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Italiadomani PIANO NAZIONALE DI RIPRESA E RESILIENZA

Università Ca'Foscari Venezia

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION FRIDAYS

March 20th, April 17 th, May 8 th and 15 th, 2026

CFZ – Ca' Foscari Zattere, Tesa 1 and 2

Deadline registration: **March 17th , 2026**

Collegio Internazionale Ca'Foscari

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The workshop is organized by Ca' Foscari International College within the framework of the Project 'Educating Future Citizens'. This project received funding under the provision of D.M. 291/2024 from the European Union Next-GenerationEU - National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) – CUP N. H77G24000190007.

Science and research communication is not limited to writing an academic paper: it is so much more. From radio to data visualization, throughout this program you will learn about different mediums and methods you can use to communicate your research to a diverse audience. During these workshops you will have hands-on sessions to help you develop the tools necessary to present your research with clarity and creativity, making your work more visible, relatable, and impactful.

Why you should attend

In a diverse environment you will learn the key principles of science communication, how to harness the power of radio, the essence of dealing with media effectively, and how to communicate complicated matters through compelling data visualization.
Through expert-led sessions and hands-on guidance, you will be equipped to communicate your work with clarity, impact, and adaptability across diverse platforms and audiences.

March 20th

9.30-10.00
Welcome coffee and registration

10.00 – 12.30; 13.30 – 16.00
Media Contacts for Researchers - **Fred Balvert**

Your work as a researcher is relevant to society, whether it involves fundamental or applied research. At some point, whether expected or unexpected, your work may become the subject of media attention. To seize this moment to convey your message to the general public, you must be prepared for a media situation and be able to present your core message. The goal of this workshop is to prepare researchers for effective interactions with journalists. We will examine the roles and responsibilities of researchers, press officers, journalists, and the public in reporting on research in the media. We will look at various forms of media contact, such as press releases, pitching a topic, and giving interviews. During practical exercises, we will practice writing a press release, giving an interview, and performing on camera. Together with the book "Media Contacts for Researchers", which will be distributed during the workshop, this will provide researchers with the basic knowledge and skills they need to confidently engage with the media.

12.30 - 13.30 Light lunch

April 17th

9.30-10.00
Welcome coffee and registration

10.00 – 12.30; 13.30 – 16.00
Data Visualisation for Research - **Angela Morelli** and **Tom Gabriel Johansen**

How can we visualise science in clear, powerful and engaging ways? How can we foster an inclusive design process to ensure authentic participation? How can we unlock the power of data visualisation on a systemic level in scientific organisations to expand their work's impact and reach? Data visualisation is vital because it enables researchers and scientists to communicate complex information and support informed decisions, playing a key role in our collective responses. This workshop is a hands-on experience to present research effectively to capture and mobilise the imagination of an audience. Participants will be introduced to the world of information design and data visualisation where the intersection of text and image, perception and cognition, beauty and function, logic and emotion, enables us to reveal the wealth of information within the data and to deliver effective messages.

12.30 - 13.30 Light lunch

May 8th

9.30-10.00
Welcome coffee and registration

10.00 – 12.30; 13.30 – 16.00
Make it Audible: Communicating Research on Radio & Podcasts – **Elisabetta Tola**

This workshop explores the transformative potential of radio and podcasts for science communication. This medium's unique value lies in its ability to humanize research, focusing on the scientific process and not merely on results, revealing the motivations and emotions behind scientific work through the power of the human voice, and making science part of daily routines. Audio allows for experimentation with diverse stylistic registers—ranging from irreverent humor to immersive sound art—using low-cost, accessible tools and open-source software. We will explore how to adopt a conversational tone, how to frame research through engaging narratives, to choose a voice and a sound to transform science into a beautiful experience that captures the listener's imagination while maintaining academic rigor. And we will try to record and start postproduction!

12.30 - 13.30 Light lunch

May 15th

9.30-10.00
Welcome coffee and registration

10.00 – 12.30; 13.30 – 16.00
Basics of Science Communication & Writing - **Mirko Bischofberger**

This workshop will guide you through essential methods for structuring text effectively, ensuring your message is clear and impactful. You will explore what makes a sentence strong and engaging, helping you craft writing that resonates. Along the way, you'll master the most important communication rules and principles that elevate your content and make it more persuasive. With these skills, you'll be able to reach your audience more efficiently, whether you're writing for professional or personal purposes. The session includes practical exercises so you can apply your newfound knowledge directly to your own texts, refining your writing and making it more compelling.

12.30 - 13.30 Light lunch

Language

English

Number of participants

Each session will accommodate a maximum of 20 participants.

How to apply

The programme is open to:

- Allievi of the Italian Advanced Schools;
- PhD candidates and early-career researchers at Ca' Foscari University of Venice.

Participants can register for individual sessions according to their interests and needs. Priority will be given to college students from Venice and the EFC Network, with a maximum of 10 participants for this category. To apply, complete and submit this online form (a motivation letter is required): https://forms.gle/1gHq2ea4oP3XHVJs6

Deadline for registration

March 17th, 2026

Expected learning outcomes

Participants will learn:

- key principles of communication to ensure their message is impactful.
- to design compelling data visualizations.
- to plan and edit radio and podcasts.
- how to manage media relations and the tools at their disposal.

