020, subgroup 2: 9 – 11:30am** Max. Participants: **8**

Why – Objectives

“Yes, but not today” is how people usually think about conflict management. Not surprisingly, we feel that we need to prepare to handle disagreements as we often associate them with uncomfortable and threatening emotions. When there is no open conflict we can carry on as though things are all right - even if we know they aren't. Without resolution, conflict merely becomes an opportunity to recycle old arguments, destroys relationships and negatively impacts cooperation and productivity.

With resolution, conflict can be rewarding and exciting and can move things forward. This course is designed to help participants to constructively engage with conflicts rather than avoid or escalate them unnecessarily. It will offer applicable, relevant and confidence building tools to handle this difficult arena more effectively.

This concept refers to an individual-oriented counseling approach that takes place in a group and in which cases presented by single participants are systematically reflected.

How – Methods

The workshop part is conducted in one morning session over 3,5 hours: Short theory lessons, discussions and individual resp. small-group exercises.

For more intense and individual work, the group is then divided into two small groups (with 4 participants each), which meet in the afternoon of the first day resp. on the second day in the morning.

These units provide the opportunity to look more deeply into each person's specific conflict situations, practice tools and approaches and start developing appropriate resolution strategies.

All participants are invited to contribute to the workshop by bringing their own questions and examples. A questionnaire will be provided beforehand to describe case studies and define personal interests for the workshop.

Web talk: “Successful Cooperation in Diverse Teams”

Speaker: **Eliza Skowron (Working Between Cultures)** Date: **6 November 2020, 3pm – 5pm**

Participants: **Open to everyone**

To what extent does our cultural background affect our work with others? What makes a person likeable to us and why? Is the understanding of “professionalism” the same across the globe? The aim of this web-talk is to understand team dynamics in diverse groups with the help of the Intercultural Readiness Model. We will focus on some insights on personal perception and interpretation, as well as cultural dimensions and the stereotypes, which usually accompany them. Together with the participants, we will develop solutions and instruments relevant to their context and applicable to their particular working environment, thus helping them improve teamwork and allowing for smoother collaboration with colleagues.

Content

- Perception, values and attitude in heterogeneous/ diverse/ multicultural contexts: awareness (self-reflection) of one’s own patterns of perception and interpretation (unconscious bias), awareness and re-evaluation of one’s own understanding of successful team collaboration, Intercultural Readiness Model.
- Culture, understanding of normality standard – reflection and broadening of one’s own definition of culture: internationality, interdisciplinarity, multiculturalism, heterogeneity, different ways of appreciation; Diversity in its different dimensions.

Methodology

In our trainings and lectures, we work according to the anti-bias approach. Our methods lead participants through deeper self-understanding of their own patterns of judgment and interpretation to:

- develop and expand empathy skills,
- understand and appreciate different diversity dimensions,
- react with more openness, flexibility and resilience towards (new) contacts, situations, processes and diverse surroundings,
- better understand and regulate their own patterns of (re)actions

Continuation

Depending on the interest of the participants, we can organize further online sessions, where participants get typical cases and examples and need to analyse them and find solutions from a practical point of view.

Seminar: “Scientific Writing”

Speaker: **Justin Mullins** Date: **12 – 13 November 2020, 9am – 1pm**

Participants: **Open to everyone**

The Online Scientific Writing Workshop teaches the skills to produce research papers of the highest quality for the world's top journals. The workshop takes place over 2 half-days. Participants will learn the writing techniques necessary to best construct and explain their ideas and the editing skills to refine and polish their work.

A key focus is the structure of good scientific communication. We look at this at the level of sentences, paragraphs, abstracts and entire papers, using examples from a wide range of disciplines. We believe that people learn by doing, so each session includes thought-provoking exercises to help participants practice the techniques we teach.

The course also covers how top journals handle submissions and offers tips for dealing with editors at these publications.

Day I

9 am, Introduction

9:15 am, Diary of a paper

9:45 am, Sentences I

11:00 am, Break

11:15 am, Titles and Abstracts

1:00 pm, End of first day

Day II

9 am, Sentences II

10:15 am, Break

10:30 am, Paragraphs – purpose and structure

11:30 am, Process of Writing

11:45 am, Group editing

0:45 pm, Feedback, questions and concluding remarks

1 pm, Workshop ends

Please register until 25 September, 2020

Please note that the number of places for the workshops 1–4 is limited, but 5 and 6 are open to everyone!

Register via e-mail to **kerstin.schmidt@mpq.mpg.de** for IMPRS-APS students, students from the Krausz-department and **sonya.gzyl@mpq.mpg.de** for IMPRS-QST students.

The places will be granted on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Participation at the workshop “Scientific Writing” with JUSTIN MULLINS is mandatory for all IMPRS-APS students as well as for all students of the Krausz-department.