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Teaching methods

Hands-on workshops

Coordinators

prof. **Fabiana Zollo**, Dept. of Environmental Sciences, Informatics and Statistics & NICHE
Enrico Costa, ECHO - Science Communication Hub

Instructors

Elisabetta Tola is a science, data, and investigative journalist. She is the co-founder and editor-in-chief of Facta.eu, an Italian independent media outlet that applies the scientific method to journalism and promotes science journalism as a cornerstone of democratic participation. She has also founded formicablu, a science communication agency engaged in many different research projects at EU and national levels. Currently, she is also the chief editor at Il BO Live and a media trainer and adjunct lecturer in digital science journalism, data and AI at SISSA University, Trieste, Italy. As a journalist, she co-authored Semi ritrovati. Viaggio alla ricerca dell'agro-biodiversità (Codice Edizioni 2020; Alianza Editorial 2024) and Making Sense of Science Stats, KSJ Science Editing Handbook (MIT, 2020). She has co-produced several environmental investigations, often cross-border, including Scorie a riposo, Wasted Wetlands; SwamPower; Under the surface; Forever Lobbying Project, Eurocities, Green to Grey. Elisabetta has an extensive experience as radio host, presenting Radio3 Scienza, a daily live programme on RAI Radio3, since 2005. She is also author and voice of many podcasts, the latest ones being Foresight – Deep into the Future Planet (a co-production Facta-CMCC); She, Green (Chora Media/Il Bo Live) and Museo dei Futuri (RAI Radio3).

Fred Balvert is a strategic science communicator at Erasmus University Medical Center Rotterdam (Erasmus MC), the Netherlands, and Convergence, strategic alliance of Erasmus MC, Erasmus University Rotterdam and Delft Technological University. He is at the Advisory Boards of Innovation for Health, Dutch national event for technology transfer and of FRONTIERS, ERC project for science journalism. He is coordinator of the science communication program of Erasmus MC – Graduate School (formerly NIHES) and lecturer at the International School for Science Communication and Journalism in Erice, Italy. He has been senior lecturer in science communication management at Rhein-Waal University of Applied Sciences in Kleve, Germany. He was a member of the local organizing committee of the international conference Public Communication of Science and Technology (PCST2023). He has extensive experience in press communications, crisis- and issue communications, outreach and communication for European research projects under FP7, Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe.

Angela Morelli is an award-winning Italian information designer based in Norway. She is the CEO and co-founder of InfoDesignLab. From climate change to health, she has worked with a wide range of scientific organisations and professionals including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the European Environment Agency, the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, the Center for Climate Research in Norway and the World Meteorological Organization. Her goal is to co-design engaging solutions that empower audiences and support informed decision-making. Angela gained her MA in Information Design from Central Saint Martins in London, having previously obtained a BA degree in Engineering from Politecnico di Milano and an MA in Industrial Design. She is an acclaimed international speaker and has regularly taught at the Oslo School of Architecture and Design, at the Oslo MET University, BI Norwegian Business School and at Central Saint Martins University in London. She has been jury member of the International Institute of Information Design Award and was awarded the Il Monito del Giardino Award in 2013 along with philanthropist Paul Polak, primatologist Jane Goodall, water scientist Tony Allan and other individuals committed to defending planetary ecosystems. Angela was named a 2012 Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum thanks to her commitment in communicating the science of Water Footprint through information design and data visualisation.

Tom Gabriel Johansen is an award-winning Norwegian information designer, based in Oslo. He is the co-founder of InfoDesignLab. He has over 20 years of experience in design, ranging from strategic design to board games, interaction design and data visualization. He has worked with a wide range of scientific organisations and professionals including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the European Environment Agency, the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, the Center for Climate Research in Norway and the World Meteorological Organization. He has worked as a special advisor for Statistics Norway and as a member of Eurostat's Visualization Task Force. For seven years, Tom worked at the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK), embedding design and information visualization into the news-floor operation. While at NRK, Tom's work received international recognition, including the World Media Award. He is an advocate for the value of cross-collaboration among different professions and enjoys working closely with journalists, researchers, scientists and activists. He

is an acclaimed international speaker and has regularly taught at the Oslo School of Architecture and Design, at the Norwegian Institute of Journalism, at the Oslo MET University, BI Norwegian Business School and at Central Saint Martins University in London.

Mirko Bischofberger is a lecturer and expert in Science Communication at EPFL, ETH Zurich and the University of Zurich. He studied molecular biology and bioinformatics at ETH Zurich and holds a PhD from EPFL. After working for the Neue Zürcher Zeitung and the Swiss Parliament, he continued to work for the SNSF and EPFL. Mirko is a leading force behind innovative projects such as Switzerland's first crowdfunding channel for science, the introduction of social media classes for professors, The Galactic Chloé Show, the use of Wikipedia for science communication, as well as AI for Science Communication.